

# Office of Academic Innovation

University of Washington Tacoma

TACOMA.UW.EDU/AI

## INNOVATE UPDATE: 2019

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### THE FRC IN TRANSIT

“Where *ARE* you?” In a time of increasing digital communication, perhaps you haven’t even missed our physical presence, but the Office of Academic Innovation missed you. Those cups of tea, Canvas creations, data retrievals, Brown Bags, trainings and connections? They teach us much, and as the song says “you don’t know what you’ve got till it’s gone.” The renovations of WG210 compromised the air of the Faculty Resource Center and sent us on nomadic journey for Spring quarter, but getting to know you more digitally was a surprising byproduct of the unexpected chaos. It was a living use case study that will help in UWT’s offering deeper learner engagement in flexible seat time formats.

### RESEARCH FROM THE FRONT

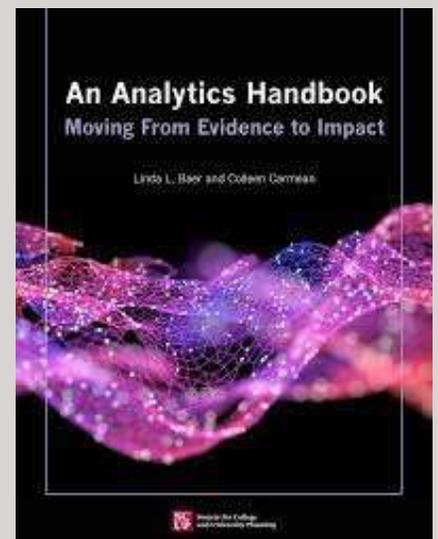
It was a good year for the Office of Academic Innovation’s research mission. Darcy Janzen submitted her dissertation, “An Evaluation of Undergraduate Advisors Experience Using Learning Analytics to Support First-Year Students” in Spring and by the time you read this, may already be Dr. Janzen. Colleen Carmean’s book, “An Analytics Handbook: Moving From Evidence to Impact” (co-author Linda L. Baer) was published in March. More of OAI’s current research (eLearning, analytics, nudging, digital security) is highlighted on the OAI website.

SPRING QUARTER 2019



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## eLearning: How do we know?



How we know: We count, sum, dig in, and measure.

Here are some of our current eLearning numbers:

**88** certified iTech  
Fellows, offering online  
and hybrid courses.

**44** online and 18  
hybrid courses will be  
offered Summer 2019

**69** soon-to-be Fellows  
have completed their training  
and are working on QM  
certification.

**~ 15-20%** of UWT  
students are choosing at least  
one online course any given  
quarter.

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*In 2016, Tacoma was the first UW campus to publish and track online offerings via our Time Schedule*

*Search. In 2018, after advocating with UW Seattle for HYBRID course designation, we began adding and tracking these courses in our reduced seat time offerings.*

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### Knowing Our Students

We are story-tellers. It is how we make sense of the world and share our common experience. The challenge is to trade the comfort of our old stories for new ones, and better help current students to the finish line. The present: Our undergraduates are majority Pell-eligible, majority over 21, majority transfer students, and majority First Gen. The average yearly loan amount for UWT undergrads is:

~\$7,400/year for transfer students and

~\$4800 for First Time in College (younger, more likely to qualify for Pell grants).

### Analytics: What We've Learned

The University of Washington recently completed a two year pilot with Civitas Learning, using analytics to bring together UW's silos of student data into one, visual interface. These tools gave UWT access to real-time data regarding student persistence and engagement that we had not seen before.

Analytics allows us to search for patterns where we could improve, and to find pockets of students that would be better supported via outreach regarding their specific needs, circumstances and behaviors. A full report is available on the OAI website, including a new, tri-campus policy on goals and principles in the use of student data. Highlights for UW Tacoma included learning that the greatest predictors for a UWT student's persistence include:

- Learner identification with a major
- Canvas engagement compared to peers
- Need-Based Aid (esp amount of Pell funding received, and the difference this makes by gender and ethnicity)
- Taking advantage of flexible seat-time options
- Timely registration and course alignment to degree.

Most of our students who leave without a degree do so in good academic standing. The challenge is now in our obligation of knowing why they leave, who leaves, when – and using this knowledge to make changes that move the needle on student success and persistence.



## UWT Canvas Scan

Faculty across Washington state's higher education system have been working to learn, understand and leverage the features of the Canvas Learning Management System (LMS) since consolidating on this system six years ago. The University of Washington Tacoma gave up Blackboard in the state-wide effort, and OAI has been looking into the results. Pulling anonymized data from a UW retrieval of the UWT courses for Winter 2018, we discovered:

- Of the 838 auto-created courses from the Time Schedule, only 134 (16%) were never utilized or published by the instructor.
- Of the 704 active courses (removing internships, capstones, practicums, etc), 148 (21%) were rich learner experiences using announcements, interactive syllabus, discussions, online quizzes, videos and Panopto presentations. 55 of these courses were offered online or hybrid.
- Another 22 courses used the common features of Canvas (syllabus, announcements, discussions) for anytime engagement in content and communication.
- OAI is committed to working with our diverse faculty and disciplines in use of Canvas tools to create deeper learner engagement and anytime access to teaching and learning.



### WHAT'S AHEAD?

UWT is charting our course into a digital age. Ahead, we face decreasing resources and higher costs; calls for greater accountability in the soft skills and new literacies asked of our graduates; learner demand for flexible seat time; and data showing that our ability to respond is the best path to student success. The OAI's goals for 2019-20 include our applied research in eLearning and analytics; growth of UWT's flexible seat time courses; and supporting the faculty in creating more responsive, innovative, engaging experiences in the new classroom – online and on ground. We'll measure our success in student success, and in the ways that UWT becomes known for supporting each of our students to graduation and beyond. Join us on the journey! We'll be back in the FRC in June.