

# DePeters Family Center for Innovation and Teaching Excellence



## Apple Distinguished School Celebration

On November 15, 2022, members of the St. John Fisher University community gathered to celebrate its recent recognition as an Apple Distinguished School. “So much work has gone into all that has led to this moment, and it is truly a special day to be together to realize what we have accomplished,” Provost Kevin Railey said while offering remarks during the ceremony. “These efforts have resulted in an integrated learning experience where faculty and students seamlessly connect and collaborate. It has been an important step in our ongoing process centered on improving the overall educational experience we provide for our students.” For its efforts, Fisher was recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for 2022-2025.

Fisher Apple Academy 1.0 Completions

**342**

Fisher Apple Academy 2.0 Completions

**118**

Apple Certified Teachers

**245**

# Educational Technology & Pedagogical Support

**184**

## WORKSHOPS

on a variety of topics such as Brightspace, Zoom, and Fundamentals of Online Teaching

**1,114**

## ATTENDEES

including faculty, staff, and students who participated in the events offered by the Center

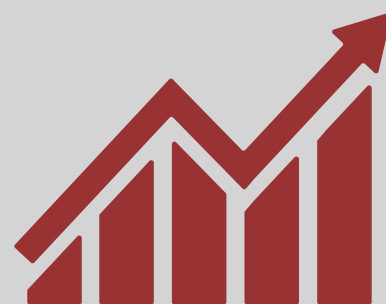
**457**

## 1-ON-1 CONSULTATIONS

with Center staff and fellows on topics such as active learning or technology questions

## Growth Compared to Last Year

- **160%** increase in the number of workshops offered
- **190%** increase in the number of attendees at our events
- **150%** increase in the number of 1-1 consultations



Much of this growth is attributed to the transition to our new CMS tool and the extensive support provided to campus during that process.

## Workshop Feedback

Below shows the percentage of workshop attendees that rate us as **Excellent** in the following categories:

**92%**

Presenter was well prepared.

**91%**

Presenter's knowledge of the subject matter.

**89%**

Presenter's ability to respond appropriately to questions.

# Evolving Technology

Part of the role of the Center is to ensure the campus community has access to the best suite of educational technologies to meet our specific needs and goals across campus. This means Center staff are continuously evaluating the fit of the suite of supported technologies and looking for opportunities for improvement. Two big changes as a result of this work include:

## Goodbye Blackboard - Welcome Brightspace!

A Course Management System (CMS) Evaluation Task Force formed in fall 2021 to launch the in-depth review of the CMS tool used at Fisher. After gathering feedback from campus stakeholders and evaluating a number of vendor options, the Task Force made the final recommendation to transition from Blackboard to Brightspace by D2L. The implementation took place in the fall 2022 semester and all faculty and staff received access to the new tool in January 2023. The first courses were taught in Brightspace starting in the summer 2023 semester.



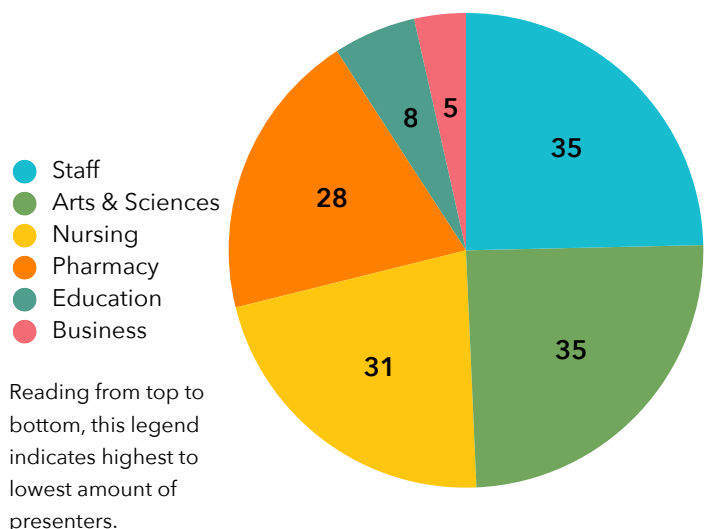
### Migration Highlights

- Most Used Tools: **Content, Assignments, Discussions, and Grades**
- Active Users: **5,461**
- Highest Daily System Use: **20,000+ logins on 9/6/23**
- Courses Migrated from Blackboard to Brightspace: **11,811 (1.2 terabytes of data)**

## iClicker → Poll Everywhere

After an evaluation of student polling software options and a pilot of two potential solutions, the DePeters Family Center staff recommended a change from our current polling software, iClicker, to a new system, Poll Everywhere. This change reduces the cost to students in certain programs who were paying for use of the existing tool and provides access to all of campus with a site-wide licensing structure. This new platform is also more user-friendly and compatible with our mobile learning ecosystem at Fisher. We have seen the use of this new platform expand to many users across campus, including faculty and staff.

Total Presenters Across Campus



## DePeters Family Center Recording Studio



One special area within the DePeters Family Center is the recording studio suite. The recording studio is a state-of-the-art audio and video studio used by faculty and staff to create high-quality course materials. The studio includes a PC, a Mac, cameras, microphones, and a green screen. After an orientation to the space, faculty and staff utilize the room independently to create professional course content. We've seen an increase in use of the space with a total of **47** reservations and over **85** hours of recording activity.

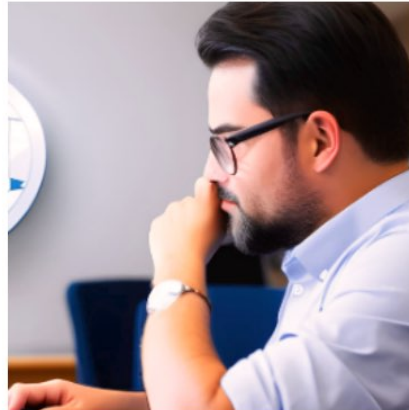
## The Rise of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Generative AI tools took the world by storm in late 2022. At Fisher, many members of campus started to explore and discuss this new technology. After a number of campus-wide discussions, DePeters Family Center organized a summer working group that included over 60 faculty and staff. This group worked throughout the summer 2023 semester to make recommendations to campus policies, provide guidance to faculty on language for syllabi, and create AI Toolkits for faculty, staff, and students to aid them in the ethical use of generative AI technologies.



### STUDENT AI TOOLKIT

Student specific resources for using generative AI effectively



### FACULTY AI TOOLKIT

Faculty specific resources for using generative AI effectively



### STAFF AI TOOLKIT

Staff specific resources for using AI effectively

**Explore Fisher's AI Toolkit:** [sjf.edu/centers/cite/artificial-intelligence-ai](https://sjf.edu/centers/cite/artificial-intelligence-ai)

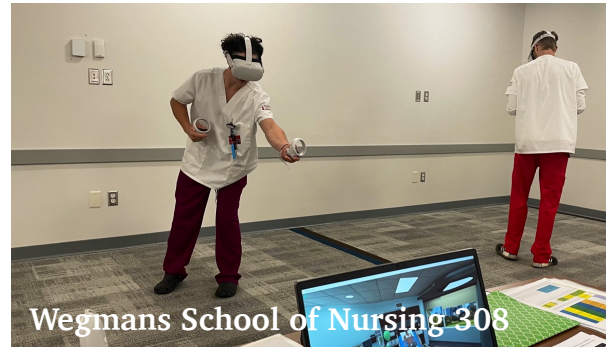


## Innovative Learning Spaces

Two more classrooms were renovated this year to continue to enhance the learning spaces across campus. During the spring 2023 semester, Ralph Wilson 115 was renovated from a dated computer lab to a state-of-the-art active learning classroom. The room was designed to support the Ed.D in Executive Leadership program and was made possible thanks to the George I. Alden Trust. In the summer 2023 semester, room 308 in the Wegmans School of Nursing was also renovated from a computer lab set up into a flexible, active learning classroom design to support virtual reality (VR) simulation experiences for nursing students. This project was made possible thanks to the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation. To learn more, please visit [sjf.edu/centers/cite/learning-spaces](http://sjf.edu/centers/cite/learning-spaces).



Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. School of Education 115



Wegmans School of Nursing 308

## Active Learning Professional Development

Providing faculty professional development to fully utilize our classroom spaces has been a key objective since the initial creation of the Center. Dr. Emily Dane-Staples helps to lead these efforts at Fisher by offering both full-day and multi-day Active Learning Institutes and a series of workshops throughout the academic year. So far:



faculty attended the Active Learning Institute or Mini-Institute



department specific workshops offered



faculty attended at least one active learning workshop

### Faculty Feedback on Active Learning Professional Development

“As a new professor, I have had very little training in pedagogy and this is the most informative training I have had. I feel like I am soaking up all of this content like a sponge! I can’t get enough and I have more ideas than I can possibly implement.”

“The institute functioned as an illustrative and inspiring model of active learning strategies.”

“There are so many options to take advantage of! I feel so much more skilled and knowledgeable about these tools and can’t wait to try it.”

## Fundamentals of Online Teaching

The DePeters Family Center staff offer an in-depth training experience for faculty new to teaching online or hybrid courses. Taking place over a four-week period, the Fundamentals course exposes faculty to effective online teaching methods by first putting them in the shoes of a student learning online. This training, offered multiple times per year since 2011, is required for faculty planning to teach in these modalities at Fisher. Faculty find this training extremely valuable as they begin to develop their first online or hybrid course. In addition to the formal training experience, DePeters Family Center staff often work with faculty 1-1 as they prepare their courses for delivery in an alternative format. This includes a thorough course review process evaluating the course against a set of established best practices for online delivery.

## Inclusive Teaching

Inclusive teaching is defined as a self-reflective process of evaluating our own teaching practices with the goal of creating an equitable learning environment that supports all students. DePeters Family Center staff offered a new workshop series this year focusing on this topic. The main content for this series was the free and well-established EdX course created by Columbia University's Center for Teaching and Learning, titled 'Inclusive Teaching: Supporting All Students in the College Classroom'. Fisher faculty completed these self-paced modules on their own time and then came together for a series of five workshops offered over the course of the fall 2023 semester. The in-person sessions explored a given topic within each module through group discussion and activities that allowed faculty to implement best practices into their own current and future courses.

## Fisher Next

Fisher Next offers access to high-quality learning experiences produced by Fisher's expert faculty and staff to learners seeking to advance their skills. Fisher Next learning experiences include continuing education and professional development opportunities for learners from a variety of fields and industries. This includes non-traditional learners looking to gain or expand their skills with micro-learning opportunities that help them reach their personal and professional goals. DePeters Family Center staff supported the AP Summer Institute through the Fisher Next platform, bringing 16 high school AP teachers to campus for a four-day training experience in July of 2023. This year also saw substantial growth in the number of Pharmacy learners accessing the system in partnership with the Office of Continuing Professional Education in the Wegmans School of Pharmacy. We look forward to continued growth on the Fisher Next platform in the coming year.

**314**

**Fundamentals of  
Online Teaching  
Completions**

**19**

**Faculty attended  
at least one of the  
workshops in the  
series**

**5**

**Received a badge  
from the  
Columbia EdX  
course**

**44**

**Programs  
offered this year**

**1,586**

**Total learners  
this year**

## Meet the Staff



### **Katie Sabourin, Director**

Katie oversees the Center operations and project planning with a special emphasis on the iFisher initiative and learning space renovation.



### **Emma Daitz, Educational Technologist**

Emma provides training and support on Brightspace, among other tools. She is also a point person for the use of iPads in the classroom.



### **Robin Schmid, Senior Training Support Specialist**

Robin is a technology expert and provides training to faculty, staff, and students on a number of tools used across campus.



### **Tyler Woodward, Ph.D. Educational Content Developer**

Tyler provides support to faculty teaching online and hybrid courses, and partners with faculty on the creation of courseware modules.

## Meet the Faculty Fellows



### **Edward Freeman, Ph.D. Apple Faculty Fellow**

Ed provides training and support to faculty and staff using iPads in a variety of ways.



### **Emily Dane-Staples, Ph.D. Active Learning Faculty Fellow**

Emily offers a number of workshops and events to support increased use of active learning strategies across campus.



### **Kaitlin Bonner, Ph.D. OER Faculty Fellow**

Kaitlin offers workshops on the use of open educational resources and supports faculty in the transition to using low or no cost course materials in their courses.





<https://www.sjf.edu/centers/cite/>



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FOR INNOVATION AND TEACHING EXCELLENCE

This document was created entirely in Pages using both a Mac and iPad.