

A Tribute to Dennis Dunham

JEFF KING¹

University of Central Oklahoma

Dr. Dennis Dunham, the University of Central Oklahoma's Executive Director of the Office of Global Affairs, has played a foundational role in the life of this journal. It is fitting at this stage in the journal's life to take a moment to reflect upon and honor the important work Dr. Dunham has done in that role.

Transformative Learning as a concept, a philosophy, and an organizing principle for practice at UCO grew from a number of individual initiatives at the university that were subsequently scaffolded into the framework that became the university's distinguishing characteristic for how we help students learn. Among those varied initiatives, study abroad experiences for students and global partnerships that brought to UCO its high percentage of international students were projects in which Dr. Dunham played key roles. It was natural, then, for him to occupy an important seat at the Transformative Learning (TL) table when the University formalized TL in 2006-2007 as the way it operationalizes the mechanisms and processes to help students develop beyond-disciplinary skills and expanded perspectives of relationships to self, others, one's communities, and one's environments.

Of particular note is Dr. Dunham's service in leading the beginnings of the Transformative Learning Steering Committee. Occupying a dual reporting role to both Academic Affairs and Student Affairs meant Dr. Dunham embraced the vision that TL happens all over the campus, inside and outside the classroom and beyond. He places a value on collaboration with colleagues in *any* role on campus in service to student transformative learning. As such, he led the TL Steering Committee through intense and rewarding discussions about the definition of TL, how we implement it and communicate it to students and other constituencies, and how we should structure ourselves to become excellent in accomplishing TL.

These were key discussions about TL at UCO, and Dennis' leadership throughout that process is greatly appreciated and deserves prominent mention in any archiving of the TL implementation efforts at our university.

Finally, relative to this journal in particular, it was Dr. Dunham's vision about the journal that led to its launch and to all the many steps along that path, including the sometimes administrivia-laden aspects of trademark application, journal design for the initial hardcopy issues, and other aspects too numerous to mention that attend to the launch of any new publication. This groundwork has served us in excellent stead as we move now to peer-reviewed status as an online, freely accessible academic journal.

We are well placed to move forward based in large part to the work of Dr. Dunham.
Thank you, Dennis!

¹ Jeff King, Ed.D., Executive Director, Center for Excellence in Transformative Teaching and Learning (CETTL). University of Central Oklahoma. The *Journal of Transformative Learning* is now housed in CETTL.