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North Carolina Educators Earn Starring Role in National Program

18 hours of footage over three days for national teacher training program

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Elon University are receiving national recognition for instructional excellence.

Six UNC-Chapel Hill educators and two Elon educators were filmed this week for an online professional development program for college faculty. ACUE, founded in 2014 by a coalition of higher education leaders, worked with the two institutions because of their reputation as leaders in pedagogy.

"The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is a global leader in innovative teaching and we're proud to share our exemplary methods with faculty from across the country," said Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Jim Dean.

ACUE launched its **Course in Effective Teaching Practices** this year as part of a national initiative to advance student success through effective college instruction. A strong body of evidence confirms that effective instruction improves student achievement.

ACUE filmed 12 hours of classroom teaching and interviews at UNC-Chapel Hill and six hours at Elon. The footage will be used for ACUE's Course, which was developed based on 30 years of research on effective college teaching practices and the latest findings from the cognitive sciences.

At UNC-Chapel Hill, ACUE filmed four professors and one teaching assistant:

- Kelly Hogan, Senior STEM Lecturer
- Viji Sathy, Senior Psychology Lecturer
- Adam Persky, Clinical Associate Professor
- Thomas Freeman, STEM Lecturer
- Kelly Sheppard, Teaching Assistant and Doctoral Candidate in Developmental Psychology

In addition, Todd Zakrajsek, Associate Director of Fellowship Programs, discussed the importance of effective college instruction as a strategy to improve graduation rates.

At Elon, ACUE filmed two professors:

- Anthony Crider*, Associate Professor of Physics
- Sophie Adamson, Associate Professor of French

* Crider received Elon's Daniels-Danieley Award for Excellence in Teaching this week.

Instructors at Elon and UNC-Chapel Hill demonstrated effective teaching practices that cover a range of topics, including:

- Embracing diversity in the classroom
- Promoting a civil learning environment
- Engaging underprepared students
- Using concept maps and other visualization tools
- Providing useful feedback to students
- Preparing an effective syllabus

Faculty who complete the Course receive **Certificates in Effective College Instruction** endorsed by the **American Council on Education (ACE)**, the major coordinating body for the nation's higher education institutions. This landmark collaboration represents an unprecedented effort to make effective instruction the core of student success agendas in higher education.

"This collaboration advances ACE's historic commitment to address higher education challenges and help our institutions build the capacity to ensure that students succeed," said **ACE President Molly Corbett Broad**, who also served as President of the University of North Carolina from 1997–2006. "We are especially pleased that UNC-Chapel Hill's outstanding instructors are part of this initiative, which provides critical tools and resources to help faculty and their institutions."

UNC-Chapel Hill and Elon are two of 13 leading universities nationwide that have partnered with ACUE to feature nationally known subject matter experts and award-winning professors.

"My team and I were charged with developing a scalable faculty development resource that would help faculty not only learn about effective practices but put them into action," said **ACUE Chief Academic Officer Penny MacCormack**. "Our authentic video classroom demonstrations are a critical piece of that learning design, and we couldn't do it without partnerships with outstanding institutions like Elon and UNC-Chapel Hill."

Increasingly, colleges and universities have prioritized the role of effective instruction as part of their strategies to increase student retention and graduation rates. In 2015, over 400 faculty at 11 institutions piloted ACUE's Course materials, with strong results and preliminary findings of improved student engagement. (Read ACUE's 2015 Pilot Report at acue.org/impact#pilot for complete results.)

About ACUE

The Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) is a new company founded by leaders in higher education to advance effective instruction, support college educators, and promote student success. ACUE partners with colleges and universities to implement scalable, research-based faculty development programs leading to a Certificate in Effective College Instruction.

The American Council on Education (ACE) has endorsed ACUE's Effective Practice Framework as a statement of the teaching skills and knowledge that college educators should possess. The research-based techniques presented in ACUE's Course in Effective Teaching Practices are shown to help students succeed in their studies and persist to graduation. Visit acue.org for more information.