

17th annual TLC Conference

"Creating Communities of Learning: Connecting, Engaging, Belonging"

APPROXIMATELY 150 PEOPLE ATTENDED the 17th annual Andrews University Teaching and Learning Conference (AUTLC) held on March 28. Hosted by the Andrews University Department of Teaching, Learning & Curriculum and Berrien Springs Public Schools, AUTLC gives educators a chance to share reports of significant work or integrative reviews in theory, research, development, applications and societal issues related to all aspects of education.

The morning keynote was delivered by Gunnar Lovhoiden, professor of engineering at Andrews University and recipient of the 2018 Andrews University Daniel A. Augsburg Excellence in Teaching Award. His address was titled "My Journey and Commitment to Undergraduate Education at Andrews University and How My Teaching Practices Foster Connection, Engagement, and Belonging." After sharing some of his life experiences prior to his time at Andrews, Lovhoiden addressed how he tries to engage and connect with the students in his classes. He also talked about how he has been working with Wayne Buckhanan, associate professor of engineering, to make

changes in the curriculum to better serve engineering students and provide them with a more holistic education.

"Once we started talking about how to help our students, people came out of the woodwork," he said. Lovhoiden expressed how the work also helped him feel like he belonged more than ever before.

Attendees then gathered in the Buller Hall lobby for a poster session and lunch. After the poster session, 25 afternoon breakout sessions gave attendees the opportunity to learn about numerous topics including library practices, technology tools, brain strategies, student mental health, the benefits of undergraduate research experiences, trauma-informed student care, generating critical thinking, and the development of internationally-minded students.

In the evening, Frank Tuitt, senior advisor to the chancellor and provost on Diversity and Inclusion, University of Denver, delivered his keynote address, "Making Excellence Inclusive in Challenging Times: Diversity Considerations for K-20 Classrooms and Beyond." Tuitt began his address by sharing about his experi-

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ences as a student at Harvard University. "I felt like a guest in somebody else's house. I didn't see pictures on the wall that reflected my experiences," he said. This lack of representation was one of many things that caused Tuitt to ask more questions and dedicate his professional career to creating more inclusive learning environments. He shared some of the best practices that institutions can use to develop this type of learning environment and care for the souls of their students.

"The diversity and inclusion theme prominently connected the keynote speeches, the poster session and the breakout sessions. We ultimately all work to ensure that every student feels that they belong in our classrooms," says Anneris Coria-Navia, associate professor of curriculum & instruction and director of the Center for Teaching & Learning Excellence.

Andrews well represented at MASAL

Giving greatest number of presentations of any participating university

THE 2019 MICHIGAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, ARTS, AND LETTERS (MASAL) took place on March 1 at Alma College. Once again, Andrews University was well represented with 122 Andrews faculty and student coauthors on 67 oral presentations and 7 posters in 22 (out of 33 total) topical sections. This corresponds to 19 percent of all presentations at the conference, meaning Andrews University had the greatest number of presentations of any participating university. Five Andrews faculty members were section chairs/co-chairs and approximately 80 Andrews faculty and students attended.

Andrews University hosted the MASAL conference in March 2015 and is scheduled to host the conference again in 2021.

"After the conference, students discussed their experience and shared how well prepared they felt and how grateful they were for the extensive professionalization we provide them through our generous research mentorship," commented Vanessa Corredera, associate professor of English.



LEFT-RIGHT: Alexi Decker, Hannah Gallant, Ingrid Radulescu and David Forner gave presentations in the Language and Literature section at the 2019 Michigan Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters conference