Boston University is committed to meeting the changing needs of higher education by excelling in the digital learning space. Signifying the importance of digital learning to BU’s future, the Provost established Digital Learning & Innovation (DL&I) at the beginning of FY2017 to increase the University’s effectiveness.

Consolidating and Integrating Resources

DL&I brings together diverse digital learning resources under a single umbrella. During FY2017:

- **Center for Teaching & Learning (CTL)** delivered a broad set of consulting, training, and faculty development offerings, while also supporting the University-wide BU Hub effort with trainings and events.
- **Educational Technology** (EdTech) upgraded and expanded technology platforms for digital learning, while providing consulting, training, and dedicated instructional media production.
- **Digital Learning Initiative** (recently renamed the Digital Education Incubator), funded 18 new innovation projects and supported another 10 continuations of projects in development with faculty and academic staff.
- We offered resources for deans and academic directors, including end-to-end consulting for launching online and hybrid programs.

Consulting, training, and pilot development encourage technology-enabled learning at Boston University.

Making Learning Visible

BU’s growing use of ePortfolios is built on the Digication platform. Students are tasked to build interactive, multimedia reflections about their learning progress as the curriculum develops. This process actually deepens their learning. The Digication platform is supported by the EdTech team.

Building the Virtual Classroom

DL&I infrastructure investment enables faculty to conduct live classrooms over the Internet. The first usage of this specialized classroom was pioneered this year by the Questrom School of Business Executive MBA (EMBA) program.

1900 Trainings or Community of Practice sessions for faculty, graduate students, and/or staff

573 attendees at University-wide events

1323 consultations with faculty, graduate students, or University staff

11 consultations with outside institutions

1086 technology support sessions

94 students interviewed through three Learning Analysis Polls

5,000 contacts with Boston University faculty, academic staff, post-doctoral students, or graduate students through consultations, trainings, or event attendance.

TOUCHPOINTS
RESEARCH-BASED PEDAGOGICAL TRANSFORMATION

In its first full year as the Center for Teaching & Learning (CTL)*, this team established an instrumental role in:

- Advising faculty, post-doctoral students, and graduate students on course design and innovative teaching practices
- Supporting core initiatives across the University, such as the new general education curriculum (BU Hub)
- Counseling BU schools and colleges on best-practices in actively engaging students, “flipping” large-enrollment courses, implementing problem-based learning in STEM fields, and developing targeted course transformations

* CTL supports both the DL&I and the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs

New Faculty Retreat
This one-week workshop helped faculty within their first three years at BU to develop into exceptional teachers by providing them with knowledge, skills, and a supportive community of interdisciplinary peer educators.

“The New Faculty Retreat is a must for any new faculty member who either has to teach or is interested in teaching.”

New Faculty Retreat Participant

Gaining Time and Student Engagement

After an Earth & Science undergraduate course became a mandatory part of a multidisciplinary undergraduate program, meeting the needs of students with diverse backgrounds posed a significant teaching challenge. Supported by CTL and EdTech, Physics Professor Bruce Anderson created his own online video lectures and exercises, which the students had to complete before class. This was followed by in-class reviews and individual and group exercises.

Annual Educational Innovation Conference

The 7th AEIC brought together faculty, staff, graduate students, and postdocs from across BU to showcase excellence in teaching and learning and to explore collaborative visions of our future. This year’s conference focused on Building Digital Communities for Teaching & Learning and explored significant issues regarding social media and student-centered pedagogy.

Hub Course Development Institute
This five-day workshop prepared BU Hub faculty to develop exceptional new courses by providing them with knowledge, skills, and a supportive community of faculty from across the university.

TOUCHPOINTS

873 trainings or Community of Practice sessions for faculty, graduate students, and/or staff

48 workshops

139 consultations with faculty, graduate students, or staff

11 consultations with outside institutions

210 attendees at two University-wide events

94 students through three Learning Analysis Polls

254 student learning assistants
Center for Teaching & Learning highlights of this year’s activities included:

- **CTL offered 48 workshops**, including the Hub Course Revision Workshop, Hub Course Development Institute, Boston-Based Learning, Digital/Multimedia Expression, and the New Faculty Retreat.
- **Two University-wide events**, including the 7th Annual Educational Innovation Conference and the 1st Annual Teaching with Technology Festival.
- **Faculty Fellows Program**
- **3 Faculty Learning Communities**
- **1 Faculty Writing Group**
- **Learning Assistant Program**: 254 student participants across seven departments (biology, chemistry, chemistry-Sargent, engineering core, neuroscience, physics, women’s gender, and sexuality studies).
- **Director Matthew Trevett-Smith** serves on the Classroom Renovation Committee, the Task Force for Evaluating Teaching, the Educational Technology Committee, the Learning Management System Sub Committee, and the Undergraduate Council.

To make their courses truly learning-centered, teachers need to learn new and more powerful ways of systematically and intentionally designing their courses.

— L. Dee Fink
The Educational Technology (EdTech) team helps BU’s academic community do what they previously could only dream of. We work closely with the Center for Teaching & Learning to enable faculty and academic staff to leverage available and emerging learning-centered technologies for transforming their teaching, and for gaining deeper student engagement.

The EdTech team is deeply involved with instructional design infrastructure at schools and colleges on both the Charles River and the Medical Campus. EdTech provided significant assistance to the BU community this year in the following key areas:

- **Technology Enablement** Managing key learning platforms such as Blackboard Learning, Echo360, MyMedia, Turnitin, and many others
- **On-Demand Consultations and Assistance** Matching technology solutions to the unique needs of individual faculty or staff, an academic group, or an entire school or college
- **Faculty and Staff Technology Trainings**
- **Communities of Practice** Gathering places for academic and support staff interested in learning about or deepening their use of key technologies, such as Blackboard, ePortfolios (Digication), NVivo qualitative assessments, and social media
- **Technology Assessments** Researching technology platforms to identify the best solutions for implementation in BU’s digital learning ecosystem
- **Multimedia Production & Distribution** Dedicated video production and post-production services for BU faculty and staff interested in incorporating blended learning into the curriculum or a specific course

**Highlights Included:**
- New production studio at 141 Bay State Road under the direction of veteran producers Bob Heim and Dave Charpentier
- Deployment of MyMedia (powered by Kaltura), BU’s new Instructional Video Streaming Platform
- Deployment of the CampusLabs Assessment Management System for program-level assessment and reporting for Accreditation by NEASC
- Echo360 Cloud Migration: Migration of all content and devices from on-premises Echo System Server to Echo360 Cloud
- Online pilot with Campus Labs Course Evaluations
- Lo-Su King was awarded the 2017 Perkins Service Award.
- Roland Jaeckel was nominated to the Taskforce for Evaluating Teaching in the Office of the Provost
- Scanning and Sorting: This part of the EdTech team handled the scanning of 136,396 bubble sheets this year, out of which 44,895 were for exams and 91,501 for data collection. A total of 726 exam jobs were processed, and 199 data collection/course evaluation jobs

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“The EdTech team recommended I create three- to four-minute videos for my flipped course. These really made the students ready to jump into class.”

Pari Fasihi, Lecturer, CAS Writing Program

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**TOUCHPOINTS**

- 1021 faculty, graduate students, and/or staff attended trainings, events, or Communities of Practice
- 1184 consultations
- 1086 support sessions
- Over 3,000 individuals helped
T
he Digital Learning Initiative (DLI) renamed itself at the end of this year to reflect its mission of finding and developing pilots for innovative new learning initiatives. The Digital Education Incubator (DEI) offers funding and development support for projects that address new venues for education and extend the reach of both residential and online learning. Selected projects are based on three strategic areas of focus:

1. Expanding academic flexibility

2. Leveraging BU-specific assets

3. Supporting the development of BU’s global signature

We also support the development of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) aimed at unlimited, global learner participation through edX. This year DEI launched three new MOOCs, developed seven new ones, and reran eight MOOCs or learner-paced programs.

In FY17, DEI was proud to announce and deliver the initial course in BU’s first MicroMasters program, in cooperation with the Questrom School of Business. The Digital Leadership track offers skills and perspectives to lead in today’s digital age, harnessing the power of digital technologies to drive business success. The Digital Product Management track offers essential tools and techniques to manage the development, launch and growth of digital products to advance one’s career as a product manager.

A GLOBAL audience: only 10% from US

11,078 Total enrollment
3 MOOCs

**Ethical Leadership** — Explores theoretical and practical elements of ethical leadership with emphasis on leaders’ personal narratives within social and historical contexts

**Advancing Learning Through Evidence-Based STEM Teaching** — Offers effective teaching strategies and research that supports them, and how to collect, analyze, and act upon evidence of student learning

**Digital Transformation Strategy** — BU’s first MicroMasters series, teaching graduate-level strategies for driving business success in the new digital economy

1 LIFELONG LEARNING PORTAL

**Population Health Exchange** — A digital portal that organizes and delivers a variety of learning opportunities in public health, including for-credit and not-for-credit courses, online and in-person experiences, workshops, interactive case studies, and other programs and tools to help alumni and new groups of learners stay current and learn new public health skills

2 ACTIVE LEARNING PROJECTS

**Learning Moment** — A novel educational tool that uses interactive mapping technology to optimize experiential learning through logging “learning events” that occur during clinical work—accessible via an innovative mobile and web-based platform

**Project Accelerate** — Using content from DLI’s AP Physics Prep MOOC in a small, private online course in under-resourced Boston Public Schools

2 DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT INVESTMENTS

**Virtual Tuesdays** — Implementation of Zoom technologies to enhance executive education at Questrom School of Business

**MED Studio** — A state-of-the-art studio that supports increased and improved production of customized digital media to promote active self-paced learning among students while dealing with the challenging constraints of limited curriculum time, faculty availability, and classroom space on the MED campus
DIVERSE EVENTS FOR THE BU ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

Teaching with Technology Festival
The 1st TwT Festival offered a collaborative learning space for BU educators to create technology-enabled active learning environments, experiment with digital tools and platforms, explore media production capabilities and discover new pedagogical techniques. The Festival offers a combination of BU faculty showcases and hands-on workshops that embody new modes of learning, from holistic LMS integration to flipped classrooms and MOOCs.

Challenging Innovation
This multi-program series offered by the Digital Learning Initiative sparked conversations about the meaning of innovation at Boston University.

Digital Fluency
Two university-wide spring events brought out faculty, academic staff, and graduate and postdoctoral students interested in learning how to use mobile technology in the classroom, and in finding ways to invigorate teaching with visual literacy tools. The sessions featured Apple and Adobe experts.

Technology Showcase Events
Two technology-oriented talks featured lively explorations, including:
- A session on gaming as an instructional tool
- A workshop showcasing examples of one vendor’s laboratory simulations as a precursor to conversations about virtual reality in university learning.

Course Development Institute
An opportunity for BU faculty to work on a syllabus for an approved BU Hub course, including developing appropriate course learning outcomes and revising at least one major effective assignment.

Educational Innovation Conference
An opportunity for faculty and graduate students to share their classroom and curricular innovations—small and large—with colleagues throughout the University.

BU Hub Trainings and Events
Representatives from the BU Hub Implementation Task Force regularly co-led 60-minute information sessions as well as actual trainings for faculty and staff to learn about BU Hub learning outcomes and requirements and begin planning or actually developing new or revised courses.

Over 1500 attendees at events
1900 technology trainings or Communities of Practice sessions
We help Boston University leadership, faculty, staff, and graduate students thrive in the emerging BU learning environment. Our mission is to harness the opportunities of digital technologies and pedagogical innovations to ensure that Boston University retains and strengthens its position as a world-class educational institution in the face of systemic transformation in higher education.

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| Innovation Pilot             |
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| Seed funding                 |                             |
| Project design and management|                             |
| Implementation support       |                             |

| MOOCs                         |
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| Funding and development       |                             |
| Partial credit degree programs|                             |
| Charter edX partner           |                             |

| Online and Hybrid Programs   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Program launch consulting    |                             |
| Online teaching training     |                             |
| Course production            |                             |
| Market research              |                             |