

**Report to President's Cabinet**  
**STLR Progress Report, Q1 Calendar 2018**  
**April 17, 2018**  
**Jeff King, STLR Grant P.I.**

**Grant Year 4:**

- Key Priority: Expand STLR across campus. Grant-funded faculty/staff stipends will end with the grant, so it's a time-sensitive benefit to go through STLR training in coming months. More important, getting as many faculty trained as possible widens STLR's strong positive retention impact as well as providing more tenet-related developmental opportunities to students.
- STLR's maturation: Over 3+ years of STLRization at UCO, we have incrementally improved operations and expanded the ways we message STLR and interact with UCO constituencies. For instance, we added "STLR Road Shows" (college-based drop-ins to share STLR impact among that college's students), department-level STLR liaisons, expanded the role of STLR Student Ambassadors, and made other changes that we had not conceived at the start of grant funding. These improvements have been very positive at UCO, but they have also allowed us to help other institutions adopting/adapting STLR have a head-start compared to our own launch of STLR; it's rewarding to help colleagues at other institutions in this manner.

**Lumina Foundation-Funded, Quality Assurance Commons-Led  
Essential Employability Qualities Certification Project (EEQ Cert)**

The QACommons convened a meeting in mid-January at Brandman University in California to bring together the QAC liaisons at the 14 institutions invited to the project. Meeting's purpose was to provide input on a second draft of the EEQ Certification Criteria, to share best practice, and to learn about requirements and processes related to uploading information about our programs to institution-specific and program-specific eportfolios so that QACommons reviewers could examine everyone's evidence and description of processes, tools, and technology with the intent of identifying exemplary practice for helping programs ensure student possession of beyond-disciplinary skills related to the profession upon graduation. UCO contributed both from the STLR perspective and from the FSI perspective. (UCO is the only

QACommons participant invited at both the institutional level and the program level, and one of only two institutional-level participants.)

Evidence and information required were extensive across five domains: 1) assuring EEQs, 2) student support, 3) employer engagement, 4) student & graduate engagement, and 5) public information.

See

[https://evolution.com/revenue-streams/workforce\\_development/the-essential-employability-qualities-certification-assuring-graduates-are-prepared-for-the-21st-century-workforce/](https://evolution.com/revenue-streams/workforce_development/the-essential-employability-qualities-certification-assuring-graduates-are-prepared-for-the-21st-century-workforce/) as a recent higher ed press story about QACommons and institutions involved (UCO is mentioned for both STLR and FSI).

### **University of Houston STLR Implementation**

- UH has a strong service learning/civic engagement program across the entire curriculum. They have decided to STLRize that program to take advantage of STLR tools and processes to make the program more evidence-based via artifact assessment and badge attainment.
- UH will make this STLR adaptation the focus of their upcoming Quality Assurance Program for their SACS reaccreditation.
- Next step in UH-UCO collaboration is a STLR webinar (following several phone calls and emails over the past several months).

### **Other STLRizing Institutions: Update Highlights**

- Institute of Technology - Blanchardstown, in Dublin, Ireland, will send a team of three to UCO for a several-days visit the week of May 21. During 2018 Q1 their implementation team met via webinar with UCO STLR Project Director after multiple emails over several months. Their visit will follow the same kind of agenda as previous institutional visiting teams coming to learn about STLR in advance of implementation on their own campuses. (See 2017 Q4 report for additional information about IT-Blanchardstown as one of the institutes involved in the coalescing that will produce the Technological University for Dublin.)
- Western Carolina University and Massey University (New Zealand) both helped co-facilitate the inaugural STLR Institute pre-conference

workshop before the TL Conference in March. Their role was to share how their institutions adopted/adapted STLR so that the other institutions in attendance could get the perspective of non-UCO institutions already on the STLR pathway. Both presentations were very well received, indicating in a small way to a small group of institutions STLR's adaptability throughout higher ed.

## **STLR Presentations at IMS Global Learning Consortium Summit**

Project Director gave two presentations about STLR at the IMS Global Summit at Arizona State University in late February. IMS is the big player in technological interoperability regarding badging, eportfolios, credentialing, etc., to ensure that tools and processes at one institution will be compatible with the systems and processes at other institutions. Attendees included numerous institutions plus big employers like Microsoft, IBM, others, and key technology and training developers and vendors.

STLR was enthusiastically received. Even among this relatively sophisticated community concerning credentialing of beyond-disciplinary skills, STLR's scope and accomplishments were noted as exemplary. Project Director has numerous follow-ups occurring from the Summit.

## **STLR - Exaptive Research Collaboration**

Exaptive is a company founded at MIT by CEO Dave King. Its purpose is to jump-start innovation based on "complementary difference-matching" among research topics and content as engaged in by researchers at universities and in the corporate/government sectors. Exaptive achieves this via Artificial Intelligence (AI) searches within open and closed networks and has had much success, landing Gates and other grants and now working with Gates to place Exaptive within the Foundation to enhance innovation among Gates researchers.

One aspect of Exaptive's AI is the ability to, via machine reading, scan narrative, searching for 1) characteristics/demography, 2) content analysis, and 3) sentiment/affect. A recent STLRized UCO grad landed an internship at Exaptive and became the only intern Exaptive has ever hired into the company. CEO Dave King talks glowingly of UCO grad

Alanna Reiderer and says he was intrigued by UCO and by STLR because of the quality she brings to Exaptive, which made him wonder if STLR had something to do with it. This is how Exaptive and UCO connected, and the potential in Exaptive's ability to scan STLR student learning narrative-based artifacts became immediately apparent.

During 2018 Q1 Dave and his team came to UCO and read through 20 randomly selected, anonymized student artifacts that had been assessed by faculty for STLR badge-level achievement. He reported 1) excellent interrater reliability, and 2) a summary-level overview of his understanding of what each of our badge levels means in terms of impact on students. This told him we could collaborate to set up supervised machine learning to find if certain words/phrases, for instance, correlate to Transformation-level achievement among, say, 1st-generation students. This could be enormously helpful for UCO to inform faculty STLR training and to help us better identify and define ways to support student success.

Next steps: Project Director is beginning a search for grant funding to support this research. Gates and Lumina are potential sources given UCO's history with multiple grants from both foundations and Dave King's ongoing work with Gates (which includes working with them in India where Exaptive will ramp up the innovation nexus within one or more smart cities Gates is launching there).

### **STLR Role in Potential Statewide Initiative**

A project in its infancy, but with Regents support, is considering a K-20 initiative that would include multiple aspects of what STLR is and does. Preliminary meetings began 2018 Q1, with STLR being introduced to the group helming the initiative. Discussions were positive; STLR is now positioned as a key technology and operational informant that could support the success of this initiative in a robust way. Additional meetings are in the offing, with the group very enthusiastic about STLR's ability to contribute substantively.

### **STLR Data Now Part of Civitas Predictive Analytics Mix**

See handout and PPT presentation.