

■ History

- Student-led organization ReinventED Lab and Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) at the University of Virginia (UVA) formed partnership with the goal of transforming the way we think about teaching and learning in higher education.
- [Co-create UVA](#) was launched in 2014 and further developed in 2016 with grant from UVA's Jefferson Trust and currently supported by the CTE.
- Co-create UVA's motto: "Students are the most important, yet least consulted stakeholders in education."
- Since its advent has touched over 300 faculty members, involved over 200 undergraduate students, and employed nearly 20 undergraduate student consultants.

■ Structure

- Multiple initiatives, including paid undergraduate student teaching consultants, student-facilitated design thinking workshops, student-faculty luncheons at new faculty orientation, course development grants for faculty and student teams. Specifically:
 - Undergraduate Student Teaching Consultants (6-8 students, ~40 consultations, per year)
 - Students consult with individual instructors during the CTE's week-long Course Design Institute. In 30 minute sessions, pairs of student consultants provide feedback on clarity, tone and language of syllabi, transparency of assignment descriptions, etc.
 - During the academic year, instructors can request one-on-one consultations with undergraduate student consultants through the CTE's Consultation Program. Students consult on the basis of in-class observations and/or student focus groups.
 - Student-Facilitated Design Thinking Workshops (4 workshops)
 - Instructors and students work together in a structured format using design thinking principles to generate ideas for improving undergraduate education and teaching.
 - New Faculty Orientation, Student-Faculty Luncheon (3 years with approx. 60 faculty and 30 students in each session)
 - Through structured conversations, students orient faculty to UVA's culture and share what motivates and excites them about academic learning. They also prepare faculty on how to respond to critical incidents on campus.
 - Co-create Grants (3 grants in 2017)
 - Support for instructors and students to co-design courses together.

■ Goals

The broader goal is to transform the way we think about teaching and learning in higher education by bringing students into conversations with faculty. More specifically, Co-create UVA aims:

- To affirm and honor the experiences and knowledge of all students, including and especially those traditionally underrepresented in and underserved by higher education
 - Cook-Sather, A. (forthcoming). Listening to equity-seeking perspectives: How students' experiences of pedagogical partnership can inform wider discussions of student success. *Higher Education Research and Development*.
- To help instructors to see students as resources
- To develop learning-focused courses that involve students' perspectives
- To involve students in the creative process of designing learning experiences
- To support students in developing citizenship and leadership skills
 - Cook-Sather, A., & Luz, A. (2015). Greater Engagement in and Responsibility for Learning: What Happens When Students Cross the Threshold of Student-Faculty Partnership. *Higher Education Research & Development*, 34, 6, 1097-1109