

Adams Center

FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

END OF YEAR REPORT

2015-2016



"...The Adams Center does an amazing job in meeting the needs of faculty. Sometimes we don't know what we don't know, but the Center is there to help guide us..." - ACU Faculty member

A Note from the Executive Director

When the Walter H. Adams Center for Teaching and Learning was established in 1992, the goal was to honor, promote and encourage teaching excellence at Abilene Christian University. Today, our purpose remains to support faculty who as the founding documents of the center say- "understand and appreciate the limitless potential for life changing, value building, and mind expanding achievements in the learning experiences at Abilene Christian University." Over the past five years, we've seen our programming continue to grow: providing faculty with increased opportunities to share ideas, learn skills and build relationships in the areas of teaching and learning, scholarship, and mission. We invite you to take a look at the work that we've done this year.

Jennifer Shewmaker

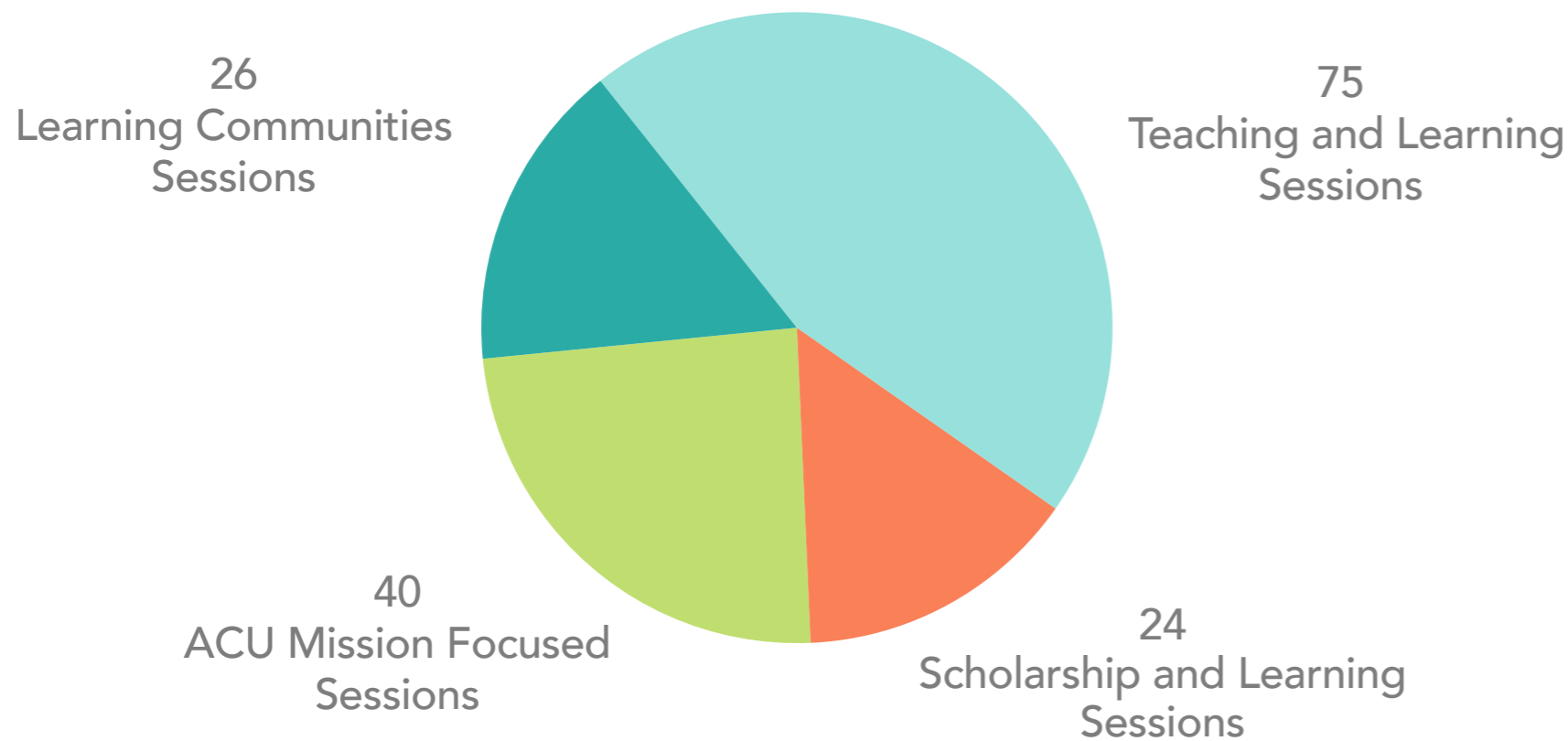
TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	<i>Adams Center Numbers</i>
3	<i>Canvas Migration</i>
4	<i>Highlights</i>
8	<i>Spotlights of Teaching and Learning</i>
10	<i>Learning Communities</i>
11	<i>What's New?</i>

THE NUMBERS

A YEAR IN REVIEW

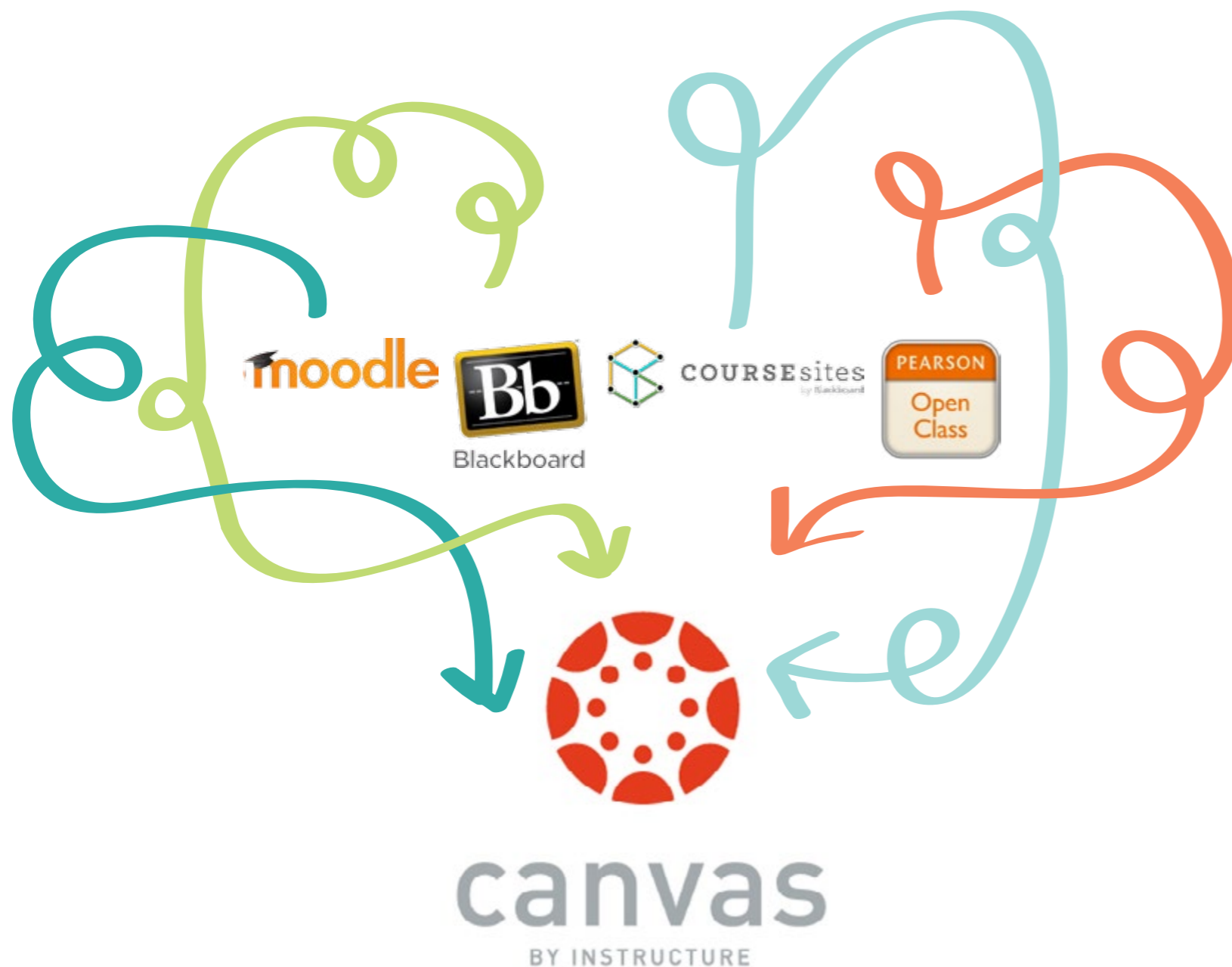
THE BREAK DOWN



We welcomed
1,778 VISITORS
in 2015- 2016.

In '15-'16,
the Adams Center
SERVED 259 UNIQUE
faculty members.

CANVAS MIGRATION



Given our history using multiple learning management systems in quick sequence, migration is a fairly daunting task. We supported faculty by creating online tutorials, providing individual sessions, offering lunch time workshops, and creating extended orientation called Canvas Camp during the summer of 2015. As we migrated courses, we also helped our professors with course re-design and helped various university groups to use Canvas to host online training sessions.

1,530 courses used Canvas this year.

HIGHLIGHTS

MASTER TEACHER PROGRAM

This annual program provides empirically-based instructional design training and opportunities to try new research-based strategies in the classroom. Through observing colleagues' classrooms and being observed, participants were able to get real time feedback on these new techniques and see their colleagues share their favorite teaching practices. This program is provided to all second year faculty as a part of a continuing New Faculty Orientation and to experienced faculty who are nominated to participate.



What do participants say?

"This is a valuable program that distinguishes ACU as a teaching university."

"It was a great chance to hear from a variety of people from disciplines at different points in their careers."

A large teal number '13' is centered within a green arrow-shaped graphic pointing to the left.

faculty members received their Master Teacher Certificates in 2015-2016, with 31 faculty members receiving the certificate over the past 3 years.

My Best Lecture

In the fall of 2014, the Adams Center began our popular “My Best Lecture” series, which spotlights faculty presenting on a topic that excites them and engages their students. The series connects colleagues across the university, engaging them in meaningful conversations and nurturing our relationships with one another.



5 faculty members participated in the series. From left to right, Dana Pemberton, Dan McGregor, Joyce Haley, Jerry Taylor, and Tom Lee.



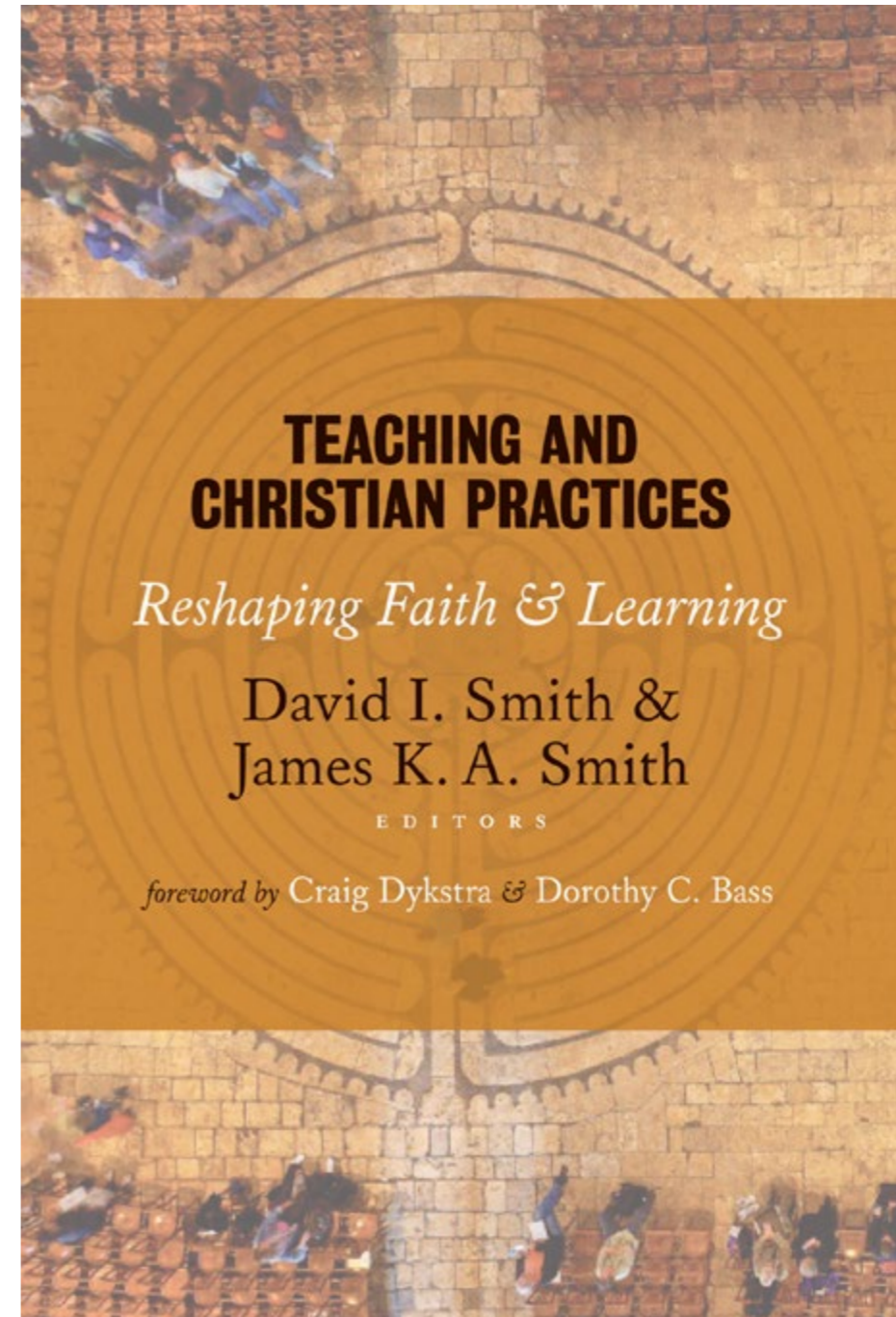
Teaching and Christian Practices

This learning community provides new faculty members and their mentors the opportunity to build relationships with a broad group of experienced faculty and to hear diverse voices consider the use of Christian practices within the context of teaching in higher education. This is an annual program that is a part of a year-long New Faculty Orientation mentoring experience.



“The camaraderie that being in the same classroom built was helpful for my growth as a teacher and learner in my own right.”

- A program participant



Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

In an effort to increase knowledge of teaching and learning and support faculty in their research efforts, the Adams Center has increased its support of faculty research in the area of scholarship of teaching and learning. We supported six research fellows this year, funding projects on topics ranging from using technology in the classroom to introducing contemplative pedagogies to their students. The fellows presented their research at seven national and international conferences and are continuing to seek new opportunities to share their work more broadly.

6

Scholarship of
Teaching and Learning
Research fellows.



7

research presentations by fellows
at national and international peer
reviewed conferences.

GUEST SPEAKERS



Dr. Ken Elzinga
Professor of Economics at University of Virginia, won numerous teaching awards, author.
“Faculty Models for Christian Ministry”
“The Socratic Teaching Method”



Jamie Wright,
Blogs and speaks as “The Very Worst Missionary”

Dr. Susan Felch
Director for Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship. “Food for Thought”



Max Lucado
International author and minister at Oak Hills. “Power of a Simple Prayer”



Spotlights *on Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Research*



Houston Heflin

Houston Heflin is investigating the efficacy of a mobile learning tool on student learning. This research was conducted in partnership with Cal-Tech and Azusa Pacific University, and employed the SKIES software created by faculty at Cal-Tech. He will present his research at *The Teaching Professor Technology Conference* in Atlanta, Georgia in September.



Rachel Slaymaker

Rachel Slaymaker is researching contemplative pedagogies with an emphasis on self-care and mindfulness. She is presenting a poster at the annual conference for the *Association for Contemplative Mind in Higher Education* in Boston, MA in October.

Learning Communities

We have organized a series of reading groups which evolved into learning communities. These groups gathered faculty and staff to discuss topics of key importance spiritually and professionally, promoting diversity, teaching excellence, leadership, and effective work-life balance. Participants feel energized through these sessions and learn principles and tools they can apply in their day-to-day work and life.



WHAT'S NEW?

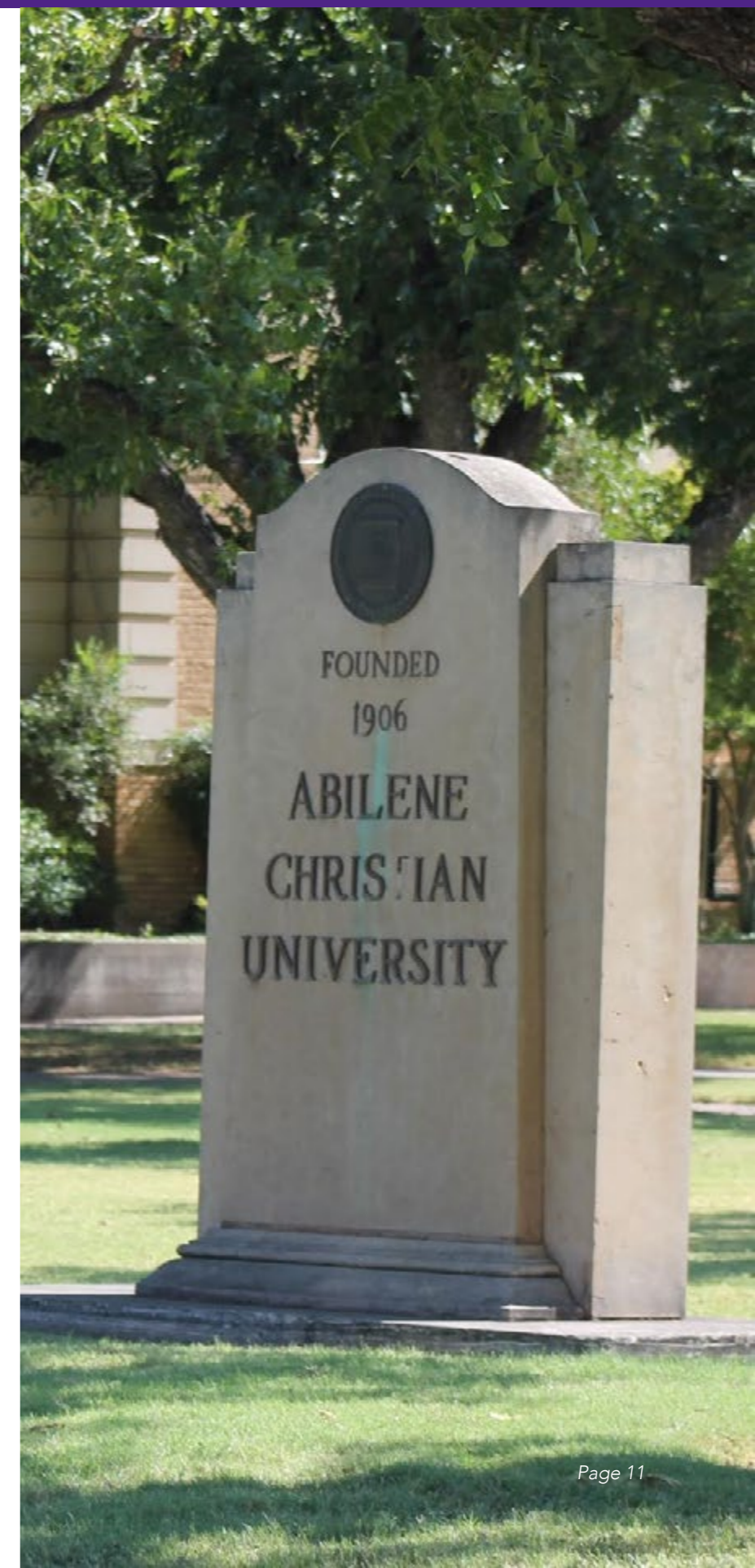
ACU 20/20:

Envisioning the Future of Education Innovative Teaching Grant Program

This half million dollar, five year grant program is managed by the Adams Center in partnership with the offices of the Provost and President of the University. ACU 20/20 supports faculty in the development, implementation, and assessment of innovative teaching

strategies. The program provides an avenue to transform educational innovations into scalable realities. Four grants were awarded to ACU faculty in the spring of 2016 to allow them to pursue exciting, innovative educational initiatives.

4 ACU 20/20
Grants
Awarded



Collaboration Café



The Walter H. Adams Center for Teaching and Learning was established for the purpose of honoring, promoting and encouraging teaching excellence at Abilene Christian University. In order to do this, it is imperative to provide faculty with a space where they can gather to collaborate, dream, and create together. After a three year review of space usage, interviews with faculty regarding their needs, and feedback from the Faculty Development Committee, this summer the Adams Center Conference Room was remodeled to serve this purpose as the Collaboration Café. This space provides faculty with a designated place to work in a flexible, thoughtfully designed environment that supports collaboration as well as individual work focused on teaching, mission, and scholarship.