

Digital Learning and Innovation Story

2020 VERSION

CHAPTER 1

In my younger and more vulnerable years my father gave me some advice that I've been turning over in my mind since.

"Whenever you feel like criticizing anyone, just remember that all the people in this world are the advantages that you've had."

He didn't say any more but we've all communicated in a reserved way that he meant a great deal more. I've been inclined to reserve my communication since I've been in college. I've been the victim of not a few people who are quick to detect when it appears in a person's mind that he is not a fe

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Crisis Point

Last spring, everyone in CIRT and UNF Online was looking forward to spring break, with various plans for travel and adventure, or at least an extra-long weekend. Then the pandemic hit, and everything changed. Dreams of traveling were put on hold.

What we thought would end in a matter of weeks turned into months and now possibly years.

The world seemed to have turned upside-down, or downside-up.

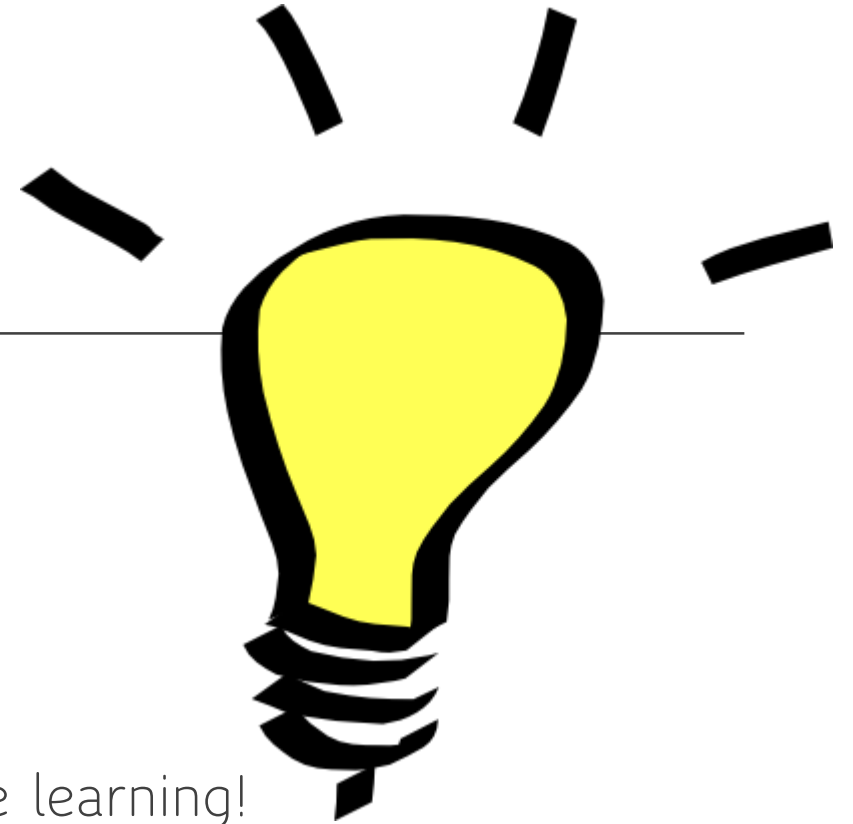
We were shaking, desperately trying to understand what had happened to get us to this point.

Eureka

Eureka! I shrieked!

And my soul escaped my body.

What an exciting and opportune time to be in online learning!



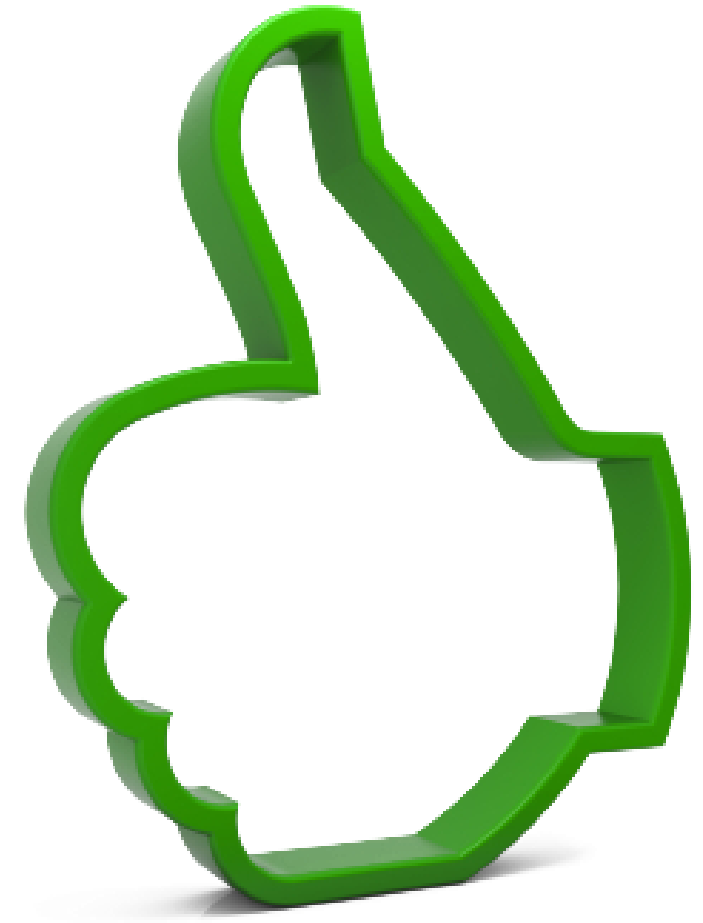
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Relief

It was such a relief to know that we could accomplish anything with the support of colleagues and a pantry full of chocolate.

It is our time to shine as departments centered on educational technology and innovation!

While shining, both feet don't need to be bolted to the floor -- we can find opportunities in a direction opposite the one we are facing!



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Reflections



Practicing “to thine own self be true” keeps us centered and in tune with the ultimate both internal and external while remaining flexible, enjoying the ride and looking forward to the next event.

Hoping that 2021 brings about much needed calm and a path forward to return everyone to normal. 2020 has shown us that we are resilient and strong as we deal with the unknown.

No one knows exactly what will come, but we can take what we have learned and continue to grow.

As we continue to connect in different and distant ways, we can learn what it means to be truly present to one another, supportive and helpful previously not considered or imagined.



Lessons Learned

During this time, we realize the importance of being a team, working together and being supportive to support the team's overall mission.

A silver lining of this year been the opportunity to be wildly experimental.

This moment is just a grain of sand in the larger scheme of life and will not stop me from living each moment to the fullest.

We live in interesting times.

Stay focused on what's important, like the laughter of children, a good book or an excellent meal is as important as the work we do.

Gratitude

With these happy thoughts we can get through the uncertainty.

And it's with each other that we can achieve our goals.

Thanks to our expertise, faculty can focus on their subjects more than the technology!

The kindness of each team member is inspiring and uplifting.

We are an amazing team that can-do amazing things, together!



Conclusion

We are surrounded by so many talented people in an environment that is conducive to sharing ideas and supporting each other.

Who would have thought that UNF would have the world's very best humans!? 😊

It's a fresh start, a beautiful place with great people.

Through all this hardship, we've all stood up, accepted the challenge, and worked so hard - I am unbelievably proud of our team!

We have taken the pandemic in stride and risen to the challenge - we are better and stronger than ever!



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