

Community College of Baltimore County

TALES | August 2021 | Volume 1

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

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Warmest welcome to the inaugural issue of *Teaching and Learning Excellence through Scholarship* from the Community College of Baltimore County (*TALES from CCBC*, or *TALES*)! By the time you read this letter, a small but dedicated team of editors and board members at CCBC will have been working for over 15 months to bring this first edition to life. Why *TALES*? Why now? Let me tell you the tale of *TALES*.

TALES was inspired by *Instructional Forum*, an educational journal run out of Prince George's Community College. I read an email in 2019 circulating a call for submissions to the journal and I thought it was the right time to publish some data I had collected on assignment timing in nutrition. I also approached Dallas Dolan, for whom I've presented multiple times to CCBC's New Faculty Learning Community about the scholarship of teaching and learning, about starting a pedagogical journal at CCBC. I was fortunate to be published in the spring 2020 issue of *Instructional Forum*, and with the coronavirus pandemic closing down normal operations it seemed like the right time for a positive outlet for pent-up energy. Dallas must have been feeling the same way, because when she saw my article had published, she emailed me to say she was on board. With her support I knew that there would be a permanent home for an academic journal at CCBC's Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL).

Our first step was to build a board of individuals who would be valuable contributors to the journal. Jeremy Caplan, who I was introduced to in 2013 by Rose Mince through the Teaching Learning Roundtable, and who also edits the student newspaper *CCBC Connection*, was an obvious fit to edit for *TALES*. At CCBC's Fall Focus 2020 meeting, Jeremy and I presented about *TALES* during a breakout session to generate awareness and promote participation, and with great luck Michael Hands attended and expressed interest to join our editorial team and manage the peer review process. Veronica 'Roni' Noone agreed to help get *TALES'* website off the ground, and Roni was so resourceful that we tapped her to be our online editor for journal operations as well. Jackie McTear, in CCBC's Creative Services, graciously came on the Advisory Board and produced our cover design for the inaugural issue. We knew we would benefit from a board member who could help with databasing and visibility of the journal, and Jamie Witman from the CCBC Library has been more than up to the task. Glenda Breaux, as the Director of Institutional Assessment Research and Planning, and Myron Strong, a board member of CCBC's student journal *Traverse*, were smart additions to our Advisory Board for their knowledge about publishing, research design, and analysis. Rebekah de Wit, Global Education Director, was sought for her involvement with CETL and with an eye toward opening the journal to audiences abroad.

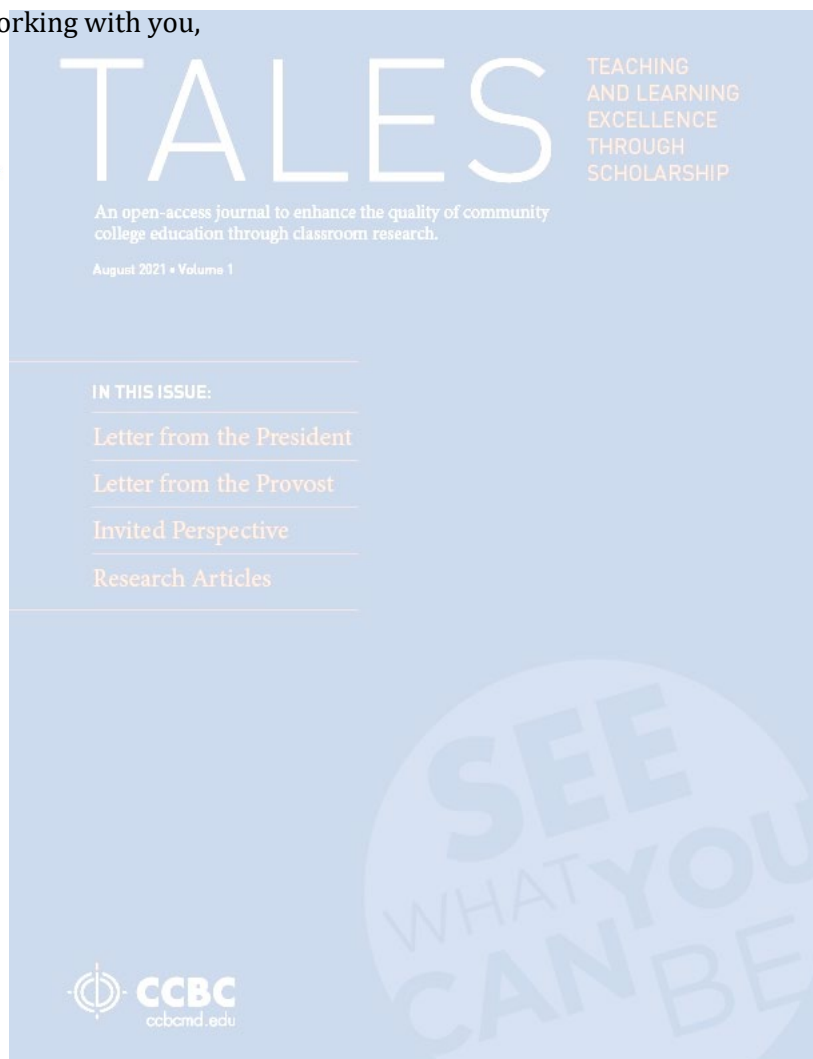
TALES will no doubt owe many thanks to these and more individuals (like our peer reviewers, see them named on our website—we really appreciate you all!) in its growing years to come. Additionally, we are sincerely grateful for monetary support to launch this inaugural issue. A President's Innovation Grant made it possible for us to host our website and publish on the open-access platform operated by the Public Knowledge Project. Grant funding from an IT Innovation request allowed *TALES* to establish membership with Crossref to assign DOIs to articles we publish. These important steps enable our articles to be discovered in databases including Google Scholar, opening up *TALES'* reach to a wide audience.

Over the next 5 years we plan to grow *TALES* in appropriately ambitious ways. You can help us by submitting research articles or review articles about topics related to teaching and learning where you have experiences and observations to share! Your input would be valuable because there is a scarcity of open-access, peer-reviewed research published in the community college field. Dallas and I are firmly rooted in our vision for *TALES* to be first and foremost a vehicle for faculty development at CCBC, so we

plan to create training opportunities for faculty to learn more about the scholarship of teaching and learning, as well as peer reviewing and writing research articles. We will also increase awareness and participation in the journal from outside colleges. After its third publication, *TALES* will apply for inclusion in the online database for education research, [ERIC](#).

Thank you for checking out our inaugural issue. We hope that you find learning from our colleagues about their teaching and learning experiences as rewarding as we have. We also hope this inspires you to recollect on your own experiences and consider formalizing them in a manuscript form. We are confident that you will find reading the articles we publish, writing your own article for publication, or serving as a reviewer for the journal will give you new insights into teaching and learning that help you grow too. We hope over time you will engage with *TALES* as a reader, reviewer, and author!

I look forward to working with you,



The image shows the cover of the journal *TALES*. The title "TALES" is prominently displayed in large, white, sans-serif capital letters. To the right of the title, the subtitle "TEACHING AND LEARNING EXCELLENCE THROUGH SCHOLARSHIP" is written in smaller, orange, sans-serif capital letters. Below the title, a short description reads: "An open-access journal to enhance the quality of community college education through classroom research." The issue information "August 2021 • Volume 1" is printed in a small font. A section titled "IN THIS ISSUE:" lists the following items: "Letter from the President", "Letter from the Provost", "Invited Perspective", and "Research Articles". At the bottom left, the logo for CCBC (Central Connecticut State University) is shown, with the text "CCBC" and "ccbcmd.edu" below it. A large, faint watermark in the background reads "SEE WHAT YOU CAN BE".