

The logo for the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) at California State University Northridge (CSUN). It features the letters 'CTL' in a large, bold, serif font, with 'CSUN' in a smaller, sans-serif font to its right. The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of various educational terms like 'students', 'teachers', 'learning', 'education', 'what really works', and 'csun' in different orientations and sizes.

ON THE CUTTING EDGE

The CTL Goes Global!

October 2022

Former CSUN President, and now Interim Chancellor of the California State University system, Dr. Jolene Koester was fond of saying that she wanted CSUN faculty to be “regionally focused and nationally recognized.” That goal has resonated with the team at the CSUN Center for Teaching and Learning, and thus impacts much of our work. We provide a large amount of professional development to local schools, to include Canoga Park, El Camino and Roosevelt high schools, Vaughn Next Century Learning Center, Pacoima Charter School, Saint Monica Catholic School, and Granada Hills Charter High School to name a few. School districts committed to becoming more inclusive, like the William S. Hart Union High School District and Culver City Unified School District, have contracted with the CTL for professional development on co-teaching, Universal Design for Learning (UDL), differentiation, and inclusion. Our SIMPACT immersive learning avatars can be found in myriad classrooms across CSUN and other regional universities, to include CSU Channel Islands, CSU LA, CSU Dominguez Hills, UCLA, Loyola Marymount, Azusa Pacific, and others. We highlight the work of our local colleagues through this publication, *CTL on the Cutting Edge*, and we offer Education on the Edge events, workshops, and a What Really Works conference to our regional educational partners.

Many of these activities have garnered national recognition. The CTL is currently collaborating with colleagues in the School of Education at The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA to offer an East Coast version of the What Really Works conference in Fall 2023. The *What Really Works* book series, published by Corwin Press/SAGE, is purchased by educators in schools and universities across the United States and beyond. The mixed-reality simulation professional development and training offered through SIMPACT is used in universities in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Georgia, Alabama, Colorado, Illinois, Oregon and Ohio. But why stop with national recognition?

In fact, the CTL is taking President Koester’s recommendation and pushing itself to be not only nationally recognized, but internationally so as well. Now that our Education on the Edge speakers series has moved to a virtual format, participants joining CTL events are not only national, but from across the globe. A recent Education on the Edge event with autism expert, Dr. Barry Prizant, included participants from across the US, as well as Hong Kong, Australia, Canada, Myanmar, Singapore and other countries. The *TCARE Newsletter* continues to share strategies with educators, frequently offering an International Perspective column from colleagues in other countries. SIMPACT training is even being provided by schools and universities in Sweden, and a demo was recently done for administrators from the College of Education in Abu Dhabi University!

Dr. Wendy Murawski, CTL’s Executive Director and Eisner Endowed Chair, is personally conducting professional development and creating relationships with educators across the globe. In August, Dr. Murawski spent a week in Edsbyn, Sweden working collaboratively with a group of K-8 Swedish teachers from Celciussskolen. She provided workshops on co-teaching, strategies for differentiation, and Universal Design for Learning (UDL). Her work culminated in a co-taught presentation, done in both Swedish and English by Dr. Murawski and two Swedish teachers, for the entire staff of 150 educators. Hula hoops were involved. She will be returning in October to continue the work, and a representative group of Swedish teachers from the school will be visiting CSUN and local K-12 schools in March 2023. In fact, Dr. Murawski and Kennet Frödj, the principal of Celciussskolen, have recently completed a book for teachers, co-authored with Welsh professor Dr. Jen Austin, that will be published in Swedish in November of this year.

Dr. Murawski has also been consulting with the International School of Basel (ISB) in Switzerland over the past year as they begin to embrace co-teaching as a service delivery option for helping more students with exceptional needs access the general education curriculum. After a year of early morning Zoom coaching and professional development training, September found her spending a week in Basel doing face-to-face coaching. Her days included individual coaching, classroom observations and debriefs, professional development for administrators and heads of department, as well as one large group session on UDL for all 175 educators. Dr. Murawski will continue her support of ISB as they continue to build, grow, and improve their work on co-teaching. In addition, while not a part of the ISB collaboration, the CTL will host a Swiss Professor of Special Education, Dr. Bea Zumwald from St. Gallen University of Teacher Education, in December of this year.

In October, Dr. Murawski will be back in Sweden with Celciusskolen, followed immediately by the opportunity to keynote a conference on co-teaching in Denmark at UCSyd (University Campus South), a university in Copenhagen. She will open the conference and continue to provide break-out sessions for teachers and administrators, to include modeling co-teaching part of the day with Danish professor, Cristina Gulløv. Ms. Gulløv has presented at the CSUN What Really Works conference in the past and the collaboration between the two has led to multiple conference presentations and a book proposal to a Danish publisher.

As SIMPACT, *TCARE*, *What Really Works*, Education on the Edge, and the CTL Speaker Series continue to grow and become ever more popular, the strategies and practical support that the CTL offers will become even more well known. While our focus will always be first on ensuring that the pre-service and in-service educators and related service providers in the community around CSUN have the very highest quality of support, sharing and learning with and from others internationally can only benefit everyone. The CTL's brand is about finding out – and disseminating – “What Really Works” and we know without a doubt that collaboration works. Here's to even more regional, national, and international collaboration around education!



**Celciusskolen
Sweden**

**International School
of Basel Switzerland**

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COLLEGE OF EDUCATION