

Dedication of the new BCTLE space when it moved from Ayers to Euler

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BCTLE Dedication

October 9, 2021

Welcome everyone! Thank you for taking the time on this busy and eventful weekend to be here.

Taylor University is focused on developing servant leaders marked with a passion to minister Christ's redemptive love and truth to a world in need. Faculty play an important role in fulfilling this mission, pursuing faith integrated, teaching excellence because Taylor is unapologetically a place where students' minds and souls are grown, together.

As part of the University's mission, the mission of the Bedi Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence is to encourage and equip faculty in their calling as teachers, in their care of students, and in their designs for learning.

Teaching is a craft. Teaching excellence requires skill in applying teaching & learning best practices, theories, and techniques to all we do as educators. At the BCTLE we empower faculty to gain the same level of expertise in teaching that they have in their disciplines. And the BCTLE is a place where faculty can be known holistically as they lean into their common identity as teachers.

Today we are here to dedicate the new BCTLE space, a place where our faculty engage in the continuous improvement of their skills and knowledge as teachers.

Since this is Taylor's 175th anniversary year, it seems appropriate to pause and remember God's faithfulness in the history of the BCTLE, a remembrance that fuels us to move forward in confidence.

God's faithfulness to Taylor through the BCTLE was evident in two ways: financial resources and through the giftings of the four founders.

The Lilly Endowment gifted Taylor with a 3.5 million dollar President's Initiative grant, which endowed the BCTLE, originally called Center for Teaching Excellence.

This was the founding mission of the Center:

"Believing that faculty are the central motivating force in the achievement of the university mission, the Center for Teaching Excellence has been established to equip professors with skills, knowledge, and a common vision. The primary goal of the Center is to create and sustain an academic community [focusing] on promoting the scholarship of teaching and learning . . .

The Center . . . provides leadership for professional development in five targeted areas:

- teaching effectiveness
- faith learning integration
- leadership

- teaching technology
- scholarship of teaching and learning

This mission was made possible by the 3.5 million dollar endowment, evidence of God's faithfulness to provide resources for our mission.

God also faithfully used the gifts and passions of these four honored guests who founded the BCTLE: Steve Bedi, Tom Jones, David Gyertson, and Faye Chechowich.

Let's listen to these four founders:

[PLAY THE VIDEO]

Before the new BCTLE space begins hosting events, I felt it was important to remember the people who invested in its founding.

I am presenting each of them with a granite plaque. Granite is symbolically like the "stones" that the Israelites used to mark and remember hinge moments in the trajectory of their collective story. The work of these four BCTLE founders truly changed the trajectory of teaching excellence at Taylor.

I will give each BCTLE founder a few comments and then they will come up as we present the plaques.

Steve -- Your vision and heart for a center that equips and encourages faculty toward excellence in teaching significantly altered teaching at Taylor. You understood that faculty needed both encouragement and equipping in order to continuously improve, throughout their whole careers.

Your legacy is not just in the name of the Center but even more in the lives of thousands of faculty –past, present future—who are encouraged and equipped in and through the BCTLE.

Tom -- Your commitment to establishing faith-integrated teaching excellence as central to Taylor's mission fueled your work with Steve to found the BCTLE. You worked hard to secure the BCTLE's future by institutionally embedding it in the academic structure so that it could continue being a strong influence on faculty and Taylor's teaching culture.

David – Your choice of using the Presidents' Initiative endowment for this Center opened its doors. And importantly, even before the doors literally opened, you chose to commit funding to create not just a space, but an **attractive** physical space. Your investment in building a beautiful space demonstrated to faculty that Taylor values faculty and their development.

Faye -- You took the initial charter for the Center and brought it to life. You created programs, developed professional growth processes for faculty, and launched numerous very successful initiatives. Your innovative work showed your belief that faculty needed both practical skills and theoretical teaching & learning knowledge, and you created a BCTLE space where all faculty felt included holistically in their collective growth toward teaching excellence.

Steve, Tom, David, and Faye will you please step to the front?

- While no plaque can capture what a significant difference your work has made and will continue to make in equipping and encouraging faculty, I have these small keepsakes for you that read
- In Honor Of the named recipient, Faithful Steward Before God 1 Peter 4:10

[HAVE HELPERS HAND THE PLAQUES TO THE FOUR HONOREES]

Thank you for your faithful stewardship!

[applause –let it go on as long as you reasonably can]

Organizations change in order to remain faithful to their mission in new contexts and realities. In the midst of the many changes happening here, Taylor continues to dedicate itself to the advancement of faith integrated, teaching and learning excellence to fulfill our collective calling as our Kingdom work. And this new beautiful BCTLE space, once again, signals to faculty that their development in teaching excellence is central to Taylor's mission.

Please join me in a prayer of dedication.

Father, you delight in seeing your children in community, so we dedicate this new BCTLE space for furthering faculty community as they grow their teaching expertise, together.

Holy Spirit, your gentle voice always reminds us who we are and who we serve, so we dedicate this new BCTLE space as a place where faculty are encouraged in how you have gifted and called them to serve as teachers at Taylor for the Father's glory.

Jesus, our Lord, your Kingdom reigns forever and is here, now, in our midst, so we dedicate this new BCTLE space with your Kingdom in mind, knowing that our work in that space is Kingdom work, and our efforts toward teaching excellence improves our ability to prepare our students for their Kingdom work.

Triune God—We dedicate this new BCTLE space as part of Taylor's mission and for Kingdom purposes. Amen

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As you step through this door to the right, you will enter the BCTLE area, which houses not only the new BCTLE conference room and library, but also the offices of Assessment and Research and Scholarship, so please also see their new spaces as you enjoy refreshments to celebrate the new BCTLE space. Thank you for coming!