

Board Meeting  
March 14, 2019

ESTABLISH THE CENTER FOR ONLINE LEARNING, RESEARCH, AND  
SERVICE, DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, SPRINGFIELD

**Action:** Establish the Center for Online Learning, Research, and Service, Division of Academic Affairs

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Springfield, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Springfield Senate has approved a proposal to establish the Center for Online Learning, Research, and Service in the Division of Academic Affairs.

The Center for Online Learning, Research, and Service (COLRS) was established as a temporary center in 2008 with a focus on the study and application of online learning pedagogy, technology, and best practices. Over the past decade, COLRS has established itself as the UIS hub for supporting faculty in the delivery of online courses, and degree and certificate programs. The Center is recognized as a national leader in the field of online learning, receiving grants and recognition from national associations and foundations.

COLRS is well-positioned to build on this record of accomplishment as a permanent unit. The center intends to continue to empower faculty in the delivery of high-quality online instruction, while encouraging the growth of online degree programs

to increase accessibility for students with limited ability to seek courses and degrees on the UIS campus. COLRS will continue to support original research and scholarship in online teaching and the dissemination of results while building new online collaborations within UIS and among educational institutions, government agencies, and businesses. The Center will continue to contribute to the mission of UIS by providing a collaborative learning environment for students, faculty, and staff while serving local, state, national, and international communities.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes, The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.