# CITL Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: Remarks by Provost Lauren Robel

Welcome, everyone, and thank you for joining us here at the new home of Indiana University’s Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning.

I’d like to extend my sincere thanks and congratulations to Sonya Stephens, Stacy Morrone, Brad Wheeler, Brenda Johnson, Diane Dallis, Kevin Huse, Greg Siering, and all of the CITL staff for working so tirelessly, collaboratively, and creatively to see this move through and develop this wonderful new space for CITL.

CITL has a unique and tremendously important role for IU Bloomington. As the university’s locus of leadership for teaching innovation, CITL speaks to IU’s primary objective of disseminating knowledge and cultivating the critical thinking skills that will serve students for a lifetime. This center, which boasts expertise in areas including course development, service learning, technology integration, and online instruction, has the vital task of translating the very best research on learning outcomes into actionable and effective teaching methodologies.

What CITL does so exceptionally well, however, is to go beyond the synthesis of information on teaching excellence to masterfully engage with IU’s faculty and graduate student instructors. CITL’s goals, which reflect and enhance Indiana University’s overarching goals, are achieved through the forging of connections.

CITL exists to join with you—IU faculty and graduate student instructors—in the shared mission of connecting Indiana University learners with the insights that form a true education. And in order for students to achieve that understanding, they too must learn how to make connections between the myriad discoveries they make in the course of their studies.

This center seeks to continually multiply these linkages between people and ideas. As those of you who have worked with CITL know, that process starts with the inspiration you bring to the classroom. The expertise that CITL provides, whether it’s helping you integrate new technology, develop meaningful writing assignments, or pioneer new pedagogies, are all centered on bringing your ideas to life through the most effective means possible.

The move that we are celebrating today enhances those services in several ways. In relocating to Wells Library, CITL gains an exceptional new platform for catalyzing the bonds that create a cohesive and robust learning environment.

To begin with, CITL is now paired with the IU Libraries’ Department of Teaching and Learning, so that these complimentary and synergistic services can better enhance information fluency. Both CITL and the Libraries’ Teaching and Learning Department are devoted to developing effective, subject-specific strategies for equipping students with the skills to seek, find, and comprehend reliable and relevant information.

That information, whether in physical or digital form, lies within the IU Libraries collections. So by housing CITL within Wells Library, we are bringing teaching excellence into immediate contact with a vast universe of scholarly resources, including the outstanding librarians and staff of the IU Libraries.

The move to Wells also puts CITL into what is already the central campus hotspot of student scholarship. This is not only where IU Bloomington students check out books and download digital materials but also where they come to complete assignments, participate in study sessions, tackle group work, and make use of advanced information technology. Wells Library is a prime locus for scholarly achievement, and CITL’s proximity to these activities will greatly enhance its ability to contribute to exceptional learning outcomes.

With this move, CITL also gains the ability to more closely coordinate with other student learning resources housed in Wells, such as the UITS Support Center, the GradGrants Center, the Adaptive Technology and Accessibility Center, and Disability Services for Students. Likewise, the move reunites CITL with Writing and Tutorial Services, which is a part of the Campus Writing Program. John Peterson from the Writing Program pointed out that it’s the first time in 20 years that you can walk from the Writing Program offices to Writing and Tutorial Services without having to go outside.

Additionally, the move creates a wonderful new space that opens up so many exciting teaching and learning possibilities. CITL has gained several state-of-the-art workrooms in which to discover and implement new technologies and methodologies, and I’m sure Brad Wheeler will be telling us a bit more about those in a moment.

We also have some very appropriate design elements here—those look a bit like barcodes on the windows. That’s a very nice tie-in to the type of leading-edge data collection and management we’re doing at Indiana University.

Finally, CITL now offers a welcoming and appealing gathering space for faculty and graduate student instructors. This type of cross-disciplinary, multi-use space is so critical to our academic mission of fostering an open exchange of ideas and encouraging an intellectual atmosphere of interconnectedness and collegiality.

Reducing barriers between academic units is one of the primary goals the university established in its New Academic Directions. By creating a destination for teaching excellence that attracts instructors from all university departments, and by offering not only spaces and services but also workshops, colloquia, and learning communities devoted to enhancing the quality of teaching at Indiana University, CITL directly addresses this multidisciplinary imperative.

This diverse gathering today reflects how well CITL functions as a means of building connections throughout IU Bloomington. Thank you for coming today, and for being a part of this outstanding teaching and learning community.