



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **CORNELL CTI TEAM EARNS INNOVATION AWARD FOR ONLINE INCLUSIVE TEACHING COURSE**

*Course helps to increase instructors' confidence to engage diversity in any learning environment*

Dr. Mathew L. Ouellett, Melina Ivanchikova, and Ana Ruival of Cornell University are the recipients of the Professional and Organizational Development (POD) Network's 2020 Innovation Award for their project, "Teaching and Learning in the Diverse Classroom: An Online Professional Development Course for Instructors." The Center for Teaching Innovation's Ouellett, Ivanchikova, and Ruival created the course to support instructors in designing and sustaining inclusive learning environments. It's available to [Cornell instructors in Canvas](#) and for a global audience on [edX.org as a Massive Open Online Course](#). The course has run six times, with 7,291 participants.

In 2020, the POD Network received a record-breaking 45 submissions, making this year's selection process especially competitive. Five finalists were selected from among these submissions, and two awards were ultimately granted at the annual POD Network Conference on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The work of Dr. Ouellett and his colleagues stood out to the selection committee for the course's ease of accessibility, its facilitator guide that encourages adoption of the course at colleges and universities worldwide, and its commitment to promoting diversity and equity in higher education, one of the POD Network's core values.

"This project is particularly exciting because of its scale and scope. Not only has it already positively impacted thousands of instructors, but it also equips educational developers with crucial facilitation skills in the areas of inclusive teaching and diversity and equity in higher education," said Adriana Streifer, the POD Network's Innovation Award Chair.

Since its inception in 1986, the [Innovation Award](#) has constituted one of the POD Network's highest honors. The award recognizes the achievements of POD Network members who have developed and implemented creative ideas to improve teaching and learning and enhance the effectiveness of educational development, both in their institutions and in the field of educational development. The POD Network bestows the award to not only honor its recipients, but also inspire members to share their ideas with colleagues around the country.

*The [POD Network](#) is North America's largest educational development community, supporting more than 1,400 members representing every US state and more than 30 countries to develop professionally through meaningful and sustained interaction.*

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