

With a Little Help from My Friends

In the 1960's the Beatles wrote a catchy little tune with the final lyrics stating "Oh I get by with a little help from my friends, with a little help from my friends". I've been thinking a lot about that as I come near to the end of my tenure as the Director of CELT.

CELT has grown significantly since I arrived in 2012. The amount of programming, the faculty who have come to the center, and even the number of staff, have increased greatly over the last seven-and-a-half years. In academia we take great pride in our individual achievements; they're the basis of our reputation. I'd like to say "I did it" but the truth is, we all need a little (or a lot of) help from our friends in order to succeed.

I've had many "friends" here at Tufts who have helped and guided me along the way. The administrators who have supported and advanced CELT, who have invited us to the table as Tufts grapples with changes and challenges in higher education. The CELT faculty advisory board, an amazing group of dedicated colleagues who have given so generously of their time, talent and sage advice that has allowed CELT to develop and launch programming that was needed and wanted by faculty. I could never thank them enough for all they have given. My many faculty colleagues across the University. I find it rewarding that no matter what campus I'm on, someone comes up and tells me how much a CELT program has meant to them and how valuable the experience was for them and for their students. My colleagues in other departments including ETS, Library, Diversity office and Human Resources, to name a few. Together we have worked to improve the quality of life for faculty and enhance the quality of learning for students. And of course, the CELT staff – without this smart, talented, dedicated, hard-working group CELT would never have advanced. They often kidded me that they were going to get me a "NO" button, but they tirelessly jumped into new projects, came up with even more new ideas, and made everything CELT did much, much better. They are the heart and soul of the work CELT does.

Leaving is hard and starting anew is a little scary. But I know I leave CELT in good hands, that it will continue to grow and thrive and bring new ideas and new energy to Tufts faculty. I also know that if I ever need anything, I have a lot of friends I can call on for help. This is not an end but a beginning. Both CELT and myself have new horizons to conquer.