



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

**Center for Innovative
Teaching and Learning**

October 6, 2026

Dr. Thomas Tobin
216 Presidents Drive
State College, PA 16803

Dear Tom:

On behalf of the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning and the participants of the Teaching Effectiveness Institute held in August, I want to express our sincere gratitude for your efforts in developing and presenting the sessions *Beyond Title II: Everyday Accessibility with Universal Design for Learning* and *Using AI to Lower Accessibility Barriers*.

We appreciated the thoughtful ways you introduced the NIU teaching community to Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles, accessibility, and the ways AI can be used to expand access and support diverse learners. Your insights offer practical approaches for making teaching and learning more inclusive while inviting instructors to consider how technology can complement accessible course design. The examples, exercises, and discussions you facilitated gave participants opportunities to reflect on their own teaching and identify concrete ways to incorporate UDL and accessibility into their courses. We're grateful for the practical perspective you brought to the conversation.

Thank you for the time, thought, and energy you invested in making this experience so valuable for our faculty.

Thank you again for sharing your expertise with us. We deeply appreciate your time.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Richter, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning

Your Future. Our Focus.