

Annie Kelly

University of Cincinnati

Dr. Annie Kelly serves as an Associate Professor and Course Director of First-Year Seminars in the College of Cooperative Education and Professional Studies at the University of Cincinnati (UC), where she oversees the strategic coordination of first-year seminar programs, faculty development, peer education, curriculum design, and assessment initiatives.

Her work is grounded in the principles of Appreciative Advising, shaping both her approach to teaching and her leadership of a large multidisciplinary instructor team. Dr. Kelly led the redesign of a UC first-year seminar course resulting in strengthening students' sense of belonging, improving retention, and elevating first-year learning outcomes. She has also created and facilitated comprehensive training programs for faculty and peer instructors, including the PD 1015 NEXT: New Experiences in Teaching Institute and a peer instructor appreciative mentorship course.

Prior to joining the University of Cincinnati, Dr. Kelly held roles within faculty development, academic advising, and academic support at Loyola University Chicago and new student programming at the University of Kentucky. She led the restructure of Loyola's academic support programs leading to significant increased usage, student satisfaction, and grade outcomes, and redesigned first and second year academic probation processes.

Dr. Kelly serves as the Editor of *Insights for College Transitions* for the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition, where she has led the publication's rebranding and strategic vision. She served on faculty at the NRCFYEST's Developing and Sustaining First-Year Seminars Institute and closing facilitator at the 44th Annual Conference on the First-Year Experience. She is a faculty affiliate with the Office of Appreciative Education at Florida Atlantic University and a frequent speaker and author on first-year course design, peer leadership, and appreciative education.

She earned her Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Loyola University Chicago, where her research explored community-engaged curriculum and pedagogy. Outside of her professional work, she enjoys time with her husband and two young children, exploring Cincinnati's coffee shops, and listening to Taylor Swift.