



A Chat with

Butler Center
Mentor

Sunnie Lee Watson

Professor of Learning Design and Technology and Assistant Dean for Diversity and Global Engagement, College of Education

Dr. Sunnie Lee Watson teaches and conducts scholarly work in the field of learner-centered paradigm of education. Her areas of research focus on attitudinal learning and mindset change for social justice in both formal and informal educational settings, learner-centered online instruction and innovative educational technologies, and critical systems thinking for educational change.

WHAT DOES MENTORSHIP MEAN TO YOU?

For me, mentorship is all about cheering each other on - it is about helping each other find our courage within, so we can succeed in achieving our dreams, whatever they might look like!

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO BECOME A MENTOR? WHY SPECIFICALLY WITH THE BUTLER CENTER COMMUNITY?

When I was an assistant professor, I joined in on a few events - such as the annual conference for assistant professors, and it was a very inspiring and encouraging experience for me. It was particularly meaningful because I was struggling in my role as an online program convener as an assistant professor. It was a turning point for me and gave me courage and hope. I am hoping that I can provide that kind of support to other professors.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE STORY?

One of the most fulfilling experiences I've had as a mentor involves guiding one of my doctoral students to fulfill her dream of becoming a professor. Helping a mom find her way to achieve career success after focusing on her family for such a long time made me very proud and happy. Our collaboration extended beyond academic growth; we provided mutual support, finding the courage to overcome obstacles and achieve success in many areas of life. Her success was inspiring, propelling me toward my own career and life goals.