

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

## Moving Forward with Digital Learning

*Michelle Singh, Ph.D.*  
*Assistant Commissioner, Digital  
Learning*

July 22, 2021

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## Division of Digital Learning

Established November 2020

### Mission

The mission of the Division of Digital Learning is to provide **leadership** and **advocacy** for digital learning in higher education and promote, sustain, and advance a **quality digital learner experience** positioning Texas as a world leader and resulting in **globally competitive digitally proficient citizens**.

### Meet the Team

**Michelle Singh, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Commissioner

**Kylah Torre, Ph.D.**  
Project Director

**Amy Zandy**  
Executive Assistant

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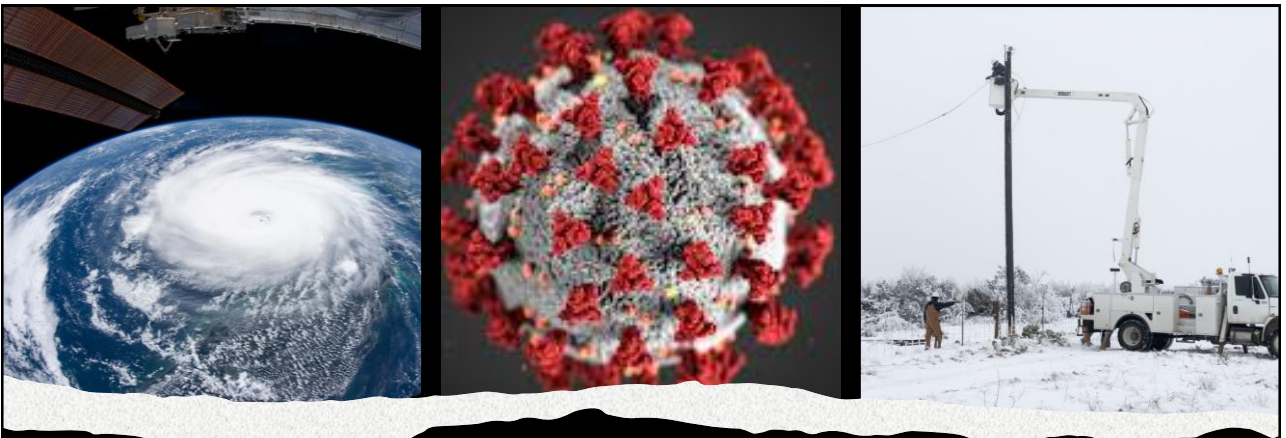
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## Division of Digital Learning Goals



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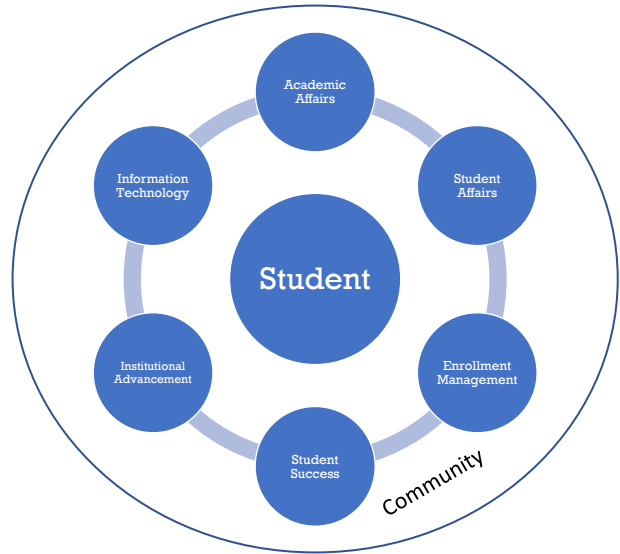
What a year!

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# What did we learn?



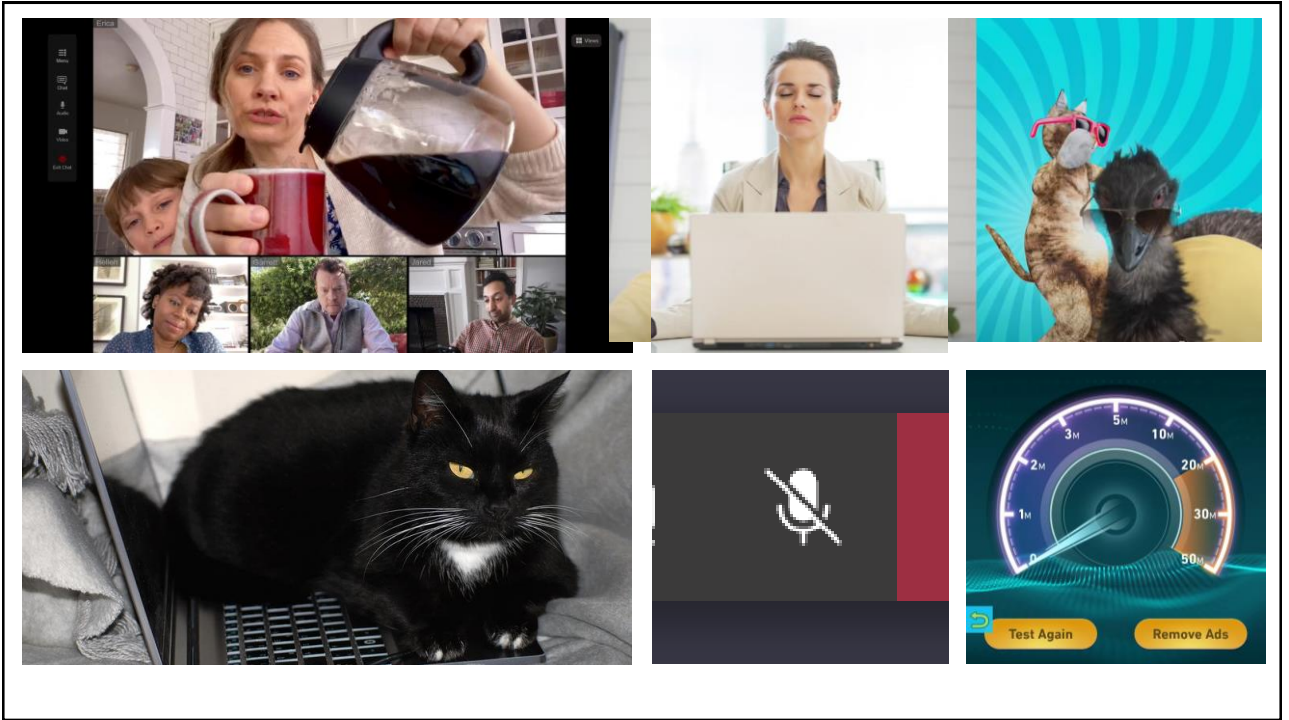
**It takes an institutional ecosystem to cultivate student success**



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A collage of four images showing people working remotely and interacting with pets. The top left shows a woman working on a laptop. The top right shows a woman and a young boy. The bottom left shows a person working on a laptop. The bottom right shows a woman hugging a black dog.

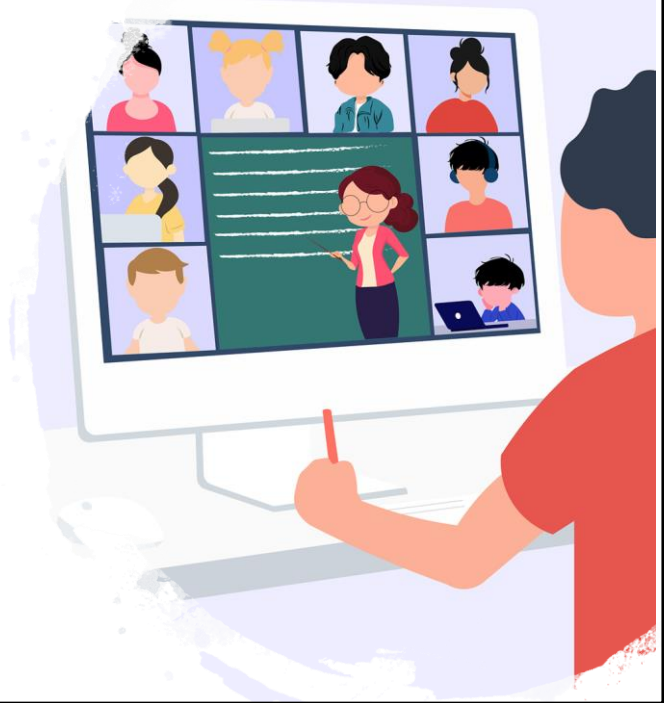
A world map graphic showing the continents in white against a dark background.

Some perks

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# A Day in the Life of DIGITAL LEARNERS



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How often did/  
do we ask?



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## Change the mindset...



Academic  
Continuity



Business  
Continuity

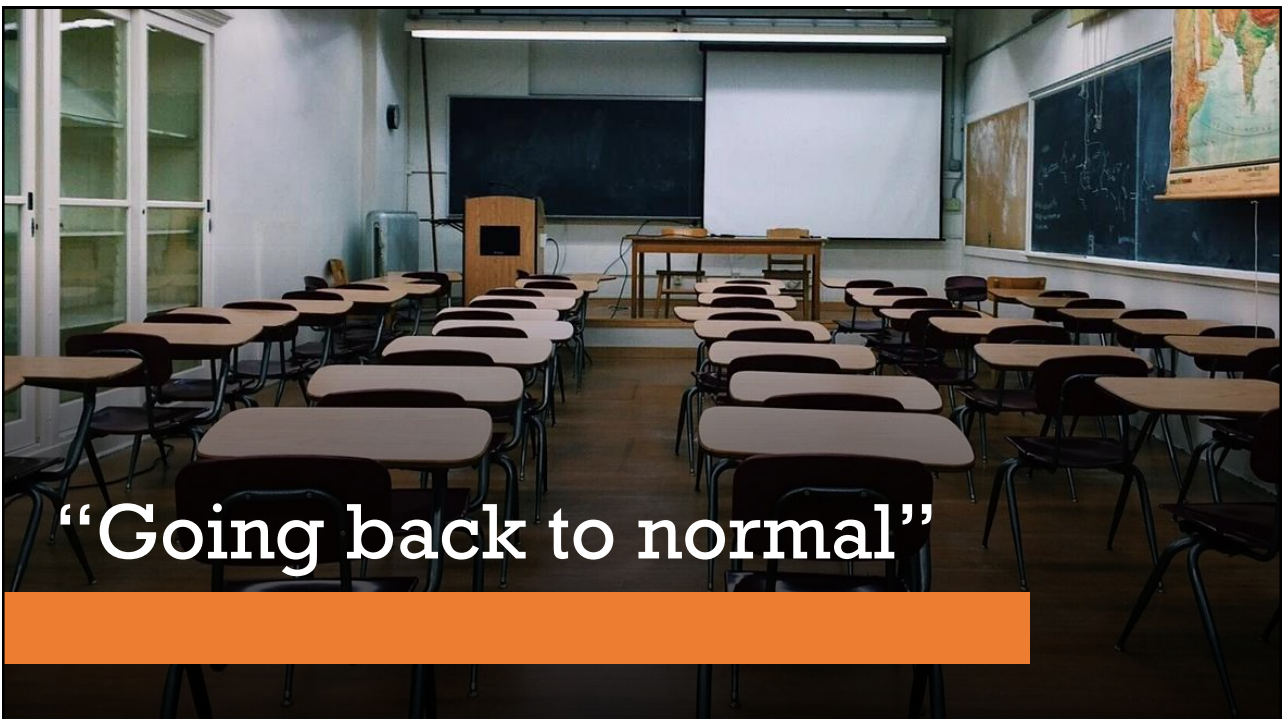


Strategic  
Institutional  
Success



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Not one versus the other  
Not all or nothing

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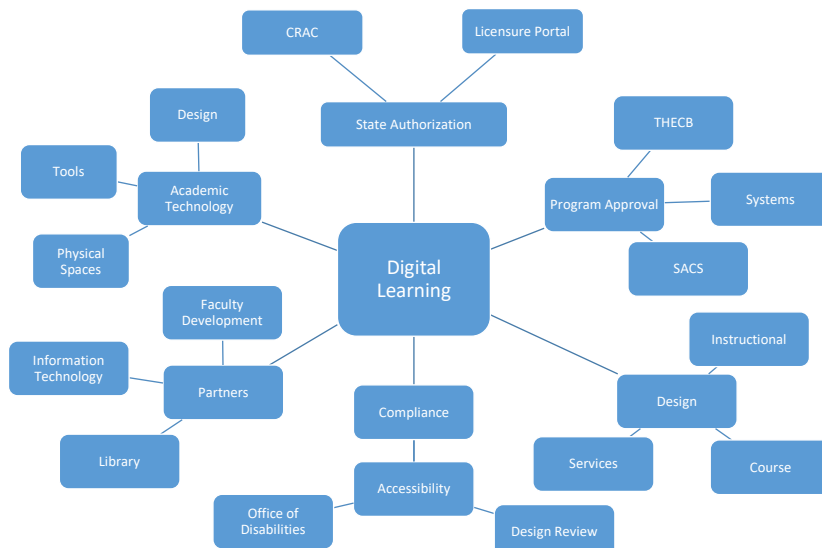

## Defining the “New Normal”

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## Delivering the **BEST** Experience

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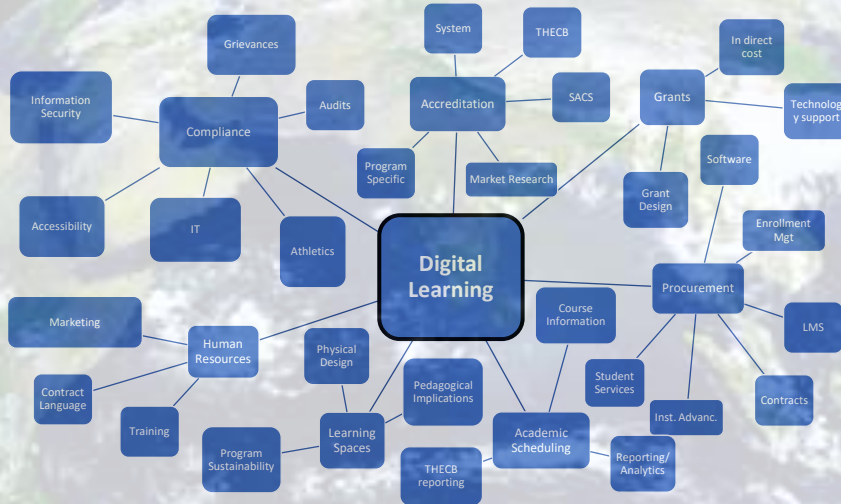
## 2019: What does Digital Learning Impact?



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# 2021: What does Digital Learning Impact?



**Everything!!!!!! How we teach, learn, do business...**

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## Two neighbors volunteer to fix water heaters after deep freeze

**Sabrina LeBoeuf**  
Austin American-Statesman  
USA TODAY NETWORK

February's freeze brought Texas a whole lot of broken. Broken power grid. Broken water system. Broken tankless water heaters.

But tossing his unit was the last thing Ramesh Yerraballi wanted.

To save countless water heaters, including his own, Yerraballi put together a YouTube video showing folks how to repair their tankless water heaters. With the help of his neighbor, Ben Nippes, he also worked to fix water heaters for neighbors and for four families living in affordable housing.

"These units are going to go into the landfill," Yerraballi, a University of Texas professor of electrical and computer engineering, said of damaged water heaters. "The environmental impact of sending something that's a perfectly functioning thing to the landfill is what motivated me more than anything else."

While Yerraballi welds for a hobby, he's not a plumber. Figuring out what to do took some research. After poking around the unit, he found cracks in copper tubing. The fix: brazing the cracks closed.

He worked with Nippes, a guitar repairman, on fixing more tankless water heaters. Yerraballi's wife, Sameera Bally, took videos.

"I suddenly realized that there were hundreds of units in my neighborhood alone that were busted, and people were asking me how to do it," Yerraballi said.



Ramesh Yerraballi works to fix a tankless

# How we LIVE

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# How do we harness the power of digital learning?

## **WE change the narrative: WE MOVE**

- remote learning to quality digital learning
- online only to all methods of learning
- specialty to mainstream
- teaching then technology to a synergistic teaching/learning through technology
- academic centric to institution centric
- disaster recovery to successful business strategy

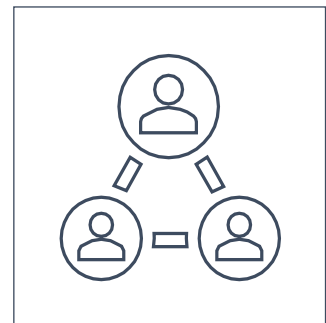


**WE MOVE** the conversation from going back to **MOVING FORWARD.**

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## Listen and Engage Stakeholders

- Learning Technology Advisory Committee
- Surveys
  - Digital Learning and Educational Technology
  - Open Educational Resources(OER) Landscape
- The University of Texas at Austin School of Design and Creative Technologies - Research Engagement



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## Serve



- Grants
  - Open Educational Resources (OER) Implementation and Development
  - Moving Forward Capacity Building
    - Digital Learning
    - OER



- Advocacy
  - National and State
    - Presentations, Board Memberships, Committee Involvement

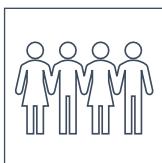
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## Support



- Academies
  - Open Educational Resources (OER) Core Elements
  - OER Advanced Skills
  - Digital Learning /OER Playbook



- Community Events
  - Open Texas Conference
  - OERTX Creator Fest
  - Digital Learning Summit

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## Digital Learning Clearinghouse: **DLTX**

A comprehensive digital learning resource, program, and service site which facilitates community connections and knowledge sharing to move digital excellence forward.



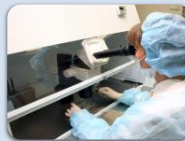
EDUCATE



LEARN



DRIVE  
CHANGE



INNOVATE



ADVOCATE



LEAD

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*My Texas Future*

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**TXWORKS**  
TEXAS INTERNSHIP CHALLENGE

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Data Modernization  
Initiative

**ask  
ADVI**

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**TEXAS  
ONCOURSE**

**60x30TX**

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Texas Affordable  
Baccalaureate

## Model

- Elevating the level of digital excellence at the agency.
- Expanding our digital service catalog

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# Change isn't easy!

- Time
- Dedication
- Commitment
- Resources/Support
- Teamwork
- Vision
- Strategy
- CHAMPIONS

## IT TAKES YOU!

## IT TAKES ALL OF US!

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**We want people to say...**



**got it right!**

**WE  
MOVED  
FORWARD**

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**Thank You!**

*Michelle Singh, Ph.D.  
Assistant Commissioner,  
Digital Learning*

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