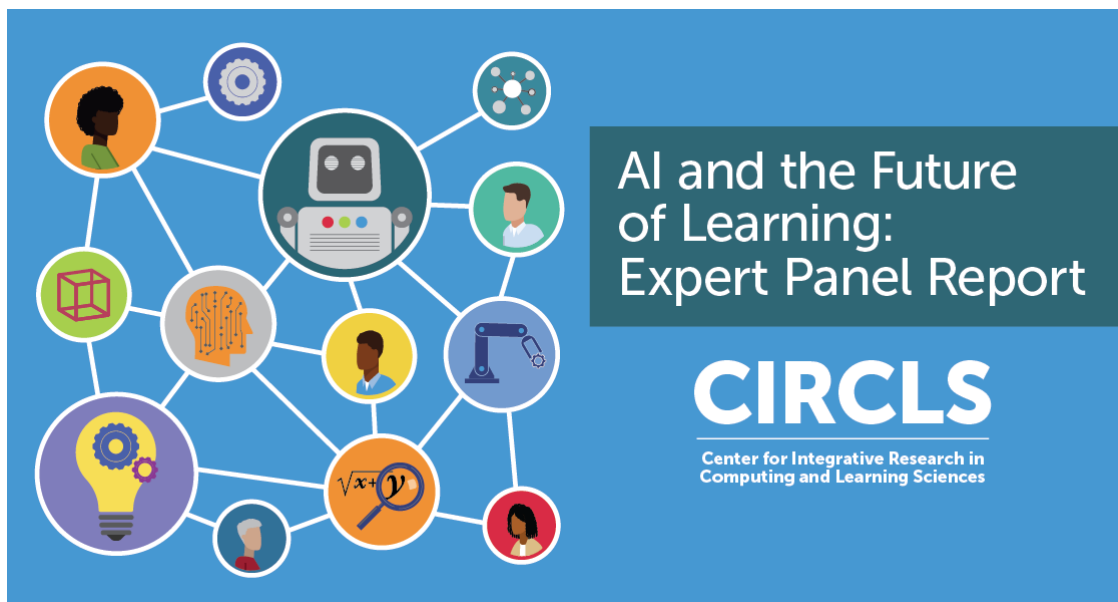CIRCLS Newsletter - Issue 1, January 2021

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# CIRCLS

## Center for Integrative Research in Computing and Learning Sciences

Welcome to the new Center for Integrative Research in Computing and Learning Sciences (CIRCLS) inaugural newsletter! As in our past work with CIRCL, we look forward to helping you meet new colleagues, share your work, and achieve bigger impacts. This year we anticipate hosting an online convening (PI meeting) in the fall—and because we want to preserve the highly interactive, social, and hands-on spirit of our past meetings, we will plan for participatory small group activities leading up to a shorter main event. This newsletter kicks off some of the activity, by kicking off working groups on AI and educational policy and for emerging scholars and educators (read below).

Please also note our updated Five Ways CIRCLS Can Help You—and we've been providing resources to help the community write RETTL proposals. One tip: your Broader Impacts section can envision using CIRCLS to help you reach broader audiences or work synergistically with like-minded colleagues. You don't need to attach a letter of collaboration for this as it's public knowledge that we are committed to those roles in support of the RETTL community.

# AI and the Future of Learning

We invited 22 experts on artificial intelligence (AI) to share strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and barriers for advancing education. The "AI and the Future of Learning: Expert Panel Report," offers insights on emerging design concepts for AI in learning as well as challenges of bias, ethics, equity, and more. We also provide seven recommendations for future research priorities, including investigating AI designs for an expanded range of learning scenarios and strengthening the overall AI and education ecosystem.

## CIRCLS Team Spotlight



Erin Walker is a new addition to the CIRCLS team. She is an associate professor in the School of Computing and Information at the University of Pittsburgh as well as a research scientist in the Learning Research & Development Center. Her research interests include intelligent tutoring systems, computer-supported collaboration, and human-robot interaction. As a co-PI of CIRCLS, she will be building capacity around AI synergies and coordinating working groups. Erin looks forward to bringing people from diverse perspectives and disciplines together to work towards common goals and to converge on collective practices that can enhance the impact of individual projects.

Dalila Dragnić-Cindrić is a postdoctoral researcher in Learning Sciences and Technology for CIRCLS as well as the Learning Sciences Research team at Digital Promise. Dalila earned her Ph.D. in Learning Sciences and

Psychological Studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In her research, she focuses on collaboration and groups' decision making and social regulation of learning. She looks forward to expanding the field's capacity for interdisciplinary research on the emerging technologies for teaching and learning by founding the community of emerging scholars (i.e., graduate students and postdoctoral researchers) to bring together people from multiple disciplines, such as learning sciences, computer and information sciences, and discipline-based educational research.

## Join the Expertise Exchanges

### AI and Education Policy

A working group will be formed surrounding AI and Education Policy with the goals of reflecting on how our community's research intersects with national and international policy documents, and then developing actionable recommendations for local policy decisions. This exchange will take place in a series of meetings from February through April, and we are seeking the involvement of faculty members, postdocs, graduate students, policy experts, and stakeholders such as teachers and district representatives. Participants can expect to explore policy-related resources, have active discussions surrounding policy issues, and generate a meaningful plan of action, with plenty of opportunity to inform the direction and outcomes of the group. If you are interested in joining, please fill out this form.

### Emerging Scholar CIRCLS

CIRCLS is creating Emerging Scholar CIRCLS, a community of graduate students and recent graduates who are either already engaged in interdisciplinary computer and learning sciences research or are interested in this work. We invite PIs to nominate their graduate students and postdoctoral researchers and welcome self-nominations from interested individuals. If you are interested in joining or submitting your students' names, please fill out this form.

### Educator CIRCLS

Educator CIRCLS aims to bridge research with classroom practice and broaden the community of people involved in CIRCLS. We invite you to nominate teachers to join us or share this information with teachers you think may be interested in joining. We are looking for a diverse group of classroom

teachers who are interested in sharing their experiences implementing innovative learning technologies in their classroom. If you are interested in joining, please fill out this form.

## Opportunities

- **Funding**: NSF Future of Work at the Human-Technology Frontier: Core Research Solicitation: Researchers across the computational, social, behavioral and economic sciences are encouraged to submit collaborative proposals at the intersection of people, society and technology that aim to increase opportunities for workers and spur innovations that benefit the U.S. economy. Proposals are due by March 23, 2021.
- **Funding**: IES Research Networks Focused on Critical Problems of Education Policy and Practice: IES is funding a network of teams to expand the field's capacity to conduct research using widely used digital learning platforms. In this call, IES is hoping to fund up to five platform development teams and a network lead. Applications are due by February 25, 2021.
- **Funding**: IES Transformative Research in the Education Sciences Grants Program: IES is supporting innovative or unconventional research that has the potential to lead to new scientific paradigms, novel, and more effective approaches to education practice or policy, or transformative technologies that substantially increase learner outcomes. Applications are due by February 25, 2021.
- **Webinar**: Tom Moher and CIRCLS will host a STEM for All Multiplex webinar on February 10 called Bringing Ambitious Digital Learning into the Classroom. In this webinar, we will share examples of ambitious digital learning projects funded by NSF that innovative teachers have integrated into their practice, and will ask teachers to reflect how they can imagine using other NSF projects that use emerging technologies in their own classroom teaching.

Stay tuned and be on the lookout for the most up-to-date opportunities, including job calls, conferences, article submissions, and upcoming AI webinars for practitioner/researcher connections on our website and Twitter.

### Have some news or resources that you want to share with the community?
**Contact CIRCLS**

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