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Upgrades Prepare Pharmacy Students for Collaborative Medicine in the Age of Coronavirus

CEDARVILLE, OHIO -- As Cedarville University moves through its first week of classes, the Center for Pharmacy Innovation (CPI) has prepared to meet the pharmacy students with a new facade and updated technology, including telehealth capabilities spurred on by COVID-19 realities.

“Part of our mission is to enhance the role of the pharmacist in collaborative healthcare teams,” explained Dr. Justin Cole, chair and associate professor of pharmacy practice and director of CPI.

“With COVID-19, the role of pharmacists in the overall healthcare team has only increased,” continued Cole. “Learning how to collaborate is an important skill for 21st century pharmacists, so the CPI was designed to foster collaborative thinking, positive dialogue and creative ideas that can improve the care of patients through the profession of pharmacy.”

CPI’s remodel included small upgrades like a fresh coat of paint and updated furnishing. But more importantly, new technology was added for interns and student research assistants.

Repurposed or relocated computer workspaces, equipped with technologies that allow for data and statistical analysis, were added along with new teleconference technology. Originally Zoom was planned to be used as CPI’s teleconference technology, but with the outbreak of COVID-19, their plans changed.

“Telehealth technology is being used increasingly as a mode of healthcare delivery, especially during the coronavirus pandemic,” said Cole. “This space allows us the flexibility to effectively partner with other organizations as needs arise and could even be used for unique clinical education experiences for our students.”

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 4,380 undergraduate, graduate and online students in more than 150 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, including its [Doctor of Pharmacy](#) program, strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings and high student engagement ranking. For more information about Cedarville University, visit www.cedarville.edu

Story written by Nicole Hackett