

# An Engine for Army Learning

## Army University's Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence

Leonard L. Lira, PhD  
Dr. Keith R. Beurskens

### Abstract

To develop adaptive and innovative professionals that can maintain focus on readiness in the near and far terms, the Army institutionalized learning by establishing Army University (ArmyU). The engine of this institutionalized learning is the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence (CTLE). Modeled after similar centers of learning from civilian institutions of higher education, ArmyU's CTLE facilitates learning in the Army in three ways. First, by "professionalizing" the core curriculum of its "profession." Second, by developing a cadre of faculty through programs that go beyond the rhetoric of the label "world-class." Lastly, CTLE facilitates an internal learning network with Centers of Excellence, the Army Research Institutions and Army Research Laboratory, as well as externally to other organizations leading innovations in adult learning. It uses this network to keep the Army abreast of the latest in learning sciences which consistently fuels the engine of learning innovations throughout the Army. This article describes these three functions and the tension in uniting competing views of professional military training and education into one unified learning philosophy. It concludes with lessons that will serve to sustain Army learning through the progress of CTLE and ArmyU.

### Introduction

The U.S. Army's culture values current pragmatic needs and actions to achieve near-term requirements over the intellectualism and theory necessary to prepare for the future. For example, William Skelton provides a splendid glimpse of an-