

Outstanding Government Service



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As Interim Senior Director of Global Partnership and Programs, Katie Bowler Young manages UNC-Chapel Hill's portfolio of global connections overseas. She handles cooperative agreements, joint/dual degree programs, faculty exchange, and academic conferences. In an ordinary year, she visits one or more universities abroad and hosts several delegations of international faculty and administrators in North Carolina. Bringing global partnerships into the actual classroom and advising on curriculum redesign, however, is outside the scope of her responsibilities.

With COVID-19 restricting global travel, Bowler Young worked with faculty members to develop UNC's first collaborative online international learning (COIL) courses, which involved shared teaching and learning with a classroom in another country. UNC and international students collaborated to complete group projects, share societal and disciplinary perspectives, and exchange scholarly and creative work. Technology allowed this to be done at a far lower cost and risk than international travel.

She partnered with Dr. Amanda Thompson, who researches public health in the Galapagos, to reach a broader faculty member pool from countries such as Australia, Chile, Czech Republic, Kenya, and more. Conservatively projecting a dozen colleagues to be interested in COIL courses, Bowler Young was surprised with 55 faculty and staff members attending the first interest meeting. Now, additional faculty and staff members have made plans for implementing COIL courses for the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 semesters.



Thanks to Katie Bowler Young's efforts, there is a new path for the UNC System to impact education globally. This better positions it to fulfill its Global Guarantee – the promise that every undergraduate student will have access to a transformative global education, as articulated in the *Carolina Next: Innovations for Public Good 2020* strategic plan.