

Krisstal Clayton received her Ph.D. from New Mexico State University in 2009 under the tutelage of David Trafimow, Ph.D in Social Psychology. While at New Mexico State University, Krisstal had her first opportunity to teach as an instructor of record—a Friday night Introduction of Psychology course. It was while teaching this course that Krisstal became enamored with the power of pedagogy. Her first full-time faculty position was at Western Kentucky University where Krisstal held a tenured Associate Pedagogical Professor position and was awarded the 2015 College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award. Since August 2018, Clayton holds a Clinical Associate Professor of Psychology and Psychology Program Coordinator—Frisco Campus faculty position at the University of North Texas (UNT). As a result of her twelve years of teaching, Krisstal has taught 14 different courses for undergraduate, honors, and graduate students ages 16-83 years on regional, main, and international campuses. In April 2018, Krisstal was honored to deliver the keynote address at the UNT University Forum on Teaching and Learning. She works closely with the UNT Center for Learning Enhancement, Assessment, and Redesign and will serve as their first Faculty Fellow beginning January 2019.

As a teacher, Krisstal is devoted to delivering research experience and community-partnership collaborative learning to her students. In the classroom, she is known for exposing her students to fascinating real-world examples and gamified simulations such as plea bargaining, the fundamental attribution error, mock jury deliberation, eye witness identification, the bystander effect, inmate rehabilitation, and the collective mindset of North Korea. Krisstal has supervised several undergraduate research projects including National Science Foundation REU scholars, and recently began investigating the impact her pedagogical interventions can have on student perspectives about inmates, society, and the world. Krisstal has presented her research on pedagogical interventions at NITOP in 2017 and 2018. Currently, she is a consulting editor for the Journal of General Psychology and an author for SAGE Publications to develop cutting-edge teaching materials both in-print and online.