

CELT Newsletter: December 2020

Dear CELT Colleagues:

Happy December! As we near the end of the semester, I want to congratulate all of you! While it is definitely a challenge to teach remotely, our students are learning and faculty are too. Thank you all for your hard work and your support of CELT this past semester. We had over 500 registrations for our events!

Save the date for our **Spring 2021 guest speaker** on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 10:30 AM on Zoom. Dr. Jean Mandernach, Executive Director of the *Center for Innovation in Research and Teaching* at Grand Canyon University will be speaking, about engaging students in online and remote live classes. Her talk, *Black Box Busters: Ideas to Enliven the Virtual Classroom* promises to be an engaging event. We will also be running workshops that week and throughout the semester, so please check the CELT website for more information as it becomes available.

Please let us know how CELT can help you with learning and teaching. Do you have an interesting idea for a workshop? Or would you like to lead a workshop? We welcome your ideas, and welcome you to present for CELT.

Have a restful and restorative winter break, a good holiday season, and a better and safe 2021 for us all! Be well and healthy, Susan

Register for our January and Spring 2021 CELT Workshops on [Eventbrite](#)

To help us keep track of attendance and facilitate sending links to registered faculty, please sign up in advance on [Eventbrite](#) to join us! We will send a zoom link to all registrants the night before the event. If you have any last-minute problems or questions, email: saltman@middlesexcc.edu

Save the following dates for CELT Events! Detailed information for these workshops will be listed in the monthly CELT Newsletters and Eventbrite

January 20: CELT Workshops

January 21: CELT Guest Speaker, Dr. Jean Mandernach, *Black Box Busters: Ideas to Enliven the Virtual Classroom* at 10:30 AM followed by workshops

January 28: *CELT Virtual Open House*

February 11: *CELT Tech Talk: What's New for Teaching*

February 23: *CELT Temple Teaching Roundtable*

March 11: *CELT Tech Talk: What's New for Teaching*

March 23: CELT Session

April 8: *CELT Tech Talk: What's New for Teaching*

April 27: CELT Session



Upcoming Events

December 3: Temple deadline

December 4: Deadline for nominations for Faculty Teaching Awards

January 20: CELT Workshops

January 21: Dr. Jean Mandernach, guest speaker followed by CELT Workshops

Helpful Articles

[Embracing Change without Breaking Stride: Seven Strategies to be an Adaptive Instructor](#) helps remind all of us of our ability to adapt and change.

Making the case for deeper learning, Terry McGlynn asks the question, [Are you Teaching Content, or Just Covering Material?](#)

Looking for ideas for active learning? Read [The Power of Peer Interaction](#) from Inside Higher Ed.

Inside Higher Ed asks [Are Students Happy with Virtual Learning this Fall? A Little](#) Students are more engaged when they think their professors make an effort.

New Ideas/New Pedagogy

Assessment: As we continue our conversations about assessment, the New York Times recently posted an opinion piece, [Just How Dishonest Are Most Students?](#) The author, who teaches at Wake Forest University and is the Director of [The Honesty Project](#), argues for the inclusion of an honor code in all assignments and exams as a moral reminder to students. *What can you do in your classroom to keep students from cheating?*

End of the semester surveys: To help with spring planning, you may want to consider creating an end of the semester survey in Canvas. Student feedback can help you reflect on your semester, and provide [ideas](#) to take forward. Laura Ross from Maryville University suggests having students create their own [Self-Assessments](#). While these written assessments help students to understand their own learning, they are also helpful to you as you reflect upon your own teaching practice.

Working on Your Spring Syllabi:

After a full semester of remote live teaching, what changes do you want to make to your syllabi for spring? What worked well for you this semester? What do you want to change? A learning centered syllabus should cover the following:

- Set the tone for the course (is the syllabus learner centered or content centered?) Why should the student be excited about your course?
- Clearly states the learning objectives for the course
- Set expectations for the course and how students can be successful
- Inform students what they will do in the course, how they will learn, and how they will be assessed
- Include schedule, policies, grading, and other information that students need to know in order to succeed in your course

As you work on updating your syllabi, think about changes that you would like to make. There are many resources for creating a learner centered syllabus including [Constructing a Learner Centered Syllabus: One Professor's Journey](#). An article in *Faculty Focus* talks about the syllabus as [setting the tone](#) for learning. *The Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning* has good resources for [syllabus and course design](#). There are also syllabi rubrics available to help you evaluate your syllabi as you plan for spring. *The Center for Teaching Excellence* at the University of Virginia has an [excellent rubric](#) to help you evaluate your syllabus.

Opportunity for Professional Development: 19th Annual Faculty Conference on Teaching Excellence, Temple University

There are a few spaces left to attend the virtual 19th Annual Faculty Conference on Teaching Excellence at Temple University. We would like attendees to share their experience at the *CELT Temple Teaching Roundtable* during our February CELT session on Tuesday, February 23 at 2 PM. You can attend either Wednesday, January 6th or Thursday, January 7, 2021. The deadline to sign up is December 3.



Nominate a Colleague for an MCC Teaching/Scholar Award

MCC recognizes excellence in teaching and scholarship! **There is still time to nominate an adjunct or full-time colleague for the MCC Excellence in Teaching Award** (full-time or adjunct award) or the **Excellence in Scholarship Award** (full-time faculty) by **December 4** at 12 noon. [Nominations](#) can be submitted on the CELT Website.

Send us your professional accomplishments!

CELT posts the [professional accomplishments](#) of adjunct and full-time faculty on our website. We are working to update this information on our website. Please send us no more than three of your professional accomplishments for the year 2020. Please send them to: facultyaccomplishments@middlesexcc.edu