

CELT Newsletter: September 2023

Dear CELT Colleagues:

Welcome back! We hope you had a restful and restorative summer. The CELT theme for the 2023 – 2024 academic year is **Back to the Future: New Strategies, New Students**. CELT is taking a look back at the successful strategies that we have used in the past, and updating them for now. Join us in-person as we discover innovative ways to combine old and new pedagogical approaches in our classes.

Begin the year with the **CELT Professional Day** on **Tuesday, August 29**. We start at 11 AM in the Brunswick Room in Crabiel Hall (after the AFT meeting) with our keynote, *From Adversity to Achievement: Fostering Resilience and Self-Motivation to Inspire Student Success* with Dr. Thea Zunick. *If you are joining us for lunch after the keynote, please register on Eventbrite by Monday, August 21 so we know how much food to order.* We continue with workshops on all three days and throughout the fall semester. All of our workshops are posted to the CELT homepage www.middlesexcollege.edu/celt Please register on Eventbrite and join us!

Whether you are teaching online, hybrid, remote live, or on campus, CELT is here to support you. Reach out to us if you need help, or just want to chat about teaching. We are looking forward to seeing you!

Have a wonderful start to your semester! Susan

Register for all of our CELT Workshops on the CELT Webpage

In order to keep track of attendance, please sign up in advance on Eventbrite to join us! We will send a reminder email (to your College Outlook account) to all registrants the night before the event. Forget to register for a workshop? You are welcome to show up and join us! If you have any last-minute problems or questions, email: saltman@middlesexcc.edu

Programming for Adjunct Faculty

Are you a “**New to Middlesex?**” faculty member? Consider joining the “New to Middlesex” adjunct mentoring program. We will match you with two mentors (one from your department and one from CELT) to help you as you begin teaching at Middlesex. Please reach out to us with your department and the course you are teaching and we will match you to a mentor.

Adjunct Faculty: Whether you are a new faculty member, or one with many years of experience, we have a program for you! *Conversations in Teaching* focuses on topics specifically for adjunct faculty on August 31, September 27, October 25, and November 29. These meetings will be on Zoom from 4:30 – 5:30 PM. Please sign up on [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) to meet colleagues from across the disciplines and engage in meaningful conversation about teaching strategies. We will send the Zoom link the night before the session.



Upcoming Events

August 29 at 11 AM: CELT Professional Day begins with *From Adversity to Achievement: Fostering Resilience and Self-Motivation to Inspire Student Success* with Dr. Thea Zunick, followed by workshops on **August 29, 30, & 31**.

September 7 at 2 PM CELT Open House in JLC 230, The ACE Space for Faculty Resources

September 14: *Getting Started with Badgr and Digital Credentials in Canvas*

September 26: *Adult Learning: Have you Heard the Word?*

September 27: *Conversations in Teaching: Motivating Students for Success* (for Adjunct Faculty on Zoom)

Interesting Articles

[Putting off your To-Do List?](#) helps you focus on the many tasks we juggle as we start the semester and as our work starts to pile up.

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Meet your CELT Executive Board for 2023 - 2024

Thank you to everyone who voted in our CELT election. The CELT Board is here for you and please reach out to them to learn how to get involved! We welcome your ideas for workshops and your participation.

Director: Susan Altman

Full-time Faculty Board Members: Adriana Mamay, Shannon Pullaro, Crystal Quillen, Sheri-Rose Rubin, Katalin Gyurian-Toth and Stefanie Rufo

Part-time Faculty Board Members: Melissa Ellis and William Lipkin

CELT Mentoring Team: Chris Drew, Brian Lavey, and Claire Vassiliadis

Pedagogy to Start off the Semester

AI in Higher Education: [Are Your Students Ready for AI?](#) As you know, AI is changing (practically daily) the world of Higher Ed. How are you thinking of using (or not) AI in your classroom? Back in November, faculty were worried about students using AI to cheat on their assignments. The *Center for Learning and Teaching* at Quinnipiac College discusses academic integrity in [AI Eroding AI? A New Era for Artificial Intelligence and Academic Integrity](#). Concerns about academic integrity has encouraged faculty to come up with new prompts [How ChatGPT killed my Discussion Boards and Prompted New Prompts](#). While we still have concerns about academic integrity, the discussion has shifted to figuring out how to use AI effectively in the classroom. Derek Bruff has some ideas on remaking assignments in his blog post, [Assignment Makeovers in the AI Age: Reading Response Edition](#). Stanford University's *Department of Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence* discusses both the potential and the risks of using AI for teaching in their article, [AI Will Transform Teaching and Learning. Let's Get it Right](#). In the May issue of *Faculty Focus*, [The Power of AI and Future of Education is Now: How Teachers and the Taught Can Create the Teaching](#) talks about revisiting teaching and learning and how it is a great time to cultivate new opportunities. Using AI in the college classroom is an ongoing conversation.

Need ideas for the first day of class and how to start off the semester? Need some new ideas for ice breakers to help build community? Vanderbilt University has some ideas for the [First Day of Class](#) and how to create an inviting classroom. The Ohio State University has a list of [Icebreaker Activities](#) to give you some new activities to try this semester. You can also use icebreakers throughout the semester, and go beyond just "getting to know each other." [Using Icebreakers for More than Introductions](#) has some good ideas to apply to course content, and enhance teaching and learning. Teaching online? Here are some suggestions for [Icebreakers for Online Classes](#). [Icebreakers for Online Classes](#) from the University of Wisconsin recommends using Canvas discussions as a way to build community and encourages faculty to make it personal, without asking students to be vulnerable. Some ideas for discussions are to ask what interests you about your major, or a favorite way to spend a day. You can also ask a question that addresses your course content, perhaps asking, "what aspect of the class are they most excited about learning?" In [Starting off Right with the Syllabus](#), *Inside HigherEd* offers some ideas to help your students engage with the syllabus. These ideas include a syllabus scavenger hunt, mapping the syllabus, and collaborative annotation, all ways to help students get to know the syllabus and each other. If you want to experiment with technology, consider using [QR Codes for Quick Student Engagement](#). You can use them to land on a page with the day's agenda, course reminders, or ask a question to help prepare students for the day's content. You can also use this technique for a survey to check for understanding, or as an exit ticket.

Teaching online this Fall? When planning your online courses, think of the community of inquiry framework to achieve greater engagement for your students. [Inquiring Minds Want to Know... About Social, Cognitive, and Teacher Presence Online](#) can help you think about these presences when planning your course. Discussion forums are a common way to engage students in an online course. [We Can Do Hard Things: Facilitating Discussion on Social Issues in the Online Classroom](#) from *Faculty Focus*, gives ideas on how to establish parameters for both tone and expectations, how to emphasize inclusiveness, and other ideas to help facilitate discussion.