

CELT Newsletter: November 2023

Dear CELT Colleagues:

Welcome to November! It is a busy month for CELT as we finish up our workshops for the semester. There are also opportunities to attend a conference, and the yearly call for nominations for the annual teaching and scholar awards. Take a look and see what is happening at CELT and sign up on [Eventbrite](#) using your Middlesex College email. We will send a reminder email the night before the event. If you have any questions, email: saltman@middlesexcc.edu

The CELT Board is working on planning for the Spring 2024 semester. Do you have an interesting idea for a workshop? Would you like to lead a workshop? We welcome your ideas, and welcome you to present for CELT. Please send us your ideas.

Please let us know how CELT can help you with learning and teaching. We are here to support you!

Regards, Susan

Please join us for the following November events:

Monday, November 6 at 4:30 PM on ZOOM: Podcasts and Coffee Bring a cup of coffee (or other drink) and join CELT on Zoom for a discussion on a podcast related to Higher Education. In advance of our meeting, listen to or read a transcript of the following podcast. Please register on Eventbrite to receive the Zoom link.

<https://teaforteaching.com/286-grading-for-growth/> *Grading for Growth, Tea for Teaching* Podcast, Episode 286

Thursday, November 9 at 2 PM: Tech Thursday: Walking and Talking: Reflecting of Technology in your Classes Shannon Pullaro (*We will meet in the Raritan Bay Room, CH and then walk across campus*) Join your colleagues as we “walk and talk” across our beautiful fall campus and reflect on the technology that we use or don’t use in our classes. After walking across campus, we will conclude at the CELT office for snacks and continued conversation.

Tuesday, November 28 at 2 PM: Alternative Grading Roundtable Susan Altman (*Raritan Bay Room, CH*) Join your faculty colleagues in conversation as they share new approaches to grading in their courses. Whether it is *Ungrading*, *Specifications Grading*, or another approach, learn about new ways to assess students and help them succeed. We especially encourage you to **come and share** what has worked and didn’t work in your own classes in this interactive roundtable discussion.

Wednesday, November 29 at 4:30 PM on ZOOM: Conversations in Teaching: Thinking about Spring This zoom workshop is specifically for Adjunct faculty and an opportunity to meet colleagues, discuss teaching strategies, and hear new ideas to bring back to your classes. A zoom link will be sent to all registered faculty the evening before the event. Please register with your Middlesex College Outlook email.



Upcoming Events

November 6: Podcasts and Coffee on Zoom

November 9: Tech Thursday: Walking and Talking: Reflections on Technology

November 28: Alternative Grading Roundtable

November 29: Conversations on Teaching on Zoom

December 8: Deadline to register for Temple Teaching Conference (limited number, first come, first served)

December 8: Deadline for nominations for the Middlesex College Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Scholarship Awards

Helpful Articles

Do you have students who need some encouragement? [Full Disclosure of the Terms of Success: Nine Things to Tell Your Students](#) give suggestions to help your students succeed.

[Professors can Make a Difference in Promoting Students' Success](#) from *Inside HigherEd* also has suggestions to help students succeed.

Opportunities:

Deadline: December 8: Opportunity for Professional Development: 22nd Annual Faculty Conference on Teaching Excellence, Temple University

Middlesex will send a limited number of faculty (first come, first serve, to those who sign up on Eventbrite by December 8) to the in person 22ndth *Annual Faculty Conference on Teaching Excellence* at Temple University. This year's theme is **Teaching and Learning in the Age of Generative Artificial Intelligence**. The conference is in person and you can attend on both January 10 and January 11, 2024. Once you register, you will receive an email with details for the event. CELT is only providing registration. Transportation and parking are the responsibility of the attendee.

Deadline: December 8: Nominations for Annual Middlesex Faculty Teaching Awards and Scholar Award

Please [nominate your colleagues](#) for the Middlesex College Full-time and Adjunct Teaching colleagues for the Middlesex Faculty Teaching Awards by December 8 at 12 noon. The Middlesex College Faculty Scholar award will be awarded to a full-time faculty member. All nominated faculty will be required to submit their support materials by Friday, February 2, 2024 at 12 noon.

New Ideas/New Pedagogy

Artificial Intelligence and its effect on Higher Education is an important and ongoing conversation across the country and CELT will be continuing the conversation on AI in the spring semester. *Inside HigherEd* suggests in [The 4 Stages of AI](#) as a framework for thinking about AI including: regulate, adapt, integrate and reimagine. In [Are Your Students Ready for AI?](#), the author talks about a 4-step framework to prepare learners for a ChatGPT world.

Kathryn Conrad, University of Kansas, proposes a [Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights](#) and considers policies for its use. While you may not yet be comfortable using AI in the classroom, it is a good idea to come up with a policy statement for your syllabus. [Northern Illinois University](#) has compiled (in conjunction with [Lance Eaton](#)) a list of policies from institutions across the country to help give you some ideas.

Active Learning is a way to engage students and help them learn effectively. In [Another Look at Active Learning, Part 3: Peer and Collaborative Learning in the Classroom](#) there are suggestions for peer and collaborative learning, group work, and activities that encourage peer and collaborative learning. Even in STEM classes where there is a large amount of content to cover, active learning increases success for students. [Active Learning Increases Student Performance in Science, Engineering and Math](#) breaks down the statistics and research for these disciplines. Vanderbilt University offers an [Active Learning Cheat Sheet](#) with 10 steps to get started in active learning, including setting goals, choosing the right activity, and considering how you will judge success. In [5 Ways to Ease Students off the Lecture and Into Active Learning](#), the author states that students prefer the lecture, but gives us strategies to help us shift that preference.

Student Engagement: How do we keep students engaged after midterms? In *Faculty Focus*, [Recovering Student Engagement at Mid-Course Time](#) gives suggestions to help renew connection and add small low-stakes activities to keep students motivated. University of Notre Dame gives suggestions for [Motivating Students During End of the Semester Stress](#). The University of Minnesota has a [guide to help students](#) set and prioritizing their goals, and stay focused and motivated in class.

As we head into preparation for **final exams**, the Colorado State University suggests [Teaching Tips: Preparing Your Students for Final Exams](#). [The University of Waterloo](#) asks, "why are you giving an exam and what do you want to assess"? In the article, [Preparing for Finals](#), The McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning at Princeton University gives ideas that you can share with your students as they prepare for final exams and projects. Instead of a final exam, you may want to consider an [Alternative to Traditional Testing](#) or [Alternatives to Traditional Exams and Papers](#). With consideration of the course learning objectives and outcomes, *The Scholarly Teacher* recommends [Alternatives to the Traditional Exam as Measures of Student Learning Outcomes](#). Good luck to you and your students as we finish out the fall semester!