

CELT Newsletter: December 2023

Dear CELT Colleagues:

Happy December! As we finish up this semester, I want to thank everyone for joining our CELT Workshops this semester. What new teaching strategies did you try in your classroom this fall?

Did you know CELT does consultations to help with a specific pedagogical question? This semester, among the many questions that came up, we helped a faculty member introduce group work with research-based approaches to their class. Do you have a question or need help with a strategy that you would like to try in your class? Reach out to CELT and we will be happy to help.

The CELT Board has planned an engaging program for the Spring 2024 semester as we continue to bring innovative ideas to teaching at Middlesex College. Please let us know how CELT can help you with learning and teaching. What do you want to learn? What do you need? 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.

Save the dates for our **Spring 2024 CELT Events** on Wednesday, January 17 and Thursday, January 18, 2024. Watch **your email during break** for more information about these and our other programs for Spring 2024. We will post our events to [Eventbrite](#) sometime after the new year.

Have a restful and restorative winter break, a good holiday season, and a safe and peaceful 2024 for us all!

Cheers, Susan

[Register for our January and Spring 2024 CELT Workshops on Eventbrite](#)

To help us keep track of attendance and facilitate sending reminders to registered faculty, please sign up in advance on [Eventbrite](#) to join us! If you forget to register, you are still welcome to attend and bring a colleague!

Save the following dates for CELT Events! Detailed information for these workshops will be listed soon on our website, in our CELT Newsletters, email, and on Eventbrite at the start of the new year.

January 17 and January 18: CELT Workshops (before the semester begins)

January 25: *CELT Open House in the ACE Space in JLC 230*

February 8, March 7 and April 11 at 2 PM: *CELT Tech Sessions: Focus on AI*

February 27, March 26 and April 30 at 2 PM: *CELT SOTL Sessions*

[Conversations in Teaching: Zoom Workshops for Adjunct Faculty](#)

Continue the conversation with your adjunct colleagues on Zoom from 4:30 – 5:30 PM on the following dates:

January 31, March 6, and April 10



Upcoming Events

December 8: **Deadline for [nominations](#) for Faculty Teaching Awards**

December 8: **Deadline to register for the Temple Teaching Conference in January (limited participation)**

January 17: **CELT Workshops**

January 18: **CELT Workshops**

January 25: **CELT Open House in JLC 230, Join us for snacks and conversation**

Helpful Articles

Lisa McNeal, EdD asks [Is ChatGPT the New CliffsNotes?](#)

Do you remember your first year as a full-time instructor? In [A Transformative Journey: Lessons from my First Year](#), new faculty member Anne Perri Koba reflects on her first year as a full time professor.

As we take some time off to renew our energy and restore ourselves, consider the following [Self-Care Resources for Faculty](#) and enjoy your break.

Podcasts and Coffee: Join your CELT Colleagues as we discuss a variety of Podcasts related to teaching and pedagogy. Podcast links will be sent in advance of each session.

February 26 at 4:30 – 5:30 PM: Bring your coffee and join us on Zoom.

April 3 on Zoom from 3:30 – 4:30 PM: Bring your coffee and join us on Zoom.

Meet Ronda Christie, the new CELT and College Assembly Assistant!

CELT welcomes the new CELT and College Assembly assistant, Ronda Christie. Ronda graduated from Ohio State University where she majored in Theatre. In addition to acting and playwriting, Ronda enjoys visual arts including painting, drawing, and ceramics. This month, she is in rehearsals for a production of *Scrooge* with Premier Theatre Company, as well as a Holiday Cabaret Fundraiser for the Middletown Arts Center, which she is also directing. She is currently reading "How to Do Nothing: Resisting the Attention Economy" by Jenny Odell. We are happy to have her join the CELT Team!

New Ideas/New Pedagogy

AI: A Continuing Conversation: AI still continues to be a conversation in all areas of Higher Education. CELT hopes you will join us in the Spring for our Tech Thursdays which will focus on learning more about AI and how to use it in the classroom. The metaLAB (at) Harvard shares assignments in the [AI Pedagogy Project](#).

Grading: Thank you to everyone who joined us for a lively discussion on grading and for sharing of the many different ways we approach assessment in our classrooms. As we work on our syllabi for the spring, it is a good time to reflect on how we grade and consider new ideas. In *Inside HigherEd*, [Yes Virginia, There's a Better Way to Grade](#), Linda B. Nilson offers concrete ideas on how to fix the grading system by using specifications grading. A new book by Jack Schneider and Ethan Hutt, both Professors of Education, talks about [How Grading Veered 'off the Mark'](#) and what we can do about it. *The Center for Transformative Teaching* at the University of Nebraska talks about [Alternative Grading for College Courses](#) and [Contract Grading](#) as ideas to explore. [Beyond the "Grade": Alternative Approaches to Assessment](#) offers additional ideas to consider moving forward.

Difficult Moments in the Classroom: In these difficult times, we all have had difficult discussions come up in the classroom and we may be unsure on how to deal with them. How you address these conversations can make a difference in how our students learn. CELT will be having a session on trauma-informed teaching in the spring, and we offer some ideas in advance of that session. Harvard's *Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning* suggests how to [Navigate Difficult Moments](#). *The Resilient Educator* has [Essential Trauma Informed Teaching Strategies for Managing Stress in the Classroom \(and Virtual Classrooms\)](#). The University of Oregon offers a [Teaching in Turbulent Times Toolkit](#) which may help you facilitate difficult discussions in a safe and supportive space for our students. [Teaching in Context: Troubling Times](#) and [Teaching in Times of Crisis](#) both offer ideas for handling these difficult discussions.

As we take some time during break to think about the new semester, consider [Six Check-in Ideas to Build Community in College Classrooms](#).



Nominate a Colleague for a Middlesex College Teaching/Scholar Award

Middlesex College 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 Friday, **December 8** 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 and catch up with past submissions. Please send us no more than three of your professional accomplishments for the year 2023. Please send them to: Celt@middlesexcc.edu with "faculty accomplishments" in the subject line.