

CELT Newsletter: May 2024

Dear CELT Colleagues,

Congratulations on another successful semester of learning and teaching at Middlesex College!

The CELT Board is busy working on planning for the upcoming 2024 – 2025 Academic year. Our theme for the coming year is **Collaboration and Connection: Building Community** and in the spirit and celebration of our theme, I would like to welcome **Crystal Quillen** as Co-Director of CELT. I look forward to working collaboratively with Crystal and the entire CELT team to plan engaging workshops for you, the faculty at Middlesex College.

Thank you for joining CELT for our many programs over the past year and the sharing of your ideas and teaching strategies. As always, we welcome your ideas and want to hear what you want from CELT! **Save the date for our CELT Professional Day on Tuesday, August 27** starting at 11 AM, followed by workshops on August 28 and 29. We will have a new registration system in place (not Eventbrite) this Fall so watch your email in early July for details on CELT programs for August and the fall semester, and how to register.

Have a restful, restorative, and fun summer! We look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Best regards, Susan

2024 – 2025 CELT Executive Board

Co - Directors: Susan Altman and Crystal Quillen

Full-time Faculty Board Members: Katalin Gyurian-Toth, Adriana Mamay, Shannon Pullaro, Cindy Braun, Pattiann McMahon, and Stefanie Rufo

Adjunct Faculty Board Member: Melissa Ellis

CELT Mentoring Team: Chris Drew, Sheri-Rose Rubin

We welcome our new board members and give a heartfelt thank you to Sheri-Rose Rubin and William Lipkin for their service as CELT Executive Board Members!

New Ideas/New Pedagogy

Reflective Teaching: The end of the academic year is a good time to reflect on the past two semesters and consider what worked and what you want to change moving forward. Reflective teaching allows you to think critically about your courses and consider how to make meaningful change for the future. While research shows that reflective teaching improves outcomes for our students,



CELT Theme 2024 – 2025

Collaboration and Connection: Building Community

We will be exploring new strategies to connect and build community in our classes and on campus.

Save the date for our CELT Professional Day!

Tuesday, August 27 @ 11 AM

Workshops on 8/28 and 8/29

Everyone is welcome to attend!

Summer Reading

What are you reading this summer?

The summer is a good time to catch up on your reading, both for pleasure, and for new teaching strategies.

33 Simple Strategies for Faculty: A Week-by-Week Resource for Teaching First Year and First-Generation Students by Lisa M. Nunn gives concrete exercises and tools to help bolster academic success and the well-being of students.

Journal Keeping: How to Use Reflective Writing for Learning, Teaching, Professional Insight and Positive Change by Danelle D. Stevens and Joanne E. Cooper. This book offers ideas for student journals that help students learn, but also allow for instructor-directed reflections on learning.

how can we use reflective teaching techniques in new ways? Anne Guarnera, a recent PhD graduate from the University of Virginia suggests three ways to reflect on your year. One idea is to use a bullet journal. Known as #Bujo, you can set up a variety of color pages or icons to create different pages and list succinct thoughts about your teaching. She suggests making lists – using a list of ideas to be incorporated into future classes or a list of “what not to do.” Another method is to use an app such as the Daygram app. The Daygram app allows you write quick notes on your phone and could be used to answer two simple questions, “What went well in the class?” and “What should be improved for next time?” Her third idea is to use student evaluations or end of the year surveys to help synthesize feedback to help shape your pedagogy. If technology isn’t your thing, a notebook with space to jot a quick reflection after each class works just as well!



Walking Pedagogy: Did you participate in our spring walk across campus? We walked to enjoy our beautiful campus, discover very cool trees (above) and connect and reflect with our colleagues. Join CELT in August for a workshop to learn how to integrate “walk and talk” pedagogy into your classes. In [Reconsidering the “Ped” in Pedagogy: A Walking Education](#), LeAnn M. Holland, of Columbia University talks about the history of walking as a reflective learning experience. For Holland, engaging with others in conversation as you walk is an educational experience. Walking not only helps our students learn, but can support us as well. In [Walk the Walk to Benefit Your Academic Research](#), Anna Lois McKay uses walking to help her formulate and develop research ideas. Walking can help you to disconnect and refresh, promoting creativity. The University College in Cork, Ireland created the [Feminist Walk of Cork](#), creating a specific walk to focus at the contributions of women to art, culture, society, and the city. What types of walks can you set up to help your students learn your content?

Preparing for Fall semester: While most of us have refined our syllabi over the years, it is always good practice to review them each semester and revise them. There are many new ideas regarding syllabi, whether you want to introduce a [Liquid Syllabus](#), or another version, there are lots of resources to think to help you revise your syllabi. In the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, Kevin Gannon shares [syllabus advice](#) whether you are teaching a new course, or looking to revise one that you are already teaching. The Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of Massachusetts suggests that while working on syllabi we want to be equity focused, following the [6 Principles of Inclusive Syllabi](#) Design. Consider UDL ([Universal Design for Learning](#)) when working on your syllabus. UDL helps all learners and provides a means to provide additional access and engagement in your courses.

Perhaps the best way to prepare for the Fall semester is to take care of yourself; rest and restore. In [Strategies to Achieve a Work-Life Balance](#), the authors give research based strategies on taking care of yourself to avoid burnout. Consider incorporating [Mindfulness in the Classroom](#) when you return in the Fall. Have a wonderful, restful, restorative, and productive summer – we look forward to hearing about your adventures when you return!