

# CELT Newsletter: September 2024

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Dear CELT Colleagues:

Welcome back! We hope you had a productive, restful, and restorative summer. The CELT theme for the 2024 - 2025 academic year is **Collaboration and Connection: Building Community**. How can we collaborate in our classes, with our students and colleagues, and across the disciplines? How can we help our students to connect and build community to support their learning? Join our faculty led program of workshops this week and throughout the semester for the sharing of best practices to help all of our students learn.

Begin your year with the **CELT Professional Day** on **Tuesday, August 27**. We start at 11 AM in the Brunswick Room in Crabiel Hall (after the AFT meeting) with our keynote, **Experimentalism: Innovating and Sustaining Inclusive Excellence**, with Drs. Benny Chan and Lynn Gazley from TCNJ, followed by lunch. As a sociologist and a chemist, our speakers will appeal to all disciplines. We continue with workshops on all three days and throughout the fall semester. All of our workshops are posted to the [CELT homepage](#). Click on the flyer for August or Fall events and you can find the link to register or click on the link below.

Join CELT in celebrating **10 years of the CELT Mentoring program** on September 5 at 2 PM in JLC 230. In 2014, a visionary group of CELT leaders started the program for the 14 new faculty hired that fall, and every faculty member hired since that year has successfully participated. Join us for celebration, conversation, and of course, cake!

Have a wonderful start to your semester! Susan

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## Register for all of our CELT Workshops on the CELT Webpage

We have a new registration system! We are leaving Eventbrite and moving to Microsoft Forms. In order to keep track of attendance, please sign up in advance and we will send you a reminder to your Middlesex College email the night before our events. Forget to register for a workshop? You are welcome to show up and join us! You can register for [August events](#) or [Fall events](#) by clicking this link. If you have any last-minute problems or questions, email:

[saltman@middlesexcc.edu](mailto: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 Susan Altman [saltman@middlesexcc.edu](mailto:saltman@middlesexcc.edu) with your department and the course you are teaching and we will match you to a mentor.



## Upcoming Events

**August 27 at 11 AM: CELT Professional Day** begins with **Experimentalism: Innovating and Sustaining Inclusive Excellence**, followed by workshops on **August 27, 28, & 29**.

**September 5 at 2 PM** CELT Welcome Back Celebration of 10 years of Mentoring Program in JLC 230

**September 12: Do Students Dream of Electric Sheep? Using AI Ethically**

**September 24: Pedagogy Potluck**

**September 11, 18 and 25: Weekly Master Class** (for Adjunct Faculty on Zoom)

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## Interesting Articles

In *Inside Higher Ed*, [Student Wellness Tip: Offer Free Menstrual Products](#) supports what Shannon Pullaro started at Middlesex College, providing personal hygiene products to support our students.

**Adjunct Faculty:** Whether you are a new faculty member, or one with many years of experience, we have a program for you! We are holding a **Weekly Master Class in Teaching**. Join a CELT Mentor for **Drop-in mentorship hours** specifically for adjunct faculty on **Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 PM on Zoom** on select dates. This is an opportunity just for YOU. Bring your questions and classroom challenges for a chance to brainstorm and get creative with your teaching. You can join one session or all of them, and share ideas about teaching. We have sent all adjuncts the dates and zoom link or go to our CELT home page for more information. You don't need to register in advance, just drop by!

### Meet your CELT Executive Board for 2024 - 2025

Congratulations to Crystal Quillen who is leaving her role as Co-Director of CELT and moving into her new position as Acting Associate Chairperson of the History and Social Sciences Department. We will miss her at CELT, and thank her for her years of commitment to learning and teaching. HSS is lucky to have her! Our 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, Cindy Braun, Pattiann McMahon, Katalin Gyurian-Toth and Stefanie Rufo

**Part-time Faculty Board Members:** Melissa Ellis

**CELT Mentoring Team:** Chris Drew, Shannon Pullaro, and Sheri-Rose Rubin

### Pedagogy to Start off the Semester

**AI in Higher Education:** As we head into the new academic year, AI is still a big part of the conversation in Higher Ed. In [Generative AI and the Problem of \(Dis\)Trust](#), the author discusses how trust may be the biggest casualty. While we are still concerned with how AI will aid [cheating](#), many faculty feel that it is [Our Responsibility to Teach AI to Students](#) and teach students how to use it in their discipline. In the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, Joseph E. Aoun, President of Northeastern University talks about [How Higher Ed Can Adapt to the Challenges of AI](#) and how to make sense of this turning point in human history.

**Need ideas for the first day of class and how to start off the semester?** As we start off the year, many faculty members are thinking about the mental health of their students. Students in the arts, have often survived on very little sleep, especially during their first-year foundation program. [Student Wellness Tip: Encouraging Arts Students to Sleep](#) offers ideas to help all of our students stay well and healthy, including taking time to unplug and find some activities outside of class. [Framing Sleep as Essential to Student Success](#) also helps support students with their time management skills and overall well-being as they begin their college careers. [101 Wellness Tips for College Students](#) (adapted from Rutgers University) offers worthwhile advice to share with your students (and ourselves).

Need some new ideas for **ice breakers and other strategies** to help build community? Do you use Poll Everywhere? In their blog, they offer [17 Engaging Icebreakers for College Students to Spark Conversations](#). One of my favorites is "Which Star Wars character describes you?" 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 [Teaching Tip: A More Strategic Syllabus Day](#), the author gives 5 ideas to promote student engagement and academic success. If you are new to teaching, [Tips for Faculty Teaching for the First Time](#), and [Prepping for a Course I've Never Taught Before](#) offer some ideas to get you started. One of the challenges that we often have is getting students to read the textbook. In [How to Get Your Students to Read](#), Kelly L. O'Grady describes "4 ways to hit the reset button and inspire students to read the course text." In [Is this the End of Reading?](#), the authors expand on the challenges that we face in the classroom with getting our students to engage with course material. The Teaching Commons at Stanford University has some ideas for [Increasing Student Engagement](#). We can always return to Angelo and [Cross' 50 CATS: Techniques for Assessing Course Related Knowledge and Skills](#), to create a learner centered and active learning classroom for our students.