

CELT Newsletter: November 2024

Dear CELT Colleagues:

Welcome to November! It is hard to believe that we are already in the second half of the semester. The CELT Board is busy planning our spring workshops and finishing up our Fall 2024 events. As always, we look to you, the faculty, for ideas. What are you interested in learning? What workshops do you need to support your teaching practice? In addition to our workshops, we encourage you to share a topic with your colleagues. Do you have a great teaching idea to share with your faculty colleagues? Let us know how we can support your teaching or what you can teach your Middlesex colleagues. We are here to support you!

Watch your email in the coming weeks for opportunities to nominate a colleague for the Middlesex College Excellence in Teaching and Scholarship awards, and for opportunities for teaching conferences outside the college.

We look forward to seeing you at our November events. Have a good November and a fun Thanksgiving break!

Regards, Susan

Please join us for the following November events: Register by [clicking this link](#).

Thursday, November 14 at 2 PM: Tech Thursday in CB 219 Looking to add some new technology in your classes? Join your faculty colleagues for a monthly discussion and opportunity to share new strategies for incorporating technology into your in-person or online classes. We will be discussed ways to increase engagement by using technology as well as discussing best practices for using AI (Artificial Intelligence) and other tech effectively in your courses. Join us this November to learn something new to add to your teaching toolkit!

Tuesday, November 26 at 2 PM: Pedagogy Potluck: Reflective Teaching (CB Raritan Bay) Let's dish! Join us for this month's pedagogy potluck on Reflective Teaching. Discuss your repertoire of strategies for how to bring reflective pedagogy to your classes. Discover new strategies to help you finish off the semester, reflect on what worked and what didn't work, and think of ways to make meaningful change to learning and teaching for your students. Bring an open mind to the potluck and leave with a dish full of new ideas!

Wednesday, November 6, 13, and 20 at 4:30 PM on ZOOM: Weekly Master Class on Teaching for Adjunct Faculty This zoom workshop is specifically for Adjunct faculty and an opportunity to meet colleagues, brainstorm new teaching strategies and get creative with your teaching. This is a drop-in session just for adjuncts and we hope you will come and join us!



Upcoming Events

November 14: Tech Thursday

November 26: Pedagogy Potluck: Reflective Teaching

November 6, 13, and 20: Weekly Master Class on Zoom for Adjunct Faculty

December 13: Deadline for nominations for the Middlesex College Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Scholarship Awards

Helpful Articles

We are all seeing more and more stress affecting our students. Read about the research from *The Community College Center for Student Engagement* in [Focusing on Mental Health Challenges Facing Community College Students](#).

We need to take care of our mental health as well. [Effective Strategies for Combating Faculty Burnout](#) gives suggestions for what we can do as a campus.

[Understanding and Fostering Mental Health and Well-Being Among University Faculty: A Narrative Review](#) talks about research on faculty mental health.

Adjunct Faculty: We want to hear from you! CELT is interested in hearing what types of programming you are interested in attending at CELT. Please watch your email in November for a survey to let us know what you want to learn from CELT.

Opportunities for Professional Development:

We are working on arranging for a limited number of faculty to attend the *23rd Annual Faculty Conference on Teaching Excellence*, at Temple University. Watch your email later in the month for more information and how to register. There will be a limited number (first come, first serve) of spaces for faculty to attend. We hope to be able to pay for the conference registration, but participants must provide their own transportation to Temple University.

Deadline: December 13: 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 13 at 12 noon. The Middlesex College Faculty Scholar award will be awarded to a full-time faculty member. All nominated faculty members will be required to submit their support materials by Friday, February 7, 2025 at 12 noon.

New Ideas/New Pedagogy

Student Engagement:

At our CELT Mentoring sessions, we have been sharing ideas on successful engagement strategies that we have been using with our students. What strategies can we use to keep students engaged after midterms? In the article, [Recovering Student Engagement at Mid-Course Time](#), Professor Anna Conway from Des Moines Area Community College periodically adds low stakes active learning strategies instead of direct lecturing. She also does a mid-semester survey to help her reflect on her teaching, change strategies, and motivate students. The University of Pittsburgh offers several ideas for [Engagement Best Practices](#) that can be used throughout the semester, including ones specific to lab courses. The Poll Everywhere Blog has a list of [19 Engagement Activities to Make Learning Fun for Students](#). Speaking of Poll Everywhere, be sure to watch for our *Tech Tips and Tricks* sessions in the Spring to learn how to effectively use polling to engage students in your classes and share your own engagement strategies. Another way to engage students is to update your presentations. In [Your PowerPoints Probably Suck](#), (that is the real title) from *Inside Higher Ed*, Zachary Nowak gives 10 suggestions on how to improve your presentations. CELT will be sharing new PowerPoint strategies in the spring semester to make your classes and your presentations more engaging to your students. Another way to engage your students is to encourage them in their success. [Full Disclosure of the Terms of Success: Nine Things to Tell Your Students](#) gives suggestions for things to tell your students to encourage their success.

AI in Higher Ed:

Are you using AI for assignments? How are you using it with your classes? Please join our tech sessions in the spring to share how you are using AI. *Educause* posted an AI Landscape Survey, [The Future of AI in Higher Education](#) with appropriate and inappropriate uses of AI in the classroom. We know there is a lot to think about on how and why you want to use it. Whatever decision that you make, be sure to clearly state your policies in your syllabus so students know what you expect. *The Scholarly Teacher* suggests a framework for developing your approach in [Developing Your Approach to Generative AI](#).

Online Teaching:

Teaching an online class? In [Connecting with Online Students](#) from *Faculty Focus*, the authors emphasize the importance of connecting with your students and offer strategies to increase engagement. In the article, [Fostering Connectedness in the Asynchronous Online Environment](#), the authors discuss methods of course design to help enhance connections including strategies for the message board as a way to help students connect with the material and each other.