

# CELT Newsletter: December 2024

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Dear CELT Colleagues:

Happy December! As we finish up this semester, I want to thank everyone participating in our CELT sessions over the Fall semester. From our Pedagogy Potlucks, technology for engaging students, and to our celebration of 10 years of the CELT Mentoring Program, we hope you learned new strategies to use in your Middlesex classrooms. Let us know what worked for you!

The CELT Board has planned an engaging program for the Spring 2025 semester as we continue to bring innovative ideas to teaching at Middlesex College. **Save the dates** for our **Spring 2025 CELT Events** on Wednesday, January 15 and Thursday, January 16, 2025. Watch **your email during break** for more information about these and our other programs for **Spring 2025**.

What are you interested in learning? What do you need to support your teaching practice? Please let us know how CELT can help you with learning and teaching. 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.

We will post the Spring schedule and a link to registration (we are using Microsoft forms) on the CELT Webpage sometime after the new year.

Have a restful and restorative winter break, a good holiday season, and a safe and peaceful 2025 for us all!

Cheers, Susan

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## Register for our January and Spring 2025 CELT Workshops

To help us keep track of attendance and facilitate sending reminders to registered faculty, please sign up in advance on Microsoft forms 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 flyers and Newsletters, email, and on our webpage at the start of the new year.**

**January 15 and January 16:** CELT Workshops (before the semester begins)

**January 23:** *CELT Open House in the ACE Space in JLC 230*

**February 13, March 6 and April 10 at 2 PM:** *CELT Tech Sessions*

**February 25, March 25 and April 22 at 2 PM:** *CELT SOTL Sessions*

## Workshops for Adjunct Faculty: Watch for a Survey

The CELT Mentoring Team wants to know what adjunct faculty want and need to support their teaching at Middlesex College. We know you are busy people and have limited time for workshops. Watch your Outlook email during break for a survey to help us plan programming that works for you and your needs!



## Upcoming Events

**December 13:** Deadline for [nominations](#) for Faculty Teaching Awards

**January 15:** CELT Workshops

**January 16:** CELT Workshops

**January 23:** CELT Open House in JLC 230, Join us for snacks, conversation, and camaraderie

**February 7:** Deadline for submission of support materials for faculty awards

## Helpful Articles

Thinking of new ways to add video content to your online courses? [Teaching Tip: Creating Effective Video Lectures](#) will give you some new ways to design engaging and accessible content.

Do your students struggle with learning new material? Read [Applying Principles from Neuroscience to Foster Learning – Four Strategies](#) and discover evidence-based strategies to support your students.

## Communities of Practice

CELT is starting up **Communities of Practice**. A Community of Practice is an informal group of colleagues with similar interests who come together to share ideas and learn from each other. On Wednesday, January 17 at 11 AM we will get together and talk to each other about what matters to us. Whether you are in STEM programs, or the humanities, we will split up into discipline specific groups to discuss concerns and interests that are specific to your teaching. Watch the CELT Spring flyer for more information.

## New Ideas/New Pedagogy

**AI: A Continuing Conversation:** Michael Millner, an English Professor, share ideas on how to use AI and academic inquiry as a conversation in his article [Why I invited AI to Dinner](#) for *Inside Higher Ed*. In the *Chronicle for Higher Education*, the article [How Higher Ed Can Adapt to the Challenges of AI](#), the author discusses how we can anticipate changes and brace for their impact on education.

**Reflective Teaching:** Thank you to everyone who joined us for our **Pedagogy Potluck** on reflective teaching. As we thought about things we wanted to reflect on, a common theme was finding the time to actually reflect during the semester. Most of us agreed that winter break is a good time to think about the past semester and what we want to change moving forward into spring. The *Yale Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning* suggests [4 crucial sources](#) to reflect upon – student feedback, colleague’s perceptions, personal experience, and theory/research. In [Promoting Critical Thinking Among Faculty About Grades](#), the authors recommend using case studies to think more about your own attitude about grading. They also recommend LOGO, a questionnaire to help you think about your attitude towards grading. While the article is not recent, it offers ideas to think about and the potential for reinvention in how we grade our students. In the 2024 article in *Faculty Focus*, [Teaching Excellence Through Mindful Reflection](#), the authors recommend getting into a regular habit of reflecting on your work, creating a structured process for reflection, and making the most of professional development (such as CELT). They also recommend using the [FATE Tool](#), a Framework for Assessing Teaching Effectiveness. At a recent conference on learning and teaching, a colleague recommended that faculty should keep a list or notebook with every new pedagogical strategy that you tried over the year, and note whether it was effective or not in your classroom. Keeping notes on your teaching is another way to reflect on your practice and think about ways to improve learning and teaching for your students. What new ideas did you bring to your classes this year?

**Mindfulness for Faculty:** Another conversation that came out of our Pedagogy Potluck was the need for our own rest and restoration after a busy and demanding semester. As we have done in past semesters, bring a mat and join us on January 18 at 10 AM for **Workplace Yoga for a Balanced Body and Mind** taught by our colleague Arianna Illa and an excellent way to start the semester. *The Harvard School of Education* recommends [Making Time for Mindfulness](#) for both students and faculty and suggests that creating a culture of mindfulness can reduce student stress (and yours) and lengthen attention spans. Dartmouth College recommends using the [STOP Method](#) which is a micro-mindfulness practice that can take as little as 30 seconds but helps reduce burnout, anxiety and stress. Hawai’i Community College has a resource of [Mindfulness in the Classroom](#) that has numerous exercises listed from 1-3 minutes to longer exercises of 10 minutes. Patricia Jennings, PhD has [Seven Ways Mindfulness Can Help Teachers](#) based on her research in the field. CELT hopes you have both a reflective and restorative break!

**Reading Pedagogy:** Another topic that came up in our **Pedagogy Potluck** (we talked about a lot of topics!) was what we are reading and not reading during the semester. Despite our lack of time, we all were interested in getting back into the habit of reading. Stanford University has an excellent [list of recent books](#) on critical pedagogy, including numerous e-books. Reach out to your local library or our campus librarians for some of the suggested titles. Edutopia has a list of [14 Essential Reads for New Teachers](#). While some of their suggestions apply to K-12 teaching, other suggestions are appropriate for all of us, whether we are new to higher ed, or experienced educators. *Grading for Equity: What it Is, Why it Matters and How it Can Transform Schools and Classrooms* by Joe Feldman was recently revised and looks at the effect COVID-19 had on our perceptions about traditional grading. [The Norton Guide to Equity Minded Teaching](#) is available as a free digital copy. One of the authors is Mays Imad who was one of CELT’s Keynote Speakers during the pandemic.