



## ***Creating a Welcoming Classroom: Fostering Belonging***

### **CELT Professional Days: January 14 and 15, 2026**

Welcome to Spring Semester! We are continuing our CELT theme of ***Creating a Welcoming Classroom: Fostering Belonging***. All CELT events are open to all full-time and adjunct faculty at Middlesex College and are in person. We look forward to being together to share ideas and learn from one another.

*Please register for CELT January Events by clicking the following link:*

- CELT [January Professional Days](#) (January 14 and 15, 2026)

### **Wednesday, January 14, 2026**

**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM What do students really think about AI? A Listening Session** Cindy Braun and Susan Altman *CB Brunswick Room*

Join us for a **student panel** and hear what students really think about AI use in the college classroom. What do students expect from faculty regarding Artificial Intelligence? Do students want to learn more about using AI ethically and responsibly? Do they expect that they should be allowed to use AI in all their classes? What policies do they agree with or disagree with? Are we doing students a disservice by not allowing AI? What about cheating? While we can't predict what students will say, we are ready to listen!

**12:00 PM – 1:00 PM Enjoy your lunch on your own before joining us for afternoon workshops**

**1:00 PM – 2:00 PM Empowering Faculty with Library Tools: From Pop-Ups to Canvas Integration** Dylan Vetter and Sara Imranyi, Library; and Megan Elliott, eLearning *CB Raritan Bay*

Discover how the Library and eLearning can be your teaching partners! In this session, we'll first highlight faculty-focused library services like instructional collaborations, pop-up libraries, and curated research guides. Then, we'll introduce the *Dive Into Research* Canvas Modules, a new student-centered resource co-developed with eLearning. You'll get a live demo and practical tips for integrating it into your courses to boost student research confidence and success.

**2:15 PM - 3:15 PM Community College Partnership Opportunities with Princeton University**  
Cara McClintock, Princeton University, *CB Amboy Room*

Interested in expanding educational opportunities for your students? Cara McClintock, Associate Director of Princeton's Program for Community College Engagement, will discuss ways faculty can arrange high-impact learning experiences for themselves or for their students using Princeton's academic and cultural resources. She will also discuss collaborative opportunities available to

community college faculty including the Community College Faculty Program, which invites community college faculty to audit up to two courses per semester and the Community College Teaching Fellowship, in which community college faculty mentor Princeton graduate students.

**Choose one of the following workshops for the 3:30 p.m. Session:**

**3:30 PM – 4:30 PM Lights, Camera, Canvas Studio: Making the Most of the Video Tool** *Megan Elliott* CB 221

Want a better way to use videos in your Canvas course? Join eLearning to learn tips and tricks for recording and embedding content and assessing student comprehension using Studio. This powerful tool automatically generates captions to support accessibility and allows you to hide quiz questions at any point in the video (including YouTube videos!). Another added bonus, using Studio to embed YouTube videos is the *only* way to eliminate those distracting ads. Bring your laptops to learn these tricks and more!

**OR**

**3:30 PM – 4:30 PM Teaching for the Multilingual Majority: Practical Classroom Strategies for Inclusive Instruction** *Natasha Welcome* CB Raritan Bay Room

Why do students who appear fluent in English still struggle with textbook reading, writing, or class participation? With nearly half of our students being current or former multilingual learners, this session offers practical answers. Participants will explore a clear overview of the domains of language acquisition and how long it truly takes to learn a new language. Through one short interactive session, faculty across the disciplines will experience the impact of language load and then learn some quick, high-yielding strategies. Participants will leave with ready-to-use tools they can apply immediately in their multilingual classroom.

**Thursday, January 15, 2026**

**9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Workplace Yoga for a Balanced Body and Mind** *Arianna Illa* Brunswick Room

Explore the benefits of yoga to help decrease stress and start your semester off strong! Yoga is a great way to help energize your body and relax your mind. This will be an introductory level class that will include breathwork, meditation, and a full series of yoga postures. Please wear comfortable clothes and bring your own mat if possible.

**10:45 AM - 11:45 AM Do Grades Measure What Students Know?** *Jennifer Applebee and Giuseppe Rotolo* CB Amboy Room

Grades should communicate what students have learned, but do they? This interactive session will explore alternative grading practices with a focus on how accurately our grades reflect student learning and the role that grade inflation plays. We will examine common grading challenges, consider alternative models such as standards-based grading, and discuss how such alternative approaches support transparency and rigor. This will lead us to exploring grade inflation more directly. Do these alternative grading practices contribute to the problem of masking student learning by artificially elevating grades, or can they help address this issue? Of course, we will also have to briefly touch on the impact of AI! This will be a conversational session in which participants will be invited to share their own experiences with various grading practices and grade inflation.

**12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Enjoy lunch on your own before joining us for afternoon workshops**

**1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Reflecting on Beauty in Our Studies, Our Careers, & Our Lives: An Invitation to explore Aesthetics Across the Disciplines** *Nicole Gonazalez and Giuseppe Rotolo* CB Raritan Bay Room

At the beginning of the Fall of 2025, Middlesex College launched into *The Year of Aesthetics*, a campus-wide initiative to encourage everyone – students, staff, and faculty, alike – to reflect on the physical world around us and to consider how our experiences of it – through a sense of beauty and awe to a sense of disgust and fear (and everything in between) – shape our society and ourselves. This presentation will define what aesthetics is, ignite inspiration, and offer ideas for aesthetics-focused activities. Participants will leave with strategies to create opportunities and develop projects for classes across the disciplines.

**2:15 PM - 3:15 PM Quick Pivots: Fixing your Class when Everything Goes Wrong** Susan Altman CB Amboy Room

How do you lean into learning when things go wrong in your class? No matter how well you plan, and how pretty your slides are, the best plans don't always work the way you thought they would. Join this interactive discussion and learn ways to quickly pivot from your mistakes and help students learn even when things don't go as planned. Participants will leave with a "go bag" of strategies to utilize when things go sideways!

**3:30 PM - 4:30 PM Solving the PDF Dilemma: Tagging for Accessibility** Michael Sullivan CB 221

Are your PDFs accessible? In this session, we'll explore practical strategies for creating and remediating PDFs so they meet accessibility standards and display strong scores in Anthology Ally. You'll learn how to spot issues, clean up existing documents, and use Ally's feedback to make course materials more inclusive for every learner.

For more information on our **Spring Workshops**, take a look at our **CELT** webpage: [www.middlesexcollege.edu/Celt](http://www.middlesexcollege.edu/Celt)

Join CELT for our **Open House** on **Thursday, January 22** at **2 PM** in the **ACE Center** in **JLC 230**.