



Creating a Welcoming Classroom: Fostering Belonging

CELT Workshops for Spring 2026

Welcome to **Spring Semester 2026!** We are continuing our theme, ***Creating a Welcoming Classroom: Fostering Belonging***. Join our program of workshops throughout the Spring 2026 semester for the sharing of best practices to help all of our students learn.

Please **register** for all CELT events by clicking the following link:

- [**CELT Spring 2026 Workshops**](#)

All CELT events are open to all full-time and adjunct faculty at Middlesex College and are in person. For more information, please look at the [CELT webpage](#). We look forward to being together to share ideas and learn from one another!

January Events:

Thursday, January 22 at 2 PM: CELT Welcome Back Celebration in ACE Center (JLC 230) Join your CELT Colleagues in the **ACE Center** for conversation, community, and refreshments to start off the Spring 2026 semester.

February Events:

Thursday, February 12 at 2 PM: Tech Thursday: Community of Practice: Focus on H5P Stefanie Rufo and Diane Ratner (CB, Raritan Bay Room)

Are you looking for ways to make homework assignments more interactive? Join us as we review the H5P function in Canvas. This feature will allow us to create fun, reusable, and shareable exercises for your students. We will go over examples including drag & drop, fill in the blank, multiple choice, image hotspots, and more! Feel free to bring a computer to follow along (but is not necessary).

Tuesday, February 24 at 2 PM: CELT Tuesday: To be or Not to Be Funny in the Classroom? The Benefits and Drawbacks of Creating a Humorous Learning Environment Nicole Gonzalez (CB Raritan Bay Room)

Do you use humor in your classroom? Do you tell "Professor" jokes? The tone of jokes is meant to be playful and inviting and jokes are intended to remove any intimidation a student may feel whether in the classroom or during office hours. But how much of that joking atmosphere should carry over into the classroom? Psychological research is replete with investigations into this very topic, asking the question, "Does an instructor's addition of humor affect the learning environment of their classroom?" This workshop will define humor, examine the research of "dos and don'ts" and look at specifics of application of humor in your classroom.

March Events:

Thursday, March 5 at 2 PM: Tech Thursday: Community of Practice: Think Outside the Boxlight Dan Grek (CB 200)

Do you come into your classroom and find a Boxlight? Do you know how to use it? Join us as we explore the many innovative ways to use a Boxlight to support teaching and learning for your students. Leave this workshop with new strategies to help you be a “Boxlight Pro” and think outside the box!

Tuesday, March 24 at 2 PM: CELT Tuesday: “Did You Read My Comments?” Helping Students Benefit from Feedback Susan Altman (CB Raritan Bay Room)

How much time do faculty spend on feedback that students may or may not read? How can we help students to use our feedback to improve learning? Are you frustrated that students continue to make the same mistakes over and over? This workshop will examine the research on how to provide students with effective feedback, but more importantly discuss strategies for feedback that students will actually read and use to improve and grow as learners in your classes.

April Events:

Thursday, April 9 at 2 PM: Tech Thursday: Community of Practice for AI Susan Altman (CB Raritan Bay Room)

This month we will continue to discuss ways to bring AI to your classes. A community of practice is an informal group of colleagues with similar interests who come together to share ideas and learn from each other. Are you using AI in your classes? Are your students? Come and share what worked and what didn't work over the course of the semester. Talk about what interests you, or what you have questions about and leave with new strategies for your classes.

Tuesday, April 28 at 2 PM: CELT Tuesday: Sustainable Teaching: A Reflective Stroll Through Our Practices Shannon Pullaro (CB Meet in Raritan Bay Room and then walk across campus)

During this end-of-semester campus walkabout, join us while admiring the Spring blooms and reflect on the practices that nourish, energize and sustain our teaching. We'll also share practices that we might replace because they do not invigorate our classrooms. Did a new project or assignment entice student learning or are you looking for new ways to help students achieve learning outcomes? We'll end the walk at the ACE Space and continue the conversation over snacks.