

CELT Newsletter: April 2020

Dear CELT Colleagues:

CELT hopes you and your families are all safe, well and healthy.

CELT is here for you! We know the quick transition to remote teaching has been difficult and a lot of work. We are impressed by your willingness to embrace and learn new technologies, and your dedication to our MCC students. We have added new resources to our website and links to content created by the eLearning team. Please take a look at our updated [CELT webpage](#) for these and other resources to support your teaching at MCC.

Thank you for all of your hard work to teach remotely and your support for our students. Please let us know how CELT can continue to support you during this difficult and uncertain time. The CELT Board is busy planning our fall events and are looking forward to the time that we can all return to teaching on campus and be together once again.

Stay well, safe and healthy!

Susan

MCC Faculty Awards

Congratulations to our faculty colleagues and the recipients of the 2020 MCC Faculty Awards. We can't wait to celebrate with you when we return to campus!

MCC 2020 Faculty Scholar Award: Claire Condie, Natural Sciences

MCC 2020 Full-Time Faculty Teaching Award: Richard Thompson, Gaming and Animation

MCC 2020 Adjunct Faculty Teaching Award: Mat Siegel, English

CELT Tech Mentoring

In addition to eLearning Resources that can be found on Canvas, you can reach out to Susan Altman if you have questions or need support with any aspects of your courses. Our two CELT Tech Mentors, Richard Thompson, and James Martiney are also available by email for tech questions.



Upcoming Events

By April 15

Vote in CELT Election

Share What's Working for You

Ongoing

CELT Tech Mentoring

CELT Election

Please take a few minutes to vote electronically for our CELT Board members and Director.

Full-time Faculty vote [here](#) for full-time faculty representatives and CELT Director.

Adjunct Faculty vote [here](#) for adjunct representatives and CELT Director.

Please complete your vote by Wednesday, April 15 at 12 noon.

Help Your Students Succeed

Communication from Faculty - Communication is key! Reach out to your students on a regular basis through Canvas, Announcements, and email. Students need a clear explanation and understanding of how the class is going to operate and your expectations for them. Please do not change course times for synchronous sessions as students may have other obligations and responsibilities. Most importantly, check in with the students who have been absent from your classes, they may need some support! You can check analytics in Canvas to see when they last engaged with the course material.

Assignments - Be clear with your instructions and expectations. Students who have never taken an online course may be confused by the new format of the assignments and grading protocols. They may not know where to find assignments or confused by the set-up in Canvas.

Feedback - For many students, the transition of moving classes remotely left a void for feedback on questions from the course readings and assignments. Students need clarity about how they are performing and/or understanding course content. Many of them miss the opportunity to come to your office and chat.

Expectations - Provide clear information about expectations and your willingness to be flexible with assignments and/or course expectations. Students with technology issues are especially concerned about how this will affect their grades and their ability to complete course assignments. Need help with assessment? There are a lot of resources online but here is an article from [Wiley](#) to get you started.

What Do We Hear From Our Students?

While the transition to remote learning has been hard for us, it has been very difficult for our students. Here are some issues our students are facing:

- Campus may be the only place where they can concentrate on their work and have a dedicated space to study.
- They may not have access to technology at home, or they may share a computer and data plan with everyone in their family.

Some positive feedback from students include:

- For some students, weekly Zoom meetings are the highlight of their week, providing structure and allowing them to connect with classmates.
- Sharing their pets with class, which could even be part of the lesson. A Spanish professor let everyone bring their pet to class and asked that they introduce them to the class in Spanish.



What's Working for You?

Do you have an idea that is working for your remote course? CELT is looking for your "Best Practices for Emergency Remote Teaching." We have posted some of your ideas on our website and are looking for more ideas to share with faculty. Please send them to Susan by Wednesday, April 15 at 12 noon.

The MCC Food Pantry and MCC Emergency Fund

MCC is mobilizing to help students with their basic needs. If you can help, please donate [here](#). Thank you for your generosity and support.

Helpful Articles

[How to Help Struggling Students Succeed Online](#)

[What I Am Learning about my Students During an Impossible Semester](#)