

CELT Newsletter: November 2020

Dear CELT Colleagues:

The CELT Board is busy planning for the Spring 2021 semester!

Save the date for our spring 2021 guest speaker on Thursday, January 21, 2021. Dr. Jean Mandernach, Executive Director of the *Center for Innovation in Research and Teaching* at Grand Canyon University will be speaking about engaging students in online and remote live classes. We will be running workshops that week and throughout the semester, so please check the CELT website for more information as it becomes available.

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.

Please let us know how CELT can help you with learning and teaching!

Be well and healthy, Susan

Register for our November CELT Workshops on [Eventbrite](#)

To help us keep track of attendance and facilitate sending links to registered faculty, please sign up in advance on [Eventbrite](#) to join us! We will send a zoom link to all registrants. If you have any last-minute problems or questions, email: saltman@middlesexcc.edu

Please join us for the following November events:

Thursday, November 12 at 2 p.m. **High Tech, Low Tech, No Tech**

Join your faculty colleagues as they present what technology they are using in their virtual classrooms to engage students. Learn how to use *Google Jamboard*, how to make your phone work for you, build and use a lightboard, and other innovative ideas! This workshop will teach you a range of techniques; some that don't require a lot of technical knowledge or skill and some that are more advanced. Participants are also invited to share their own tips and tricks and everyone will leave with new ideas.

Tuesday, November 24 at 2 p.m. **Reflecting on the Semester: Ideas Going Forward** *April Johnson*

As we near the end of the semester, what has worked for you in your virtual classroom? What didn't work? Join us as we reflect on our challenges and successes and consider what approaches we will bring forward to the spring 2021 semester and beyond. This roundtable discussion is an opportunity to look critically at our current pedagogy, and consider what changes we will make as we become more experienced at virtual teaching.

[Center for the Enrichment of Learning and Teaching](#)



Upcoming Events

November 12: High Tech, Low Tech, No Tech

November 24: Reflecting on the Semester: Ideas Going Forward

December 4: Deadline for nominations for the MCC Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Scholarship Awards

Helpful Articles

As November rolls around, students may have additional stress related to the election and its' aftermath. Harvard University has an excellent resource for [Teaching in Times of Stress and Trauma](#).

Another good resource comes from the *Center for Research on Learning and Teaching* from the University of Michigan. Take a look at the article [Preparing to Teach about the 2020 Election \(And After\)](#)

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New Ideas/New Pedagogy

In his blog for *Inside Higher Ed*, Steven Mintz talks about how [Remote Learning isn't Going Away](#). This useful article addresses what he calls the "Four Horseman of the Online Apocalypse" and how to meet these challenges.

- **Isolation:** How to transform an online class into a community.
- **Engagement:** How to keep students motivated and on track.
- **Rigor:** How to ensure student learning outcomes and academic honesty.
- **Quality:** How to make sure that online courses meet minimal standards for accessibility and usability, learner support, interactivity, and robust assessment.

Mid semester Feedback:

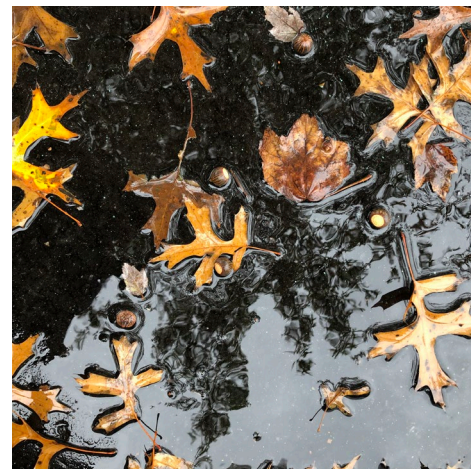
As we move past the midway point in the semester, it is helpful to ask students for feedback to help you think about changes that you can make for the rest of the semester. This is especially helpful in our current online/remote live courses since much of what we are doing is new to our teaching and to our students. Some thoughts on mid-semester feedback from the University of North Carolina.

- If you are asking for feedback, think about what aspects of the course are reasonable to change and what can't be changed.
- Stay balanced. Always include a question on what is working for students and what they would like you to continue.
- Don't dwell on all the negative aspects of feedback. Ask students about their own performance in the course and how they could help themselves as learners.
- Provide quick follow-up so students know that their feedback matters. Not all feedback can create quick changes, but showing your students that you are being reflective about their suggestions helps them to know that their voices are being heard.

Want to read more about mid-semester feedback? Read this article from [Inside Higher Ed](#). The [University of Texas](#) and [Vanderbilt University](#) also have some good ideas for questions. These anonymous surveys can easily be created in Canvas.

Opportunity for Professional Development: 19th Annual Faculty Conference on Teaching Excellence, Temple University

Middlesex will send a limited number of faculty (first come, first serve who sign up on Eventbrite) to the virtual *19th Annual Faculty Conference on Teaching Excellence* at Temple University. All attendees must commit to sharing their experience at the *CELT Temple Teaching Roundtable* during our February CELT session on Tuesday, February 23 at 2 PM. You can choose to attend only one day of the conference, either Wednesday, January 6th or Thursday, January 7, 2021. Once you register, you will receive an email asking you which date you choose, and details for the event.



Nominate a Colleague for an MCC Teaching/Scholar Award

MCC recognizes excellence in teaching and scholarship! Nominate an adjunct or full-time colleague for the MCC Excellence in Teaching Award (full-time or adjunct award) or the Excellence in Scholarship Award (full-time faculty) by December 4 at 12 noon. [Nominations](#) can be submitted on the CELT Website.

Send us your professional accomplishments!

CELT posts the [professional accomplishments](#) of adjunct and full-time faculty on our website. Please send us no more than three of your professional accomplishments for the year 2020.

Email them to:
facultyaccomplishments@middlesexcc.edu