

CELT Newsletter: Jan/Feb 2021

Dear CELT Colleagues:

Happy 2021! In these turbulent and uncertain times, thank you for all that you do in the classroom to support our students. Despite the events of the past few weeks, we hope that you had a restful and restorative break and are ready for an engaging Spring semester.

Join us for CELT workshops on Wednesday, January 20 and for our **Spring 2021 guest speaker** on Thursday, January 21 at 10:30 AM on Zoom. 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. Her talk, *Black Box Busters: Ideas to Enliven the Virtual Classroom* promises to be an engaging event. Please check the CELT website for more information and to register. A Zoom link will be sent out the evening before each workshop so be sure to check your email.

This Spring, we will be running monthly **CELT Tech Talks: What's New for Teaching?** to talk about what new technology can you bring to your synchronous or asynchronous classroom. In February, join us for a hands-on workshop, **Use the Rich Content Editor to Make Your Content Rich!** and learn new ways to enhance Canvas.

Also, in February our **CELT Session** will be a recap of ideas from the Temple Conference for Teaching Excellence, *Harnessing Emotion and Hope: Learning in Turbulent Times and Beyond*. During the keynote by Dr. Kevin Gannon, a statement that resonated with me was "Learning is often uncomfortable." How can we work to eliminate barriers to student success and be more inclusive in our classrooms? Join your colleagues as we share ideas and discuss the strategies we learned.

Please continue to 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 and will be looking for workshops for next Fall and beyond.

The role of educators is constantly changing. As professors, we are growing in many unexpected ways as we become more comfortable with remote teaching, and are continuing to learn new pedagogical approaches. As we move forward, we don't always have all the answers, but through innovation and creativity we can figure it out together. CELT is here to support you on this journey.

Have a successful spring semester!

Be well and healthy, Susan

Register for our January and Spring 2021 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 the night before the event. If you have any last-minute problems or questions, email: saltman@middlesexcc.edu

Center for the Enrichment of Learning and Teaching



Upcoming Events on Zoom

January 20: CELT Workshops

January 21: Dr. Jean Mandernach, guest speaker followed by CELT Workshops

January 28: CELT Open House

February 11: Use the Rich Content Editor to Make Your Content Rich!

February 23: CELT Temple Teaching Roundup: Sharing ideas

Helpful Articles

J. Mark McFadden from Gateway Community College offers [3 More Tips for Teaching in a Virtual Classroom](#).

Inside Higher Ed interviews James M. Lang on his new book, [Distracted, Why Students Can't Focus and What You Can Do About It](#).

[Five Standards of Effective Pedagogy](#) from the website *Teaching Tolerance*, offers ideas that are relevant to teaching in Higher Education.

Confused by terminology? [The Lexicon of Academic Innovation](#) will fill you in on current pedagogical terms.

Page 1 of 2

Save the following dates for CELT Events! Detailed information for these workshops will be listed in the monthly CELT Newsletters and Eventbrite

January Events:

January 20: CELT Workshops

January 21: CELT Guest Speaker, Dr. Jean Mandernach, *Black Box Busters: Ideas to Enliven the Virtual Classroom* at 10:30 AM followed by afternoon workshops

January 28: *CELT Virtual Open House*

Spring Semester 2021 Events:

February 11: *Use the Rich Content Editor to make your Content Rich!*

February 23: *CELT Temple Teaching Roundup: Sharing Ideas*

March 11: *CELT Tech Talk: What's New for Teaching*

March 23: *The Mystery of Grading: What is Everything Worth?*

April 8: *CELT Tech Talk: What's New for Teaching*

April 27: *Trauma-informed Teaching: Preparing us for Fall 2021*

New Ideas/New Pedagogy

Beginning of the semester surveys: In addition to introducing yourself on Canvas (I am making a video to introduce myself), you may want to consider creating a start of the semester survey in Canvas to help you learn more about your students. A survey can help you learn about their access to technology, preferred pronouns, prior knowledge and any other questions you may want to know about your students. [How \(and Why!\) to Write a Pre-Course Survey or Questionnaire](#) may give you some ideas for questions.

Once the semester begins, you can do another survey called, [Start, Stop, Continue](#). This technique allows students to let you know what you can start doing, stop doing, and continue doing to support their learning.

Difficult Discussions in the Classroom: As educators, we want to create spaces for meaningful and productive discussions in our remote classrooms, especially when discussing difficult or controversial topics. While these conversations may not always be relevant to our specific disciplines, here are some resources in case conversations come up in your classroom. *Facing History*, offers [Fostering Civil Discourse: How Do We Talk About issues that Matter](#) as a free PDF download upon registering. Vanderbilt University's *Center for Teaching* suggests thinking about how difficult topics connect with your subject area and using intentional strategies to help students deal with, and learn from difficult dialogues. In their article, [Difficult Dialogues](#), they offer specific tools and strategies for managing difficult conversations in the classroom. *Difficult Dialogues National Resource Center* offers some [Strategies for Current Challenges for Dialogue Facilitation](#).



MCC Scholarly and Creative Works Bibliography

The Library is currently working on the annual **MCC Scholarly and Creative Works Bibliography**. The bibliography celebrates the scholarly and creative output of MCC Faculty and staff. Last year's [bibliography](#) had over 170 citations. This year's edition will be posted to both the library and CELT webpages.

The deadline for [submissions](#) to this year's issue is March 31, 2021.

Send us your professional accomplishments!

CELT posts the [professional accomplishments](#) of adjunct and full-time faculty on our website by February 1, 2021. We look forward to seeing what you have been doing!

Please send no more than three of your professional accomplishments for the year 2020. Please send them to: facultyaccomplishments@middlesexcc.edu