

CELT Newsletter: March 2021

Dear CELT Colleagues:

It is hard to believe that in mid-March we will reach the one-year anniversary of our pivot to remote learning! Thinking back to last January, if you had asked me if I wanted to teach remotely, I would have answered a resounding, "NO!" After a year of remote live teaching, I know that we can do this and help our students learn and succeed! We have mastered Zoom, video demonstrations, Flipgrid, narrated PowerPoints and technology that we didn't even know existed. CELT thanks all of you for your willingness to quickly pivot and develop new pedagogical approaches to teaching. We have learned a great deal in the last year, and we continue to learn, grow and share innovative strategies across the disciplines.

Continue the conversation about teaching at our March workshops listed below. Our virtual events are open to all faculty. 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.

On **March 11**, join us for **CELT Tech Talks: What's New for Teaching?** to talk about what new technology you can bring to your synchronous or asynchronous classroom.

On **March 23**, join our CELT Session, **The Mystery of Grading: What is Everything Worth?** This session will look at the "why" of grades and the "how" of setting up an equitable and inclusive system that supports learning.

Attention Adjunct Faculty: The Council for Adjunct Faculty Development (CAFD) and CELT are holding the *Annual Adjunct Faculty Development Day* on Saturday, March 13 at 8:30 am. We invite adjunct faculty to join us for an engaging morning of workshops and our keynote student panel, **What Works Now: The Student Perspective**. Adjunct Faculty can register on [Eventbrite](#).

The CELT Board is busy planning our Fall events, including our Fall Keynote. Do you have an idea for a workshop? We welcome faculty to present so please let us know your ideas. March also starts the CELT Election cycle. Do you want to contribute to planning CELT events and be a member of our Board? We are looking for 3 board members from the full-time faculty and 2 board members from adjunct faculty. Please see the election schedule and details below regarding our annual online election.

Please continue to reach out if you need any help with your teaching or resources from CELT. Have a restful spring break and see you at our March CELT events.

Be well and healthy, Susan

Register for our 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



Photo credit: Gary Abbott

Upcoming Events on Zoom

March 11: [CELT Tech Talk: What's New for Teaching](#)

March 23: [The Mystery of Grading: What is Everything Worth?](#)

Helpful Articles

William Robertson from the University of Texas talks about his [Personal and Professional Health when Teaching Online: A Six Faceted Approach](#)

Thank you to Crystal Quillen who shared the following article at a recent CELT session, [Teaching: Just Like Performing Magic](#)

[The Power of Positive Thinking](#) shows that faculty who saw the shift to online learning as an opportunity were less likely to experience burn out.

Even if you aren't teaching an art course, there is lots of interesting content to explore on [Google Arts and Culture](#).

The Cult of Pedagogy talks about [Moving from Feedback to Feedforward](#) with ideas to help students focus on their development in the future.

Interested in working with CELT? Consider running for the CELT Executive Board

CELT is looking for faculty who are interested in running for a position on the CELT Executive Board. *What does a board member do?* The CELT Executive Board meets monthly (now over zoom) to plan events, workshops and other programs to meet the needs of our faculty. Depending on their interests, board members may choose to lead or facilitate a workshop or work on other initiatives to support teaching and learning at Middlesex. There are three positions open for full-time faculty (two-year term) and two positions open for adjunct faculty (one-year term).

If you are interested in running for a position as a board member, please submit a nomination with a short statement describing your interest in being a member of the board, and what you can contribute to the mission of CELT. Please send your nomination to: CELT@middlesexcc.edu The deadline for nominations is **Monday, March 22 at 12 noon**. Watch your email for the ballot for the CELT Election which will be held from **March 29 until April 7** and remember to vote.

New Ideas/New Pedagogy

How can we re-energize student learning at midterm? As we head into midterm, students often hit the midterm slump. This is a good time to revisit the **midsemester survey**. *The Scholarly Teacher* recommends using [midsemester feedback](#) to help you identify instructional approaches that best meet student preferences for learning. This is especially important with remote live or online teaching. What is working for your students? What do they need to help them succeed? [Tip: Midterm Feedback](#) reminds us that we want to ask for feedback that we can realistically implement. Focusing on actionable feedback makes the experience better for our students and they feel that their ideas are heard and respected.

The Center for Research in Learning and Teaching at the University of Michigan, recommends [Enhancing Student Learning: Seven Principles for Good Practice](#). Good practice encourages student - instructor contact to help students stay motivated and involved in their courses. Reaching out to struggling students can make a difference.

Student Check-ins: Another way to help motivate students and build community is to create a class check in. As you wait for class to begin, you can post a "How are you feeling?" meme or ask a question in the chat and have everyone press enter/return at the same time. Each week in during the fall semester, students in my courses shared something good that happened that week, even if it was pizza for dinner. Students were happy to share their "good" news and this weekly conversation helped build community and make connections between students.

Ideas into Practice: In his book, *Radical Hope: A Teaching Manifesto*, Dr. Kevin Gannon recommends keeping a time journal to help you to evaluate how much time you spend on each task in your class. As you look at the results of your journal, ask yourself: How much time do you spend on teacher-centered methods (for example, lecturing) and how much time do you spend using student centered methods of instruction such as discussion, peer instruction and group work? What do you observe in your teaching and do these activities align with your broader pedagogical philosophy? Does your record match with your intentions? Once you have reflected on these activities, consider some of the ways you can change your teaching to be more student centered and add more active learning to your classroom.



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.

Do you have an idea for a workshop for CELT?

Do you have an idea for a workshop? What types of professional development would help you in your classroom? Are you interested in learning a specific technology to support your teaching?

We are always looking for faculty to share their expertise with their colleagues. If you are interested in proposing a workshop, leading one, just have an idea, please fill out this [workshop form](#). CELT will contact you regarding your proposal.