

CELT Newsletter: September 2021

Dear CELT Colleagues:

Welcome back! We hope you had a restful and restorative summer!

The CELT theme for the 2021 – 2022 academic year is **Inclusive Pedagogy** as we continue the equity-focused conversations that we started last spring with an emphasis on engaging all learners. Our virtual fall programming is relevant to all instructional modalities, and we invite you to join the conversation!

Begin the year with the CELT Professional Day on **Tuesday, August 31**. We start at 11 AM with *Creating Culturally Responsive Learning Environments within the Classroom* and then at 2 PM, Dr. Mays Imad will be presenting *Enacting Relational Pedagogy and Cultivating a Learning Sanctuary*. In addition to Dr. Imad, we have a lot of engaging zoom workshops planned for the week we return, and the rest of fall semester.

There are some new changes to CELT this year! Our office has moved to JLC 230 where we are part of a suite with the Adjunct Faculty Center and eLearning. For fall, we have all programs on Zoom but we look forward to many exciting collaborations in our new space in the future. We also say farewell and a big thank you to Joan O'Brien, who is now the Coordinator of the New Brunswick Center. While we will miss her contributions to CELT, we wish her lots of luck in her new position!

Whether you are teaching online, hybrid, remote live or fully back on campus, CELT is here to support you. Reach out to us if you need help or just want to chat about teaching.

Have a wonderful start to your semester! Susan

Register for our Virtual CELT Workshops on Eventbrite on the CELT Website

In order to keep track of attendance and facilitate sending out links to registered faculty, please sign up in advance on Eventbrite to join us! <https://www.middlesexcc.edu/celt/> We will send a zoom link to all registrants the night before the workshop. If you have any last-minute problems or questions, email: saltman@middlesexcc.edu

Join us for our CELT Professional Day on August 31 starting at 11:00 a.m.

Join CELT for our CELT Professional Day on August 31. We start out at 11 AM with a workshop, *Creating Culturally Responsive Learning Environments within the Classroom* and then at 2 PM, Dr. Mays Imad will be presenting our keynote, *Enacting Relational Pedagogy and Cultivating a Learning Sanctuary*. We continue with workshops on September 1 and September 2.



Upcoming Virtual Events

August 31: CELT Professional Day followed by workshops on **September 1** and **September 2**

September 9: CELT Open House

September 16: *Resource Roundtable: Supporting our Students*

September 28: *Hard Conversations: Managing Controversial Topics*

September 29: *Conversations in Teaching (for adjunct faculty)*

Helpful Articles: Self-Care Edition

Thinking about how to balance work and life? [Self-care Strategies for Faculty](#) gives you some ideas.

Amanda Irvin from the Columbia University Center for Teaching and Learning offers advice in [Designing Self-care Practices for this Academic Year](#).

While this article is from 2016, it is still relevant [Avoiding Burnout: Self-care Strategies for Faculty](#)

Join us at our CELT Virtual Open House on Thursday, September 9 at 2 PM

Join your MCC colleagues at our CELT Virtual Open House! Let's start the year with conversations, camaraderie and rotating breakout rooms to chat with colleagues. Please sign up on Eventbrite to join us!

New Programming for Adjunct Faculty

Are you "New to Middlesex?" Consider joining the "New to Middlesex" Adjunct Mentoring program. We will match you with two mentors (one from your department and one from CELT) to support you as you begin teaching at Middlesex. Reach out to Susan Altman saltman@middlesexcc.edu to be matched with your mentors and be part of the [mentoring](#) program. **All adjuncts:** We have two special programs, *Conversations in Teaching* specifically for adjunct faculty to be held on September 29 and November 17 from 4:30 – 5:30 PM on Zoom. Please sign up on [Eventbrite](#) to join your colleagues in conversation.

CELT Events for September: September 16 and September 28

Thursday, September 16 at 2 p.m. **Resource Roundtable: Supporting Our Students**

Inclusive Pedagogy gives students equal access and helps all students be successful learners. How can we support learners outside the classroom and remove barriers to their success? Join this roundtable to hear about the many resources on campus that support our students and learn how to help students access what they need to support their well-being in and out of the classroom. *Representatives from a variety of student support services will share how you can help your students.*

Tuesday, September 28 at 2 p.m. **Hard Conversations: Managing Controversial Topics** Susan Altman

Discussing controversial topics is always a challenge in the college classroom, whether teaching about history, or in a studio art course. Join us as we discuss strategies to build community and help create a culture of respect that allows for meaningful and productive conversation.

Ideas for pedagogy for the start of the semester

Create a sense of community in your Zoom Classroom By now you are all experienced with zoom and creating community. Using an ice breaker can help students get to know each other in an informal way and help build community in your classroom. Think about the goal of the icebreaker. What do you want to accomplish? Can you relate the icebreaker to your course content? The [University of Waterloo](#) has some ideas to try this fall in your online classes. [Teaching with Care: Why Community is at the Heart of Successful Pedagogy](#) from Faculty Focus, has 5 strategies for building community in your classroom. Techniques for learning to [pronounce student names](#) gives a variety of strategies to build community.



Do you want to present a workshop to your Middlesex Colleagues?

Do you have a successful teaching strategy that you can share with your colleagues? CELT welcomes your workshop ideas. Please email celt@middlesexcc.edu with your proposals.

The Food Pantry and Student Emergency Fund

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

Need Resources for teaching?

Take a look at the [CELT website](#). We are working to add more content to help support your teaching. If you find an interesting article on pedagogy, please send it to Saltman@middlesexcc.edu

Think about your syllabus As you think about your syllabus for fall, consider changes that can be made to support students in these uncertain times. [10 Course Policies to Rethink on Your Fall Syllabus](#), from the *Chronicle of Higher Education* talks about how to adapt your syllabi to better help your students. The author suggests to first look at your attendance policy. What can you change? Can you be more flexible? What about late assignments?

Think about Equity In their article, [Equitable Teaching that Creates Pathways to Success for all Students](#), Andrew Estrada Phuong and co-authors present an equity-oriented pedagogy that helps all learners. One suggestion is to create a journal entry task for students with questions to help understand your students and their ways of learning. The authors recommend using this data to add targeted resources such as videos, specific readings and supplemental resources to support student learning without the assumption of prior knowledge.

Universal Design and Accessibility With our emphasis on equity in the classroom, consider ways to bring more accessibility to your courses. Is your Canvas shell accessible? The Canvas Community has an article on [Implementing Universal Design for Learning on Canvas](#). For more information, join CELT on October 14 for *UDL: Giving all Students an Opportunity to Learn*.

[New Ideas/New Pedagogy](#)

Thinking about the mental health of your students as we return to campus?

Dr. Mays Imad, our August speaker, suggests **13 actions** that faculty can take this fall to help promote student mental health this fall in her article, [Pedagogy of Healing: Bearing Witness to Trauma and Resilience](#) from *Inside Higher Ed*. This article is a good start to our conversation later in the semester when Crystal Quillen presents *Trauma-informed Teaching: What have we Discovered* on October 26.

Inclusive Pedagogy Jamie Landau, Professor and Director of the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching at Valdosta State University suggests [3 Strategies for Inclusive Pedagogy](#). One suggestion is to teach students to communicate in ways that are inclusionary rather than exclusionary. “Conversations,” speed dialoguing, and assigning conversation roles are several of the recommended ways to help students communicate more effectively.

Thinking about strategies for inclusivity in your classroom? This [checklist](#) from the University of Michigan’s Center for Research on Learning and Teaching will help you reflect on your teaching practice and give you new strategies to try this fall. The checklist looks at Content, Instructional Practices, Instructor-Student Interactions and Student-Student Interactions.

Do you ever have the dreaded “lull” in your classroom conversations? Christina Moore from Oakland University suggests [Silence in Discussion? Pause and Write](#). When silence happens, suggest the students take some time to write their responses and then return to the discussion with a fresh perspective.



eLearning and Canvas

Do you still need help learning Canvas? Reach out to eLearning for Canvas training. eLearning gives you all the basics to help you set up your course, teach effectively, and use Canvas pedagogy.

Join the Library Book Club

This fall semester, join the Middlesex College Library Book Club as we read ***The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas**. The Book Club will meet three times via Zoom (September 28, October 26, and November 30 at 2 PM) to discuss the book and its themes. A Watch Party of the movie will be held on December 8 at 2 PM. Electronic copies of the book are available to borrow from the college's Library. For more information and to sign up, visit bit.ly/fall21bookclub