

CELT Newsletter: October 2021

Dear CELT Colleagues:

I hope everyone has settled into their new teaching routines. It was good to get back to my very messy office with a pile of work from March 2020! Thank you to everyone who participated in our workshops at the start of the semester. It was wonderful to connect virtually, discuss teaching, and share new strategies for this semester. Thank you to the faculty members and students who shared their ideas in our workshops and facilitated our discussions.

Do you have an idea for a workshop to share with your MCC colleagues? The CELT Board has started to plan for the spring semester. We would like to hear what new pedagogical strategies you are using in your online, remote live or hybrid classrooms. Have you discovered some new tech? Have you figured out how to stream the class and teach in person students? Let us know what you can share, but also what you want to see in our workshops. We'd love to have you present to your colleagues.

CELT can help you with consultations on specific pedagogy, questions, or help you with research to support your teaching. Please reach out if you need our help!

Be well and healthy, Susan

Join CELT, eLearning and the Adjunct Center for our Open House in our new space in JLC 230.

As you know, CELT has moved to a new space along with eLearning and the Adjunct Center where we look forward to new collaborations. We will be holding an in-person **Open House on Wednesday, October 27 from 12 noon – 3 PM** with the dedication of our new name, **The ACE Space for Faculty Resources**. Everyone is welcome to stop by to say hello, see the new space, and have a snack!

Register for our October 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 (at their Middlesex email) the night before the event. If you have any last-minute problems or questions, email: saltman@middlesexcc.edu

We hope that you will all join us at the following events on Zoom:

Thursday, October 14 at 2 p.m. **UDL: Giving all Students an Opportunity to Learn** *Susan Altman and Elaine Daidone*

Does your online teaching follow “best practices” for Universal Design for Learning (UDL)? Do you know how to make your digital resources accessible for all students? Based on scientific principles, join us to learn more about UDL and strategies to optimize teaching and learning for all students.



Upcoming Events

October 14: UDL: Giving all Students an Opportunity to Learn

October 26: Trauma Informed Teaching: What Have we Discovered

October 27: Open House in JLC 230

Helpful Articles

Thinking about the emotional labor that we do at work and while teaching at home? Read [Seven Strategies for Embracing the Emotional Labor of Teaching](#).

[CORE Principles of Effective Teaching: Emerging from the Pandemic as Better Educators](#) has suggestions to help you continue to formulate transformative teaching strategies as we move forward.

In his blog post, [Active/Engaged Learning in a Pandemic: Yes, it Can be Done](#), Todd Zakrajsek gives suggestions for the challenges of teaching this Fall.

Tuesday, October 26 at 2 p.m. **Trauma Informed Teaching: What Have We Discovered** *Crystal Quillen*

Our conversations have moved from Trauma-Awareness into Trauma-Sensitive and towards Trauma-Responsive. The presentation by the Peace and Justice Institute at Valencia College made us even more motivated to understand our classroom environment. Now that some of us and our students are back on campus, how can we better reflect the impact of trauma in our classrooms? Our students bring numerous personal experiences into the classroom. This session will provide strategies on trauma-informed pedagogy and how to recognize the ways trauma can impact our students' well-being. We will discuss trauma-aware responses that we might already be doing both in- and outside of the classroom and provide takeaways to support learning in your classroom.

New Ideas/New Pedagogy

Difficult Dialogues in the Classroom Last month we discussed strategies for handling difficult conversations and building community in the classroom. As faculty, we want all of our students to feel comfortable speaking and expressing their opinions without fear of the conversation escalating into chaos. *The Center for Teaching* at Vanderbilt University has suggestions for facilitating difficult conversations in the classroom. Here are some strategies to think about:

- Before you start, think of how the topic connects with your content, learning objectives and how the conversation can help further those objectives. Critical thinking will help your students foster valuable skills about dealing with differences of opinion.
- Set a tone for the conversation and ground rules for discussions. You can help the class to own these rules by having them come up with a list of rules with your guidance.
- Build your classroom community. When students feel a part of a community, they are more willing to thoughtfully listen to each other's ideas with respect.
- Use intentional strategies to help students formulate their ideas in advance – have everyone write out their thoughts before speaking and consider other opinions beyond their own.

The Fishbowl Technique, The Critical Incident Questionnaire, and the Five-Minute Rule are specific tools to help facilitate difficult conversations. Read about these techniques on the [Vanderbilt Teaching Center](#) website.

Harvard University also has resources on [Making Space for Difficult Discussions](#) and supporting conversations in times of crisis.

Midsemester Feedback: As we head into midterm, consider a survey to gather midsemester feedback to help inform your teaching for the second half of the semester. The [University of Texas](#) has ideas on the effective use of midsemester surveys and how to use Canvas to gather this information.



Celt Annual Report

Did you know that last year we increased participation in our programs over 147%? Read about our successes in the [CELT Annual Report for 2020 – 2021](#).

Podcasts for Teaching

Interested in listening to Podcasts on your way to or from campus?

Here are some educational podcasts that you might find interesting. Let us know what you think!

[Lecture Breakers Podcast](#) by Barbi Honeycutt, Ph.D.

Jennifer Gonzalez of the [Cult of Pedagogy](#) has podcasts on teaching strategies, classroom management and more.

[Equity-Centered Trauma-Informed Education](#) with Alex Venet, talks about her book of the same name and strategies for the classroom. This podcast fits with our session on trauma informed teaching.