

CELT Newsletter: November 2021

Dear CELT Colleagues:

Welcome to November! It is a busy month for CELT with several workshops, including a new addition to the calendar, **Community Engaged Learning (CEL)** (formerly known as Service Learning). Come to this session and learn how you can empower students to make a difference! There are also opportunities to attend a conference, and the yearly call for nominations for the annual teaching and scholar awards. Take a look and see what is happening at CELT and sign up on [Eventbrite](#) using your Middlesex College email. We will send a Zoom link the night before the event. If you have any questions or last-minute problems, email: saltman@middlesexcc.edu

The CELT Board is busy planning for the Spring 2022 semester. Do you have an interesting idea for a workshop? Would you like to lead a workshop? We welcome your ideas, and welcome you to present for CELT. Please reach out and let us know what you are interested in learning.

Please let us know how CELT can help you with learning and teaching. We are here to support you in whatever teaching modality you are using!

Be well and healthy, Susan

Please join us for the following November events:

Wednesday, November 10 at 4:30 p.m. **Community-Engaged Learning (CEL)**
Jennifer Altman and Arianna Illa

Join us for a discussion on Community-Engaged Learning (formally Service-Learning). We will share this pedagogical tool used around the country to bring academic classes to life, and empower students and faculty to make a difference. The discussion will include examples of unique ways that CEL can fit into your required curriculum and course learning outcomes for a possible fall 2022 class.

Wednesday, November 17 at 4:30 p.m. **Conversations in Teaching (Event for Adjunct Faculty)**

This session is an opportunity for to talk about teaching, share challenges in your courses, and learn new strategies to bring back to your classroom.

Thursday, November 18 at 2:00 p.m. **Technology for All: Equity in Tech** *Jennifer Applebee and Crystal Quillen*

When we first moved to remote learning, everyone was affected by the digital divide. Many of our students no longer had access to the hardware or software needed to do their course work and had to scramble to figure out new ways of working. What free technology did you discover and use to support student



Upcoming Events

November 10: Community-Engaged Learning (CEL)

November 17: Conversations in Teaching (Event for Adjuncts)

November 18: Technology for All: Equity in Tech

November 23: Policy and Practice: Bringing Equity to Your Classroom

December 1: Deadline to register for Temple Teaching Conference (limited number, first come, first served)

December 3: Deadline for nominations for the Middlesex College Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Scholarship Awards

Helpful Articles

As we head into the end of the semester, think about [How to Design Better Tests, Based on Research](#) from *Edutopia*.

Help your students improve their writing with [Writing Assignments: A Self-Evaluation for Students](#).

learning? What apps can replace more expensive software and allow access for all? Join this session and share what technology or apps can be used to help all of our students succeed.

Tuesday, November 23 at 2:00 p.m. **Policy and Practice: Bringing Equity to Your Classroom** *Lorna Joasil*

Many of us have a long list of policies that we bring to our classrooms. Are these policies committed to equity in the classroom or committed to convenience? How can we make our classroom policies more equitable and create a culture of belonging? Join us for a conversation on how to create policies that support all students, welcome many voices, and create a course that is relevant and accessible to all.

Deadline: December 1: Opportunity for Professional Development: 20th Annual Faculty Conference on Teaching Excellence, Temple University

Middlesex will send a limited number of faculty (first come, first serve, to those who sign up on Eventbrite by December 1) to the virtual 20th Annual Faculty Conference on Teaching Excellence at Temple University. This year's theme is **Teaching for Equity: Making Meaningful Commitments for a More Just Future**. All attendees must commit to sharing their experience at the *CELT Temple Teaching Roundtable* during our February CELT session on Tuesday, February 22 at 2 PM. The conference is online on January 6 and January 7, 2022. Once you register, you will receive an email with details for the event.

New Ideas/New Pedagogy

In his blog for *Inside Higher Ed*, Steven Mintz talks about [How to Help Students Be Better Writers](#). Using cognitive theory, he gives suggestions to help your students understand their assignments and be more effective writers. Here are some of the ideas that he discusses:

- Make sure your students understand the purpose of the assignment.
- Explain how bad writing grows out of flawed thinking.
- Make sure that students understand that writing is thinking.
- Remind your students: An opinion is not an argument.
- Writing is rewriting (probably the most important thing to teach our students).

Faculty are always asking how to have **better classroom discussions**. In their book, *Creating Engaging Discussions*, Herman and Nilson believe that students engage with discussions by how effectively a discussion is moderated. The goal as a moderator or facilitator is to encourage students to think and talk. They suggest that before commenting on a student's contribution, ask other students for their reactions or invite them to build on the comment. Questions such as, "What do you think of that comment?" "Can you think of other reasons (examples, factors, evidence) to add?" "Who can rephrase that point to make sense to someone who has never had a course on _____?" By asking questions that expand on the original comment, students will become engaged and talkative. Before moving on to a new topic, inquire if anyone has anything to add and then conclude by asking a student to summarize the main point of the discussion.



Nominate a Colleague for a Middlesex College Teaching/Scholar Award

Middlesex College recognizes excellence in teaching and scholarship! Nominate an adjunct or full-time colleague for the Excellence in Teaching Award (full-time or adjunct award) or the Excellence in Scholarship Award (full-time faculty) by Friday, December 3 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 2021.

Email them to:
facultyaccomplishments@middlesexcc.edu