

# NVCC's Center for Teaching (CFT)

## Fall Newsletter

2021



NVCC's Center for Teaching (CFT) welcomes you to fall 2021! We hope you had a fantastic summer! Our theme for this academic year is **Meeting Students Where They Are**. Our students are diverse in terms of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, sexuality, religion, educational experiences/opportunities, academic interests, and levels of college preparedness. And the current COVID pandemic has exacerbated educational inequities, which has further influenced the learning experiences and preparedness of our students new to NVCC. It is essential that we 'meet our students where they are' to help them achieve their goals. In truth, students and faculty are growing together – rising to the challenge of adapting to new ways of teaching and learning. We help our students grow to meet learning outcomes and expectations, and we grow as faculty – seeking to understand 'where our students are' and learning new ways to support them.

Our events will focus on teaching techniques and strategies to help improve student learning, engagement, interest, and a sense of belonging. We will be offering **live remote events this fall, and we will continue to provide digital resources and teaching tips through our NVCFT-Teaching-and-Learning Blackboard site**. Please note the modality for each event in the schedule below.

This newsletter contains information about our local and systemwide CFT fall programming, as well as guidance about where you can find more resources related to teaching and learning. There are also opportunities for you to guide us... help us best support you by sharing your programming suggestions and/or proposals. We also have a new website: [www.nv.edu/CFT](http://www.nv.edu/CFT)

We are a resource for you. Reach out! Contacts: **Nikki McGary** (CFT Chair): [nmcgary@nv.edu](mailto:nmcgary@nv.edu); and **Ruth Urbina-Lilback** (Teaching & Learning Consultant): [rurbina-lilback@nv.edu](mailto:rurbina-lilback@nv.edu)

## CFT Events: Fall 2021

### **Cultivating a Sense of Belonging: A Roundtable Discussion (co-sponsored with the Center for Racial Dialogue and Justice Series)**

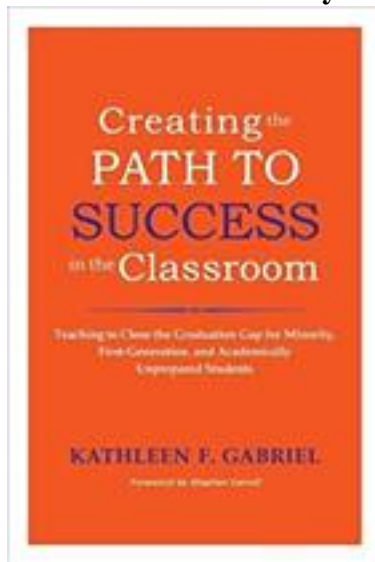
***Tuesday, August 31<sup>st</sup> @ 1:00-2:00 PM; Founder's Hall (side lawn)***

Bring your own lunch/blanket and connect with your colleagues as we simply talk about what it means to have a “sense of belonging.” In the past, what have people/educators/institutions done to include you (or exclude you)? How can we use what we have learned from our own experiences to inform what we do at NVCC?

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**CFT Fall Book Club: *Creating the Path to Success in the Classroom: Teaching to Close the Graduation Gap for Minority, First-Generation, and Academically Unprepared Students* by Kathleen Gabriel.**

**The dates/time/modality will be determined by participants!**



“This is a book for all faculty who are concerned with promoting the persistence of all students whom they teach. Most recognize that faculty play a major role in student retention and success because they typically have more direct contact with students than others on campus. However, little attention has been paid to role of the faculty in this specific mission or to the corresponding characteristics of teaching, teacher-student interactions, and connection to student affairs activities that lead to students’ long-term engagement, to their academic success, and ultimately to graduation. At a time when the numbers of underrepresented students – working adults, minority, first-generation, low-income, and international students – is increasing, this book, a companion to her earlier *Teaching Underprepared Students*, addresses that lack of specific guidance by providing faculty with additional evidence-based instructional practices geared toward reaching all the students in their classrooms, including those from groups that

traditionally have been the least successful, while maintaining high standards and expectations. Recognizing that there are no easy answers, Kathleen Gabriel offers faculty ideas that can be incorporated in, or modified to align with, faculty’s existing teaching methods. She covers topics such as creating a positive and inclusive course climate, fostering a community of learners, increasing engagement and students’ interactions, activating connections with culturally relevant material, reinforcing self-efficacy with growth mindset and mental toughness techniques, improving lectures by building in meaningful educational activities, designing reading and writing assignments for stimulating deep learning and critical thinking, and making grade and assessment choices that can promote learning.” From the publisher – click [here](#) for more. **Hosted by Melanie Majeski. Limited to 10 participants. RSVP by September 20<sup>th</sup> to Melanie Majeski: [mmajeski@nv.edu](mailto:mmajeski@nv.edu)**

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## **“In the Know” (Series)**

**Thursday, September 23rd @ 1:00 – 2:00 PM**



It's time to be *in the know*! We are not sugar coating this one - between pandemic teaching, new policies, re-structures, and systematic changes inside and outside NVCC, there are inherent gaps in what we know that affect our teaching, our students' learning, and/or our professional endeavors. New faculty (adjunct and full-time) are strongly encouraged to attend, BUT everyone, regardless of experience level, will benefit from being in the know.

**This will be a recurring program (once a month)**, each dedicated to a different topic with guest(s) that will help us get first-hand knowledge. Learning will be collective – share what you have learned, and/or what you wish you had learned. Stay tuned for a schedule of events!

**Our FIRST SESSION will focus on The ACE.** Have you met a tutor before? What are tutors noticing that works or does not work for their students? What is the ACE Academics Skills Coaching program? What is the best way to facilitate students' use of ACE services? What do you still need to know about the ACE? You will have to join us to find out 😊.

Contact: **Ruth Urbina-Lilback** (Teaching & Learning Consultant): [rurbina-lilback@nv.edu](mailto:rurbina-lilback@nv.edu)

EVENT LINK: [CLICK HERE](#)

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## **“How Much Should We Assign? Estimating Out of Class Workload”**

**Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup> @ 2:15-3:15 PM**



Virtual brownbag discussion to explore how much work we do / “should” assign students out of class.

[Link to article](#). Hosted by Jaime Hammond and Nikki McGary.

EVENT LINK: [CLICK HERE](#)

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## **An Introduction to Personalized Learning and Universal Design**

*Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00 – 3:00 PM*



What is personalized learning? And how does it relate to universal design? Angela Tiru will define and discuss the benefits of personalized learning, and Jaime Hammond will introduce the basics of understanding and applying Universal Design for Learning principles.

EVENT LINK: [CLICK HERE](#)

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## **Self-Care for Faculty and Staff**

*Tuesday 10/19 @ 2:00 – 3:00 PM*



The current pandemic has caused additional stressors for faculty and staff. When we care for ourselves, we feel better, and we can better support others. Modeling self-care can also benefit those around us. This workshop will provide a calming space for connection while discussing strategies and techniques for self-care. Hosted by Terry Latella.

EVENT LINK: [CLICK HERE](#)

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## **Grammar Bootcamp II**

*Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> @ 12:30 – 1:45 PM*



We could all use a refresher! And these skills are important for our students. This virtual workshop is a follow-up to the first Grammar Bootcamp... but it is alright if you didn't attend that event! Hosted by Lou Lombard and Althea Hayes.

EVENT LINK: [CLICK HERE](#)

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## **Scaffolding as a Tool for Learning (because we all need “training wheels” when we learn a new skill)**

*Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 – 2:00 PM*



Join us for this interactive workshop exploring how scaffolding is used to help students master difficult (for them) concepts and skills. We'll spend our time learning first-hand how and why scaffolding is important. You'll see examples of how scaffolding can be used in classroom teaching, in online environments, and in papers and other assignments. You'll leave with resources to help you apply scaffolding to your own teaching. Hosted by Kim O'Donnell.

EVENT LINK: [CLICK HERE](#)

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## What I Did Over Summer Break: Part 1 (of 3)

*Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00 – 3:00 PM*



Latisha Nielson, Kevin Ramer, Chris Rempfer, and Nikki McGary share nuggets of knowledge they gleaned from attending the *Virtual Teaching Professor's Conference 2021* over the summer. They will present 3 thematic sessions over the course of the academic year. Our theme for this event centers on ASSESSMENT, and will include topics related to feedback, testing anxiety, outcomes, and variety in teaching styles.

EVENT LINK: [CLICK HERE](#)

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## Monday Morning Mentor

NVCC's Center for Teaching is continuing to share this Spring our subscription to the Monday Morning Mentor. Remember, these are **FREE 20-minute presentations** available on demand for 1 week. Expect a Monday email from Ruth Urbina-Lilback (our TLC) each week. **BONUS!** Each presentation offers a certificate of completion that you can use for your personal records. They are also a huge savings to you - these seminars would cost \$100- 200 when purchased for individual view. Please contact Ruth Urbina-Lilback if you have any questions: [rurbina-lilback@nv.edu](mailto:rurbina-lilback@nv.edu). You can preview the list of upcoming presentations [here](#).

### Topic Suggestions?

Please take one minute to anonymously share any suggestions you have for future CFT events. Your responses help shape our programming and ensure that we are meeting your needs! Click [here](#) for a very, very short survey.

### Call for Proposals:

Yes, we teach our classes. But we can also teach each other! **Do you have something related to teaching and learning that you would like to share?** Perhaps you have an activity that works, a framework that guides your teaching, an assignment that students love, or a skill and/or perspective from which others can glean insight? The truth is that we are all working so hard independently... and sometimes, it is easy to forget how much we can learn from one another. Take a minute to reflect and consider what you have to offer. Sometimes the simplest things can have a profound impact. Contact Nikki McGary (NVCC's CFT Chair; [nmcgary@nv.edu](mailto:nmcgary@nv.edu)) and/or Ruth Urbina-Lilback

(NVCC’s CFT Teaching & Learning Consultant; [rurbina-lilback@nv.edu](mailto:rurbina-lilback@nv.edu)) to talk about your ideas. We are excited to hear from you!

## [Our CFT Blackboard Site:](#)

To access our CFT Blackboard site, login to Blackboard and you probably have to scroll down to the bottom under “Courses where you are: Student.” Then you should see:

[NVCF\\_Teaching\\_and\\_Learning: NVCF\\_Teaching\\_and\\_Learning](#)

Instructor: Nikki McGary; Jenna Stebbins; Ruth Urbina-Lilback;

### **Our NVCF\_Teaching\_and\_Learning Blackboard site currently provides the following:**

- Event Resources
  - From fall 2020 and spring 2021. Fall 2020 includes resources from events related to OER, rubrics, engaging discussions, high-impact practices for student success, self-care, resilience, and gratitude. Spring 2021 includes topics related to OER, comparative suffering, educational inequity, gender diversity, resilience, Hamilton, library databases, and how to make your syllabus more equitable. From the Event Resources menu item, you can explore the resources and recordings associated with each event. Event resources for this fall will be posted as they happen.
  
- Additional Resources
  - Icebreaker ideas (for online, LRON, and traditional classes).
  
- On-Demand Professional Development
  - Links to the Monday Morning Mentor, Go2Knowledge, and the K. Patricia Cross Academy.
  
- Plagiarism Tutorial (created by NVCC’s Library!)
  - This tutorial can help prevent plagiarism in your classes! Check it out and upload it into your own class sites! Students who complete the tutorial get a certificate of completion.
  
- “Show & Tell” – quick teaching tips
  - These are five-minute videos featuring quick teaching tips. If you want to contribute to the collection, please contact us!
  
- CFT Newsletters
  - There will be a CFT Newsletter each semester, and they will be archived here.



We will be updating our Blackboard site regularly. If you have any additional resources that you would like to add, please email us! And please let us know if you don't have access to our Blackboard site but would like to be enrolled! [Nikki McGary at [nmcgary@nv.edu](mailto:nmcgary@nv.edu)]

### **Reach Out to Ruth (our TLC!):**

As the NVCC's Teaching and Learning Consultant (TLC), **Ruth Urbina-Lilback** works to create opportunities for professional development in areas of teaching and learning for full and adjunct faculty and instructional staff. She serves in our local NVCC CFT committee, as well as the State-wide Steering Committee. At the state level, she works with TLC's from other colleges to develop and offer cooperative programs catered to meet the needs of all community college faculty in the system. Ruth is a resource at NVCC, and she is available on a confidential basis to faculty who seek assistance with teaching and learning. Contact: [rurbina-lilback@nv.edu](mailto:rurbina-lilback@nv.edu)

### **Upcoming State-wide CFT Programs and Events**

More information at the Connecticut CFT site: <https://ctcft.org/>

*Please be on the lookout for more updates re: statewide events from Ruth!*

**Pathways Workshops:** The Pathways Workshops are didactic in nature – they teach participants specific concepts and techniques, and focus on practical implementation in the college classroom. The overarching theme this year is **Trauma Informed Pedagogy**. Dates and registration links coming out in the next few weeks.

**Spirit of Teaching:** Please join us virtually for this year's Spirit of Teaching event on **MENTORSHIP**. As always, we will be exploring our theme in the context of our personal and professional lives: sharing our stories, offering times for reflection, and suggesting ways in which to foster resilience in ourselves and our students. Although Spirit is not a formal academic conference, the issues and questions raised will be grounded in contemporary research on our theme of mentorship. Dates and registration links coming out in the next few weeks.



**Instructional Skills Workshop (ISW):** ISW's are highly interactive 3-day workshops, in which each participant makes three 10-minute teaching lessons. These are the basis for discussions about effective pedagogy. Experienced or brand-new faculty can benefit greatly from these sessions. It is an opportunity to experiment with new approaches to instruction. Dates vary throughout the year depending on scheduling needs

and participant interest. Please continue to communicate interest to Ruth. She keeps a list and will contact anyone interested whenever the next ISW is announced.

### **Go2Knowledge Live and On-Demand Webinars (Free):**

<https://www.go2knowledge.org/nwcc>

- FREE Online Webinars you can choose from, available NOW
- Extensive Selection of Topics on Teaching, Learning and Supporting Student Success
- No Limit! – Complete as many training sessions as you like
- Work at Your Own Pace – You can start a training module and come back to it as your time allows it.
- Keep Track of your Professional Development – free certificates of completion are issued for every completed session.

Registration is simple: Enter your name, your college email address and the password of your choice. Do not wait - join our online community of learners from our 12 community colleges. Sample Webinar titles include: Best Practices for Student Success in Developmental Education, Best Practices in College Teaching: Creating an Active Learning Environment, Creating Tests that Assess Higher Order Thinking Skills, Diversity, Supporting First-Generation Students: Providing Access, Maximizing Student Achievement & Increasing Persistence.

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### **NVCC CFT Committee:**

**Nikki McGary** (NVCC's CFT Chair; Associate Professor, Sociology): [nmcgary@nv.edu](mailto:nmcgary@nv.edu)

**Ruth Urbina-Lilback** (NVCC's TLC; Professor, Math): [rurbina-lilback@nv.edu](mailto:rurbina-lilback@nv.edu)

**Sandra Eddy** (Professor, CIS, Business)

**Andrea Glidden** (Librarian)

**Althea Hayes** (Assistant Professor, English)

**Mitch Holmes** (Professor, Business)

**Lou Lombard** (Professor, English)

**Melanie Majeski** (Professor, ESL)

**Latisha Nielsen** (Assistant Professor, Sociology)

**Kim O'Donnell** (Professor, Psychology)

**Steve Parlato** (Professor, English)

**Julia Petitfrere** (Professor, English)

**Carlos Plaza** (Assistant Professor, Math)

**Kevin Ramer** (Associate Professor, Math)

**Chris Rempfer** (Associate Professor, English)

**Kathy Taylor** (Professor, Legal Studies)

**Angela Tiru** (Professor, Psychology)