

NVCC's Center for Teaching (CFT)

Spring Newsletter

2022



Spring is here! 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. Our events will focus on teaching techniques and strategies to help improve student learning, engagement, interest, and a sense of belonging.

This newsletter contains information about our local and systemwide CFT spring 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 are offering **in person and/or live remote events and providing digital resources and teaching tips through our NVCCFT-Teaching-and-Learning Blackboard site**. *Please note the modality for each event in the schedule below.*

And as a friendly reminder, our Blackboard site looks like this:

NVCCFT_Teaching_and_Learning: NVCCFT_Teaching_and_Learning

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

Best of luck to the start of the spring semester!

~ NVCC's Center for Teaching (CFT)

We are a resource for you. Reach out! Contacts:

Nikki McGary (CFT Chair): nmcgary@nv.edu;

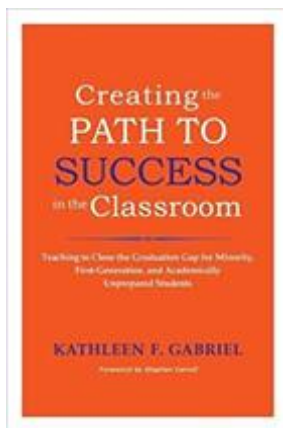
Ruth Urbina-Lilback (Teaching & Learning Consultant): rurbina-lilback@nv.edu

CFT Events: Spring 2022

CFT Spring 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.

Limited to 10 participants. The dates/time/modality will be determined by participants. **RSVP by February 7th to Melanie Majeski:** mmajeski@nv.edu.

This book was such a success last semester that we are offering it again! Here is what some book club participants said about the book:



“*Creating the Path to Success in the Classroom* by Kathleen F. Gabriel provides practical, easy to implement ideas to increase student engagement and success. This book is an easy read but is packed with useful and though-provoking information. Reading this book and discussing it in the book club was a very good investment of my time and energy.”

“*Creating the Path to Success in the Classroom* by Kathleen F. Gabriel is a great read for beginning and seasoned instructors. It is a book that offers classroom methods that can be applied across all disciplines and modalities. While reading *Creating the Path to Success*, you will find classroom stories and practical techniques that are inspiring. The book provides a wealth of information that helps students and instructors become more actively engaged in the learning process.”

“This resource provides many opportunities to continue to engage and empower our students in their learning along their journey to success. During book club, I learned what strategies other faculty have used in their classrooms, both virtual and on-campus. I was also reminded of some I had used prior and had forgotten. I look forward to planning for next semester and integrating what I learned for my students.”

If you would like to read more about the book, please visit the [publisher's site](#).

Post Pandemic Pedagogical Presentations Per Paint

Wednesday, February 2nd @ 2:00 – 3:00 PM



Come learn how to use a FREE and ubiquitous program! This will make your presentations run smoother, save you time, and increase your ability to convey precious information! Almost every computer already has this installed! Super easy to use, and all for the rock-bottom low price of free

ninety-free! No monthly subscription required! Did I mention that this will save you time?
Hosted by Thomas Leszczynski.

Note: this event is available in person in K715, or online with the link below.

~ To join the virtual meeting on Webex at the start of the event
(no RSVP required): [CLICK HERE](#)

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

Thursday, February 17th @ 12:30 – 1:45 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.



~ To join the virtual meeting on Blackboard Collaborate at the start of the event
(no RSVP required): [CLICK HERE](#)

Drawing Is Seeing: An Artistic Decompression Session

Wednesday, March 2nd @ 2:00 – 3:00 PM in S409

Have you always wanted to take a drawing class, but let your “lack of talent” scare you off? Are you mired in the “I-can’t-even-draw-a-straight-line” mindset? Or do you enjoy drawing, but just not have the time?



This informal drawing session with Prof. Steve Parlato may be just what you need to banish those negative thoughts, approach drawing from a fresh viewpoint, and reignite the creative spark. In this 90-minute session, we’ll use observation—rather than talent (which is highly overrated)—to draw what we see. It’ll be a fun, no-pressure social gathering of colleagues with the aim of trying something new—or getting back to something you’ve been missing. Who knows, it just might inspire your teaching. We hope you’ll join CFT for a little morale-boosting artistic camaraderie!

Please RSVP to nmcgary@nv.edu by February 21st, 2022.

NOTE: This event is in-person only (in S409)

Strategies for Teaching a Mixed Level Class

Thursday, March 10th @ 1:00 PM



Our students don't all have the same background knowledge, skill sets, or interests. Some students in our classes might be enthusiastic and/or already knowledgeable about the subject matter, while others are not. Some might struggle with building the required skill and/or learning the content, while others don't. How can we effectively teach one class to *all* our students? In this virtual workshop, we will discuss considerations and guiding principles that can make our classrooms more inclusive for students with varying levels.

Hosted by Latisha Nielsen and Nikki McGary.

~ To join the virtual meeting on Blackboard Collaborate at the start of the event (no RSVP required): [CLICK HERE](#)

“In the Know” (Series)

Wednesday, March 23rd @ 4:00 – 5:00 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, 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 NEXT SESSION THIS SPRING will focus on Services for Students with Disabilities. Ask ALL the questions you may have. What happens after you get a letter notifying you about a student needing accommodations? What are your responsibilities in this process, and how can you best support your students? Where and how are tests being proctored in-person, and in a virtual environment? How do we typically accommodate physical disabilities? Join us and find out 😊!

~ To join the virtual meeting on Blackboard Collaborate at the start of the event (no RSVP required): [CLICK HERE](#)

**What I Did Over Summer Break: Part 2 (of 3) A Report Back from
The Teaching Professor Conference about Student Engagement**
Monday, March 28th @ 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 STUDENT ENGAGEMENT and will include topics related to motivation, communication, memory, and partnership/trust.

~ To join the virtual meeting on Blackboard Collaborate at the start of the event (no RSVP required): [CLICK HERE](#)

**The ‘Why, What and How’ of Creating Constructive Course
Outlines: A Roundtable Discussion**
Tuesday, April 19th @ 2:00 – 3:00 PM



Why is a course outline an important component of our syllabi? What information should it include? How should it be designed? We will share some examples and discuss useful strategies for creating course outlines. Moderated by Mita Saksena and Nikki McGary. And if you like your course outline and want to share it with colleagues, please let us know! And you are welcome to help moderate the event. We see this as a collaborative effort for anybody who wants to contribute.

~ To join the virtual meeting on Blackboard Collaborate at the start of the event (no RSVP required): [CLICK HERE](#)

What I Did Over Summer Break: Part 3 (of 3)
**A Report Back from The Teaching Professor Conference about
Cultural Responsiveness & EDI**
Monday, April 25th @ 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 CULTURAL RESPONSIVENESS, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION and will include topics related to course design, flexibility, connection, and acculturated stress.



~ To join the virtual meeting on Blackboard Collaborate at the start of the event (no RSVP required): [CLICK HERE](#)



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. You can preview the list of upcoming presentations [here](#).

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 most simple things can have a profound impact. Contact Nikki McGary (NVCC's CFT Chair; nmcgary@nv.edu) and/or Ruth Urbina-Lilback (NVCC's CFT Teaching & Learning Consultant; rurbina-lilback@nv.edu) to talk about your ideas. We are excited to hear from you!

OR do you have any **Topic Suggestions?** It is easy... you just tell us a topic related to teaching and learning that you want to learn more about, and we will do the heavy lifting and make the event happen!

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:

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

Our NVCFT_Teaching_and_Learning Blackboard site currently provides the following:

- Event Resources from fall 2020 through fall 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.
 - Fall 2021 provides information about assessment, universal design & personalized learning, grammar, self-care, and campus resources (such as the ACE and unions).

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]

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-](mailto:rurbina-lilback@nv.edu)

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.

NVCC CFT Committee:

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

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

Sandra Eddy (Professor, CIS, Business)

Andrea Glidden (Librarian)

Althea Hayes (Assistant Professor, English)

Lou Lombard (Professor, English)

Melanie Majeski (Professor, ESL)

Latisha Nielsen (Assist. Professor, Sociology)

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)