Weekly Happenings Newsletter

TAR Learning Community Meeting
12:00 – 1:00 PM, Wednesday, September 29, 2021
Join the Teaching-as-Research (TAR) Learning Community to learn how to apply your research skills towards teaching! Participants will share their experiences and updates on their TAR ideas and Projects. Email aprila@pitt.edu for an invitation.

The CIRTL Network
CENTER FOR THE INTEGRATION OF RESEARCH, TEACHING, & LEARNING

Registration for fall programming is now open! Courses and workshops have limited capacity and require advance registration; MOOCs and events have no cap but participants are still required to register to get access to online materials (for MOOCs) and sessions (for events).

Check https://www.cirlt.net/ for updates.
Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) STARTS THIS WEEK!

CIRTL MOOCs take place on the EdX platform and use video-based modules, discussion boards, and peer-reviewed assignments to teach participants about different aspects of evidence-based STEM teaching over the course of 8 weeks.

An Introduction to Evidence-Based Undergraduate STEM Teaching MOOC (Registration TBD)
Asynchronous Course September 27-November 21, 2021
The course draws on the expertise of a variety of STEM faculty, educational researchers, and staff from university teaching centers, many of them affiliated with the CIRTL Network. Topics include key learning principles, such as the role of mental models in learning and the importance of practice and feedback; fundamental elements of course design, including the development of learning objectives and assessments of learning aligned with those objectives; and teaching strategies for fostering active learning and inclusive classroom environments. Formats include video content and transcripts, readings, discussion forums, quizzes, and peer-graded assignments where participants will plan teaching and learning activities relevant to their disciplines.

New Workshop Series
Fostering Antiracist Student Learning Experiences

Explore frameworks to unpack systemic racism, hear from faculty and grad students who have fostered their own sustainable antiracist teaching practices, and reflect on your own ability to build an equitable learning environment in this four-part CIRTLcast series.

Using Frameworks to Examine Race in Higher Education
12:00 – 1:00 PM, Tuesday, September 28, 2021
Explore different frameworks for understanding race and identity in the first event in our four-part series on antiracist learning. With the public spotlight on Critical Race Theory, we will explore how this framework and others can help us understand the historical context of race and racism in higher education as well as steps we can take to develop a more authentic race awareness. Participants are encouraged to bring questions about these foundational concepts, and come prepared to reflect on your own identities, experiences, assumptions, and biases.

Decolonizing the Curriculum in STEAM
12:00 – 1:00 PM, Tuesday, October 4, 2021
Discover new approaches to teaching in the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) disciplines that can elevate historically marginalized perspectives and scholarship. In this event, we’ll unpack the increasingly popular concept of decolonizing curriculum, reflect on how decisions we make as instructors can impact which voices are prioritized, and explore ways to incorporate our students into these types of ethical and moral considerations.

A Faculty Panel on Strategies & Practices For Antiracist Classrooms
12:00 – 1:00 PM, Tuesday, October 11, 2021
Join us for a multidisciplinary panel discussion of faculty who have incorporated various antiracist approaches into their teaching at IUPUI. We’ll hear from Dr. Marieke Brooks-Gillies, an Assistant Professor of English who has developed antiracist writing and assessment practices; Dr. Jamie Levine Daniel, an Associate Professor in the O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs and a specialist on anti-semitism in higher education; Dr. Ronda Henry Anthony, an Associate Professor of English and Africana Studies who has led several IUPUI initiatives on antiracism; and Dr. Michin Hong, an Associate Professor of Social Work with a research focus on anti-Asian racism and IUPUI’s Asian American student community.
Network Workshop Series

**Workshop Series: Exploring Careers in Teaching at a Community College**

Learn about teaching at community colleges straight from current staff & faculty! In this three-part series, we'll hear faculty & staff reflect on the joys and challenges of teaching at a community college, the broad diversity of students in their courses and how that diversity enhances learning, and the ins and outs of finding a full-time teaching position at a community college. The panelists will take questions from future faculty throughout the presentation.

**Introduction to Teaching at a Community College**
1:00 – 2:30 PM, Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Have you ever considered a teaching career at a community college? This career can have a high impact on students beginning their higher education journey and often includes a strong community focused work environment. The panel of faculty will discuss their experiences working in community colleges. The discussion will include equity and diversity at community colleges, panelists career trajectories, what they appreciate most about working at community colleges, and common misconceptions about the career. Bring your questions and prepare to explore this wonderful career path.

**Getting Hired at a Community College: Tips and Strategies from Faculty on Hiring Panels**
1:00 – 2:30 PM, Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Learn hiring tips from faculty that serve on or work closely with hiring committees at community colleges. How might the interview differ from that of a 4-year teaching or research university? What factors should you consider in preparing your application materials and teaching demonstration? What are some common do's and don'ts of seeking a job at a community college? Join us to learn the answer to these questions and more.

**Equity, Diversity, and Inclusive Teaching in the Community College Setting**
1:00 – 2:30 PM, Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Community colleges are truly diverse settings, attracting individuals from all different walks of life with a common interest in advancing their education. If you are interested in exploring a career at a community college, then understanding the diversity of their student populations is crucial. This panel consisting of faculty and administrators from various community colleges will share insights on student diversity. We will also explore the types of inclusive teaching strategies that best support community college students and help to create more equitable classrooms.

**Understanding Levers of Change in Academia (2 day workshop)**
12:00 – 1:30 PM, Wednesdays, November 10 and 24, 2021

Enacting change in big, complex institutions is a daunting task - especially for grad students, postdocs, and early career faculty. and knowing the levers of power on your own campus is an essential first step. In this two-part workshop, participants will do a deep dive into the structural aspects of change (regimented processes, deadlines, and rules) and the social components of power in higher education (key stakeholders, institutional culture, and unspoken norms). We'll explore how to conduct a stakeholder analysis and build a mock stakeholder map to understand how to advocate for change around a particular issue.
**Teaching Citational Practice: A Critical Feminist Approach** (2 day workshop)

*11:00 AM – 12:30 PM, Wednesdays, October 13 and October 27, 2021*

What effects do citational practices have on students’ understanding of who does and doesn’t belong in our field? What is the impact of the ‘stories’ we tell our students through our syllabi, footnotes, and bibliographies? How can we transform our own citational practice in order to empower the most vulnerable or excluded voices in our fields? In this two-part workshop, we will explore how, as educators, we can meaningfully legitimize overlooked or non-traditional sources of scholarship while breaking down biased norms of who belongs in labs, at the front of the lecture hall, and in our syllabi. In our first session, we will introduce critical feminist pedagogy as a framework for assessing the political and ethical implications of academic citation, both generally speaking and in your home departments and disciplines. In our second session, you will develop and workshop a pedagogical resource for enacting a critical-feminist approach to citational practice in your own classrooms and learning materials. If you are interested, at the end of the workshop you’ll be able to contribute your newly-designed resource to a STEM-focused issue of the Open Educational Resource (OER) Teaching Citational Practice: Critical Feminist Approaches, hosted by Columbia University Libraries.

**Network Workshops**

**Research, Teaching, and Mentoring at MSI/HBCUs**

*3:00 – 4:30 PM, Thursday, October 7, 2021*

Hear faculty from Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) share their perspectives on being faculty at different types of institutions that serve diverse student populations. Each faculty panelist is associated with a partner institution as part of the Institutional Research and Academic Career Development Awards (IRACDA) Program funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

**Bring An Inclusive Mindset to Your Teaching**

*11:00 AM – 12:30 PM, Friday, October 8, 2021*

Learn about inclusive teaching approaches that build upon inclusive design frameworks, case studies, and educational research in this one-session workshop. As an introduction to inclusive teaching techniques, participants will be asked to reflect on inequities and diversity in their classrooms through interactive activities. After providing a framework for inclusive design and their own research results, participants will be lead through active learning exercises and case studies that explore inclusive techniques. Drawing upon their own teaching experiences and educational research, approaches that can be readily implemented with any discipline or class size to help all students achieve to their potentials will be modeled and discussed.

**LinkedIn for Academics**

*12:00 – 1:30 PM, Tuesday, October 12, 2021*

You have a LinkedIn account and the basics set up; now what? Wait for people to find you? No. “Networking” is an active process that takes time and planning. After attending this workshop, you will understand: 1) Why LinkedIn is used for the recruitment and vetting of candidates 2) The importance of skills and keywords and how they are essential to your LinkedIn profile 3) How to reach out to an individual on LinkedIn 4) Begin to appreciate the many ways to use LinkedIn for networking and job-seeking 5) How faculty/academia can use LinkedIn for network.

**dB-SERC Lunch Discussion**
12:00 - 1:00 PM, Monday, September 27, 2021
1 pm. The discussion will be virtual, so please sign up using the link below to receive the Zoom link. During this dB-SERC lunch discussion, Dr. Sean Garrett-Roe from the Chemistry Department will give his first talk about his course transformation titled "Mastery-based grading in Chemistry 1".

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**University Center for Teaching and Learning**

Check [https:// teaching.pitt.edu/ workshops-events/](https:// teaching.pitt.edu/ workshops-events/) for updates.

**Designing Rubrics**
2:00 - 3:30 PM, Monday, September 27, 2021
Asking students to perform authentic, complex tasks can provoke higher-level learning, but how can we assess a complicated assignment when it has no “correct” answer? Using rubrics can help you assess the seemingly unassessable. Rubrics also help clarify and communicate your expectations to your students and make for a simpler, faster, and fair grading process. In this introductory-level workshop, we’ll present different types of rubrics, review rubric design best practices, and guide you through the process of beginning to create a rubric to use in their courses. This workshop is pedagogy-focused but will include a brief demonstration of how to create and apply a rubric in Canvas.

**Developing a Syllabus**
1:00 - 2:30 PM, Tuesday, September 28, 2021
Putting together a syllabus for the first time can be a daunting task. In this workshop, we cover the basic components of a syllabus, as well as practical and stylistic "do's-and-don'ts" of syllabus construction. Participants will leave the workshop knowing how to construct a clear and well-planned syllabus.

**Creating Equitable Research Assignments**
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM, Thursday, September 30, 2021
Research assignments offer opportunities for students to practice critical thinking, engage with varying perspectives, and create new knowledge. To create research assignments that allow all students to engage in and express their learning, we must design with equity of access and outcomes in mind. During this session, we will discuss how to scaffold research assignments, incorporate student choice into assignment design, and strategies for engaging students as co-collaborators in the design process. Participants should bring either a syllabus or a research assignment they would like to revise; or an idea for a research assignment that they would like to create.

**Canvas Refresher: SpeedGrader and Gradebook**
1:00 - 2:30 PM, Thursday, September 30, 2021
Have you used Canvas before but want to brush up? This one-hour workshop will refresh your memory of how to give feedback and grade assignments with SpeedGrader, use the breadth of features in the grade book, and how to set Canvas to calculate final grades.
Mentoring Academy | First Session Introduction to Mentor Training
12:00 - 2:30 PM, Friday, October 1, 2021
This session will launch the fall sessions for the Mentoring Academy. The first of three, this session will provide an opportunity to discuss the different roles that mentors and mentees play, and covers the first four competencies in the Mentoring Academy (Introduction, Communication, Aligning Expectations, and Assessing Understanding). Participants will have an opportunity to discuss the principles of effective mentoring through interactive case studies. Participants can attend one session or choose to attend all sessions to complete all eight competencies based on the National Research Mentoring Network curriculum.

Presenting Your Best Self When Connecting with Others
3:00 - 4:30 PM, Tuesday, October 12, 2021
Being able to build relationships (network) helps you develop resources necessary for your career development. It is critical to present yourself during these interactions with confidence, through understanding the difference between self-awareness versus bragging and in dealing with “imposter syndrome.”
During this seminar, presented by Tracy Costello, PhD (Career Coach and Professional Development Trainer at Coach4Postdocs), we will discuss tips and techniques for these topics and more, including email/LinkedIn etiquette and developing your “elevator pitch” when you meet someone in person or virtually.
Check [https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/](https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/) or [https://calendar.pitt.edu/department/office_of_diversity_and_inclusion](https://calendar.pitt.edu/department/office_of_diversity_and_inclusion) for updates.

**September 15 is the start of Latinx and Hispanic Heritage Month.**
See [https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/events/monthly-celebrations/hispanic-heritage-celebration-month](https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/events/monthly-celebrations/hispanic-heritage-celebration-month) for events.

**Racial Equity Consciousness Institute (RECI) Cohort**
See link for schedule

The Racial Equity Consciousness Institute—facilitated via a series of immersive, learner-oriented review and dialogue modules, takes a multifaceted approach to contemplating race and racism—locally, anti-Blackness. The Institute engages participants through a referential and constructive framework to analyze the complexity and pervasiveness of racism, and reflect on what they can do, individually and collectively, to advance racial equity in their institutions and communities.

Through the institute, participants explore and engage six bilateral spheres of racial equity consciousness development in efforts to expand capacity to seek, consider, and adopt different perspectives; promote personal growth and empowerment; enhance cultural humility, cultural competence, and cultural agency; and ultimately, embody the mindset to foster antiracist practices, cultures, and communities.

**Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Tactical Plan Town Hall**

*12:00 – 1:00 PM, Monday, October 4, 2021*

The Office for Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion aspires to help create and sustain a university-wide culture that understands that diversity, equity, and inclusion are essential to the University’s mission and continued excellence.

As we strive to move the University of Pittsburgh closer to our vision, we have begun a tactical planning process. With the help of Organizational Development, OEDI has met throughout the spring and summer of 2021 to develop a tactical plan. Now, we’d like your input to make sure we have identified the key drivers to move our university community towards a more just and equitable future.

Please join us at the OEDI Tactical Plan Town Hall to learn more about our plans and offer your feedback.
### Additional Resources:

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