Weekly Happenings Newsletter

Quote of the week:
“Face challenges, fear, and frustration by seeking out knowledge and opportunities for growth.”
-Fanny Mairena

Check [https://www.cirtl.net/](https://www.cirtl.net/) for updates.

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

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**
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.
Network 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.

**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.

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.

**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 (regulated 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.
Network Workshops

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.

To Thrive—Beyond DEI: Towards a Critical Ethnic Studies Pedagogy in Higher Education
12:00 – 1:00 PM, Thursday, October 14, 2021
Please join us as Dr. Andrew Jolivette provides the keynote address for the CIRTL Network’s semi-annual meeting. CIRTL colleagues from across the US and Canada will be coming together for two days of virtual meetings to connect with one another and consider questions of programming, strategic planning, and policies. All CIRTL community members are welcome to attend Dr. Jolivette’s keynote.

Check http://dbserc.pitt.edu/ for updates.

dB-SERC Lunch Discussion
12:00 - 1:00 PM, Monday, October 11, 2021
The next dB-SERC lunch discussion will take place Monday, October 11 from 12 – 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. Russell Clark from the Physics Department will give his second course transformation talk titled "Rubrics, Remote Learning, and Collaboration in Intro Physics Labs".
Check [https://teaching.pitt.edu/workshops-events/](https://teaching.pitt.edu/workshops-events/) for updates.

**Who Does What in Academic Leadership at Pitt?**  
12:00 - 1:00 PM, Tuesday, October 12, 2021  
The academic operations of a large research university are expansive and include a wide range of activities and services. New and continuing faculty can come to this session to learn more about what members of our academic administration do, including the types of issues they handle and roles they play, as well as governance practices. Leave this session knowing more about how to navigate the University — where to take your questions and issues and how to find the information you need to be successful.

**Video Production & Editing Office Hours**  
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Wednesday, October 13, 2021  
Hillman Library, Ground Floor (just outside the Open Lab @Hillman)  
Drop into the office hours anytime to consult with an expert video producer on video production and editing, audio for video, lighting, or scriptwriting. Whether you are an instructor, content creator, or novice videographer, you’re welcome to stop by and get all your video questions answered! Our video expert will be available 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. on the Ground Floor of Hillman Library, just outside the Open Lab @Hillman.

**Designing Better Test Questions**  
2:00 - 3:30 PM, Wednesday, October 13, 2021  
Exams are often considered to be less cognitively challenging than other types of assessments, but are they inferior to other assessments when the test questions are well-designed and challenging and when they provoke critical thinking? During this introductory-level, virtual workshop, we’ll explore how to create better design objective test questions (true/false and multiple choice) and better essay questions, and we will practice composing test questions that are both clear and rigorous. This workshop will focus on effective question design but will include a brief demonstration of the quiz maker tool in Canvas.

**It’s in the News: Navigating News and Online Information**  
2:00 - 3:00 PM, Wednesday, October 13, 2021  
This workshop is designed to introduce strategies for responsible news and information consumption. These strategies include identifying bias in news and fact-checking. Participants will be encouraged to explore and practice these strategies as well as reflect on their own news consumption.

**Developing a Teaching Portfolio**  
2:00 - 3:30 PM, Thursday, October 14, 2021  
Teaching portfolios are an important component of many academic job applications and the promotion process: it is never too early in your teaching career to begin developing yours. While teaching portfolios vary widely, this workshop presents some guidelines to follow and some basic strategies you can use to ensure that your portfolio will best demonstrate your teaching experience, accomplishments, and potential. Whether you are just beginning to teach or about to enter the job market, this workshop will enable you to compile and develop your best teaching portfolio.

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

October is Relationship Violence Awareness Month

**Preventing Sexual Misconduct and Supporting Survivors: Lessons Learned from Black Women in Academia**
*12:30 – 1:30 PM, Monday, October 11, 2021*
Join Dr. Lynissa Stokes as she reviews her research focused on preventing sexual misconduct and supporting survivors.  This presentation will discuss her interviews with Black women in academia.  There will be time for audience discussion.  Please email crb103@pitt.edu with questions.

**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—focally, 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.

**Latinx Connect Conference**
*October 14-16, 2021*
The Latinx Connect conference (October 14-16) aims to move us beyond “celebrating” Latinxs, instead calling for empowerment and justice for the Latinx community, which faces numerous disparities in U.S. society, particularly those at the intersections of Latinx identity (e.g., Afro-Latinxs, Indigenous Latinxs, queer and Trans* Latinxs, undocumented Latinxs).

As the largest pan-ethnic group in the United States, Latinxs are extremely diverse by race, language, immigration, and experiences along the diaspora, which creates opportunity for dialogue. The Latinx Connect conference will provide a virtual space to learn with each other.

The 3-day virtual conference, free and open to all, will bring together students, educators, community leaders, political advocates, and others to dialogue about Latinx identities, cultures, and contemporary issues. Participants will discuss what it means to be Latinx/a/o/e/Hispanic in relation to intersectional identities, education, immigration, public health, arts & culture, history, and other topical areas.

The conference will also serve as a culminating experience for Latinx & Hispanic Heritage Month, recognized annually from September 15 - October 15 to acknowledge the history, culture, and contributions of Americans who identify as Hispanic/Latinx.
Supporting Trans and Non-Binary Community Members
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Thursday, October 14, 2021
The Office for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion is pleased to have the Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation present the virtual workshop, Supporting Trans and Non-Binary Community Members, as an educational opportunity for Pitt faculty, staff and graduate students. This event will be facilitated by training director, Jule Arney. Please join us on Thursday, October 14th from 9am-12pm.

https://www.oacd.health.pitt.edu/content/professionalism-series for more info.

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.

Interpersonal Dynamics: Resolving Conflict and Other Difficult Conversations
3:00 – 4:30 PM, Thursday, November 4, 2021
Why do we all prefer to avoid conversations that we know we need to have—knowing the problem will only worsen over time? It’s time to stop running from our circumstances and to start leading our outcomes!

During this session, presented by Marnie Oakley, DMD (Senior Associate Dean for Clinical and Faculty Affairs, School of Dental Medicine), you will learn how to prepare for, conduct, and follow-up on the difficult conversations that most people dread.
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