Weekly Happenings
Newsletter

FALL 2021
November 8-19, 2021

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

https://www.cirtl.net/ for updates.

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.

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.

Quote of the week:
“Good teaching is more a giving of right questions than a giving of right answers.”
— Josef Albers
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.


**dB-SERC Lunch Discussion**
12:00 – 1:00 PM, Monday, November 8, 2021
The next dB-SERC lunch discussion will take place Monday, November 8 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. Burhan Gharaibeh and Dr. Suzanna Gribble from the Biological Sciences Department will present the first talk for their course transformation “Transforming undergraduate physiology laboratory by using web-based data acquisition and analyses setup to run lab instruments”.

**dB-SERC Lunch Discussion**
12:00 – 1:00 PM, Monday, November 15, 2021
Description TBD.
Check [https://teaching.pitt.edu/workshops-events/](https://teaching.pitt.edu/workshops-events/) for updates.

**For Your Consideration: Academic and Faculty Leadership**

*12:00 – 1:00 PM, Tuesday, November 9, 2021*

Learn about the range of academic and faculty leadership roles across the University and why you might be interested in and well suited to a leadership position. Panelists will include faculty members who have held a range of leadership roles, from department to school/regional campus to University-level administration and within the University Senate. They will discuss what those roles entail, what skills they call upon, and what they have found rewarding and challenging in their various roles.

**Mentoring Academy | Third Session Fostering Independence, Promoting Professional Development and Articulating Your Mentoring Philosophy**

*12:00 – 2:00 PM, Friday, November 12, 2021*

This is the third and final session of the fall series of the Mentoring Academy. This session will provide an opportunity to discuss best practices in Fostering Independence (Competency #6), Promoting Professional Development (Competency #7), and Promoting Professional Development and Articulating Your Mentoring Philosophy and Plan (Competency #8). Sessions are conducted through interactive case studies. Mentoring Academy members, who are trained faculty recognized for their contributions to mentoring at the University of Pittsburgh, will facilitate the session. Participants can attend one Mentoring Academy session or choose to attend all sessions to complete and earn a credential for all eight competencies based on the National Research Mentoring Network curriculum.

**Low-Stakes Writing, High-Impact Teaching**

*10:00 – 11:30 AM, Monday, November 15, 2021*

The x-page paper at the end of the semester is a common staple in college courses, but there are other ways to use writing in your classroom. Through low-stakes writing (“LSW” or “writing-to-learn,” “WTL”) assignments, students become more confident thinkers, develop keen metacognitive skills, manage reading assignments more effectively, and learn more richly and fully…all without creating an unmanageable grading burden for you or your TAs. We will explore techniques across an array of disciplines and examine diversity, equity, and inclusion issues that low-stakes writing assignments can help to address.

**Engaging International Students**

*2:00 – 3:30 PM, Monday, November 15, 2021*

Do you have international students whom you would love to know better and engage with more in classes? Come learn about international students and the challenges they face. You will see engaging your international students takes as few as four steps. You will also have an opportunity to make a specific plan to engage your international students based on the 4-step approach.

**Using Mid-Semester Surveys in your large enrollment classes**

*12:00 – 1:00 PM, Tuesday, November 16, 2021*

*12:00 – 1:00 PM, Wednesday, November 17, 2021*

A mid-term survey can be a valuable tool to help you improve your teaching in your large enrollment class. This session will bring together University of Pittsburgh faculty and Teaching Center staff to discuss the design, administration, analysis, and communication of results for mid-semster surveys.

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

**Know Your K: Writing a Successful Career Development Award Application**
2:30 - 5:00 PM, Thursday, November 11, 2021
Mentored Career Development Awards (also known as "K Awards") are the National Institute of Health's (NIH) primary grant mechanisms for supporting new and mid-career investigators, and are a key step in any researcher's career.

**Impact of COVID–19 on the Academic Careers of Women in Medicine and Science**
3:00 - 5:00 PM, Tuesday, November 16, 2021
The National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine 2021 Consensus Study Report: The Impact of COVID–19 on the Careers of Women in Academic Sciences, Engineering and Medicine highlighted how the pandemic has had a disproportionate and negative impact upon the academic careers of women. Join us for this special event where Pitt leaders share their perspectives of the pandemic’s impact on female scientists and clinicians at our own institution followed by a panel discussion.

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**Additional Resources:**

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