Quote of the week:

“We learn more by looking for the answer to a question and not finding it than we do from learning the answer itself.”

-Lloyd Alexander

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

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

*Advancing Learning Through Evidence-Based STEM Teaching*

*Asynchronous, January 31 – March 27, 2022*

Advancing Learning through Evidence-Based STEM Teaching is an open, online course (MOOC) designed to provide graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, and other aspiring faculty in STEM disciplines with an overview of effective college teaching strategies and the research that supports them. This course is also suitable for other interested university staff, faculty, and administrators. The goal of the eight-week course is to equip the next generation of faculty to be effective teachers, thus improving the learning experience for the thousands of students they will teach.
Alumni from CIRTL programs go on to many different kinds of careers. This four-part event series features alumni from different career paths reflecting on their current work, how CIRTL prepared them for their career trajectories, and how their CIRTL experiences helped shape their professional interests and activities. We will give you a chance to submit questions when you register. Join us on:

- 2:00 – 3:00 PM, Wednesday, March 9, 2022: How CIRTL Impacted My Career: Hearing from Academic and Research Staff
- 2:00 – 3:00 PM, Wednesday, March 16, 2022: How CIRTL Impacted My Career: Hearing from Teaching Faculty
- 2:00 – 3:00 PM, Wednesday, March 23, 2022: How CIRTL Impacted My Career: Experiences in Academia from Underrepresented Groups in STEM
- 2:00 – 3:00 PM, Wednesday, March 30, 2022: How CIRTL Impacted My Career: Hearing about Positions beyond Academia

Imagining Post-PhD Career Possibilities: Advocating for your Professional Skills and Value (Spring 2022)

- This four-part series supports graduate students and postdoctoral researchers at all levels, especially those nearing transitional phases, to articulate and build upon professional skills acquired within and outside of academic experiences. Participants will: identify skills and competencies developed in multiple settings; determine areas for additional development; and develop self-awareness and agency in pursuit of diverse post-graduate careers. In support of the professional development of equity-deserving communities, this series increases equitable and inclusive participation by uncovering the hidden curriculum of graduate education and by highlighting post-PhD career possibilities and diverse academic institutions and populations served. The first three sessions will emphasize strengths and skill development, and the fourth will be an opportunity for reflection and integration as part of a career plan. Participants will recognize and express their unique and marketable professional skills and value. In addition, they will gain self-awareness and agency regarding their employability.
- 1:30 – 3:00 PM, Monday, March 14, 2022: Graduate Skills and Competencies: What Have I Really Learned?
- 1:30 – 3:00 PM, Monday, March 21, 2022: Mentoring and Advising Relationships: What Skills Am I Developing?
- 1:30 – 3:00 PM, Monday, March 28, 2022: Building My Networks and Engagement in Communities: What Connections Am I Growing and Why?
- 1:30 – 3:00 PM, Monday, April 4, 2022: Putting It All Together: How Do I Articulate and Implement a Career Development Plan?
http://dbserc.pitt.edu/ for updates.

**dB-SERC Lunch Discussion**  
**12:00 – 1:00 PM, Monday, January 31, 2022**  
The next dB-SERC lunch discussion will take place Monday, January 31 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. Katelyn Cooper from ASU will give her talk “How biology learning environments affect students with anxiety and depression: identifying and lessening challenges”.

---

**University Center for Teaching and Learning**

https://teaching.pitt.edu/workshops-events/ for updates.

**Designing Better Multiple-Choice Exam Questions**  
**3:00 – 1:45 PM, Thursday, February 3, 2022**  
Multiple-choice questions often get a bad reputation because they are perceived as less cognitively challenging and authentic than other types of assessments. In this 45-minute workshop, we will discuss how to tackle those design challenges to create good multiple-choice questions. Participants will practice composing questions. Feel free to bring a quiz or exam to revise. We will conclude this session with a brief overview of Canvas exam analytics, which can be used to identify test questions to redesign or concepts to review.

---

Check https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/ or https://calendar.pitt.edu/department/office_of_diversity_and_inclusion for updates.

None listed, see calendar link above for updates.
Developing a Successful Fellowship Application: A Primer for Postdocs & Graduate Students
3:00 - 4:30 PM, Wednesday, February 2, 2022
Attend this session to learn how to write a successful fellowship (F30, F31, and F32) applications! The purpose of the NIH F-type training grant is to provide support to promising graduate and post-doctoral applicants who have the potential to become productive, independent investigators in health-related research fields relevant to the missions of participating NIH institutes.

This session will start with an overview of the F-award and then illuminate the grant submission/review process, outline how to prepare a successful grant, describe a mock study section, and cover scoring and funding. It will be presented by Nick Giannoukakis, PhD, a member of the Division of Experimental Pathology and a member of the Cellular and Molecular Pathology Graduate Training Program, who has a successful track record mentoring graduate students and postdocs who have forged independent research careers.

The Universe of STEM Careers Waiting for You & How to Showcase Your Value to an Employer
3:00 - 5:00 PM, Tuesday, February 8, 2022
The universe of career options available to PhDs in the health sciences is widespread and exciting, but daunting to many who might not know which path to take. Join us as we guide you through an exploration of the vast array of career options available and help you to understand and develop the skills needed to achieve career success.

During this workshop, presented by Josh Henkin, PhD, attendees will learn about several resources to search and explore careers outside of academia. You will also be introduced to tools you can use to identify how your professional values, interests, and skills align with potential careers of interest.

We’ll help you discover what macro and micro skills you possess, and discuss how to increase your confidence in articulating and demonstrating the value you bring to an organization.

Additional Resources:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pitt-CIRTL website</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cirtl.pitt.edu">www.cirtl.pitt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIRTL website</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cirtl.net/">http://www.cirtl.net/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dB-SERC website</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dbserc.pitt.edu/">http://www.dbserc.pitt.edu/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCTL website</td>
<td><a href="http://www.teaching.pitt.edu">www.teaching.pitt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion calendar</td>
<td><a href="https://calendar.pitt.edu/department/office_of_diversity_and_inclusion/calendar">https://calendar.pitt.edu/department/office_of_diversity_and_inclusion/calendar</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OACD website</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oacd.health.pitt.edu">www.oacd.health.pitt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OACD Video Library</td>
<td><a href="https://www.oacd.health.pitt.edu/video-library">https://www.oacd.health.pitt.edu/video-library</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AME website</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ame.pitt.edu">www.ame.pitt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>