Weekly Happenings Newsletter

Quote of the week: 
“Believe in yourself, learn, and never stop wanting to build a better world.”
-Mary McLeod Bethune

SPRING 2022

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

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

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?
**dB-SERC Lunch Discussion**

**12:00 – 1:00 PM, Monday, February 7, 2022**

The next dB-SERC lunch discussion will take place Monday, February 7th 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. John Burkhardt from UMich will give his talk “Physician Workforce Diversity: Barriers to Change and Implications of the Status Quo”. Despite recent and vociferous calls for diversifying the physician workforce, the number of physicians from historically under-represented in medicine backgrounds remains low and is not approaching parity with the US Population. While multifactorial in nature, cultural norms, entrenched approaches, and personal beliefs about how we should select medical students based on “merit” continue to limit the success of many policy interventions designed to increase minority representation. What is often lost in these discussions is the need to address persistent barriers to a diverse physician workforce are not just grounded in a need for societal fairness in educational opportunity but also as an underappreciated contribution to continuing healthcare disparities. This talk details the current state of the physician workforce, discusses the ongoing barriers to increasing the number of medical students from underrepresented in medicine backgrounds, and provides a rationale from both educational and healthcare data to support a rededication to making change.”

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**Encouraging Student Participation**

**10:00 – 11:00 AM, Thursday, February 10, 2022**

Effective class discussions – much like effective lectures – are the result of careful planning. Students must do their part by coming to class ready to participate. This workshop will cover strategies and best practices in how to:

- elicit student participation
- treat difficult students
- encourage contribution from quiet students
- and other common challenges in the classroom.

Participants will leave the workshop with strategies to engage all students in the learning process.

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**The Ethical Use of Learning Analytics to Improve Student Success**

**12:00 – 1:30 PM, Thursday, February 10, 2022**

The use of learning analytics in higher education, while relatively new, is already changing the face of higher education across the globe. In this interactive workshop, we will consider the ethical implications of using student data. Discussions will focus on data that is now available in Canvas courses at the University of Pittsburgh and that can be used as another means to inform teaching and improve student learning. In preparation for this workshop, we encourage instructors to familiarize themselves with Canvas’ New Analytics tool and Panopto's User Statistics.
Check [https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/](https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/) or [https://calendar.pitt.edu/department/offic...](https://calendar.pitt.edu/department/office_of_diversity_and_inclusion) for updates.

**The Importance of African American Providers**  
12:00 – 1:00 PM, Wednesday, February 9, 2022  
Dr. Naudia Jonassaint of the School of Medicine will conduct a virtual presentation the importance of African American medical providers.

**Black History Month 90's Skate Night**  
5:00 – 7:00 PM, Friday, February 11, 2022  
Dress up in your best 90's fit and join Pan African Graduate & Professional Student Association (PANAF) as we host a social to celebrate the cultural significance skating rinks have played in Black history. PANAF will be hosting the event at Neville Roller Drome from 5:00 PM- 7:00 PM as a part of our Black History Month series of events.

**Other University-Sponsored Diversity and Inclusion Related Sessions**

**Lunar New Year Virtual Event – Spring 2022**  
9:00 – 10:00 AM, Thursday, February 10, 2022  
The Institute for International Studies in Education (IISE) invites the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) and the School of Education (SOE) communities to our virtual celebration of the Lunar New Year 2022. Please join us and share your own story about the Lunar New Year. There will be opportunities to win gift cards during our fun games!  
This Zoom event is co-sponsored by the Asian Studies Center (ASC) and School of Education Council for Graduate Students in Education (CGSE)

**Let's Talk Africa: Angel Maxine, Ghana's First Transgender Musician**  
12:00 – 1:00 PM, Thursday, February 10, 2022  
Angel Maxine has been called Ghana's first transgender musician; that is, she is the first to be open about it. The daughter of a reverend and a prophetess, Angel will speak about her experiences growing up in Ghana and what it's like for the LGBTQ community there. She will discuss how she uses music as a tool of activism, especially in response to the new anti-LGBTQ bill in Ghana's Parliament.

**Race & … Lecture Series**  
12:00 – 1:00 PM, Tuesday, February 8, 2022  
Join Amanda Boston and Rhea Bowman for the next installment of the Race &... Lecture Series. The new Race &... Lecture Series, a part of the Race and Social Determinants of Equity, Health, and Well-being Cluster Hire Initiative. The lunchtime speaker series provides a spotlight for each new faculty member to describe their work and interests.

**Talking About Globalization: Gender, Race, Dis/ability and Politics**  
2:00 – 3:30 PM, Friday, February 11, 2022  
How have alternative and anti-globalization movements shaped structures of inequality in Eastern Europe and Eurasia? Join us to explore the legacies of neoliberal transformation with a particular focus on the politics of gender, race, and dis/ability.
See [https://www.oacd.health.pitt.edu/content/professionalism-series](https://www.oacd.health.pitt.edu/content/professionalism-series) for more info.

**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.

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**Additional Resources:**

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