Weekly Happenings
Newsletter

SPRING 2022
March 21-25, 2022

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

Quoted of the week:
“Teaching is truth mediated by personality.”
― Phyllis Brooks

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

How CIRTL Impacted My Career: Alumni Reflections (Spring 2022)

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 23, 2022: [How CIRTL Impacted My Career: Experiences in Academia from Underrepresented Groups in STEM](https://www.cirtl.net/)
- 2:00 – 3:00 PM, Wednesday, March 30, 2022: [How CIRTL Impacted My Career: Hearing about Positions beyond Academia](https://www.cirtl.net/)
Imagining Post-PhD Career Possibilities: Advocating for your Professional Skills and Value

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 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?

Disrupting Bullying in Graduate School: Strategies and Interventions

Learn anti-bullying strategies and interventions to help promote safe learning spaces in this two-part workshop. Once considered child’s play, behaviors of academic bullying have emerged as hotbeds of conflict and hostility that often isolate, marginalize, and demean the target. While anyone can be a target of bully in academia, research revealed that graduate students are more susceptible because of their academic status. The physical and psychological consequences of academic bullying have the ability to obstruct learning engagement, exclude, discriminate, belittle, undermine professional development, and decrease work performance. This workshop will discuss graduate students’ lived experiences of bullying in the institutional culture. In an effort to move the needle forward, anti-bullying strategies and interventions will be presented to help promote safe learning spaces and social change within the academic structure.

- 1:00 – 2:30 PM, Tuesday, April 5, 2022
- 1:00 – 2:30 PM, Tuesday, April 12, 2022

CIRTL Network Teaching-as-Research Presentations

3:00 – 4:30 PM, Wednesday, April 13, 2022

Hear graduate students and postdocs from across the CIRTL Network share the results of their Teaching-as-Research (TAR) projects in this online presentation session. TAR projects investigate questions about teaching and learning, including assessing the effectiveness of specific learning activities and tools, examining the learning process about a specific topic, or characterizing the student experience in the classroom.
Monday Lunch Discussion
12:00 – 1:00 PM, Monday, March 21, 2022
The next dB-SERC lunch discussion will take place Monday, March 21th 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. Brian Galla from the School of Education will give his second talk about his course transformation on testing an integrating a mindfulness resource in a large undergraduate STEM Course.

Teaching with PowerPoint
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Monday, March 22, 2022
When effectively planned and designed appropriately, PowerPoint can enhance the quality and effectiveness of teaching and learning. In this workshop, we will cover best practices for designing slides for instruction that encourage student engagement with course material.

Grading with Canvas Part 1: Using the SpeedGrader
12:00 – 1:00 PM, Tuesday, March 22, 2022
As an instructor, SpeedGrader allows you to view and grade student assignment submissions in one place. This webinar will take a detailed look at the tools available within the SpeedGrader interface and how to use them. We will address frequently asked questions as well as going over best practices.

Better Boardwork: Strategies & Technologies
2:00 – 3:00 PM, Tuesday, March 22, 2022
A board is one of the most obvious features of classroom furniture (and maybe a less-obvious virtual technology for you to use), but how do you work with it effectively? Many instructors struggle with random jottings and messy scribbles without a plan of attack, but you have tools at your disposal to make your boardwork shine and powerfully serve your important learning objectives for your students. Join us for some guidance on general boardwork principles and an introduction to virtual board technologies.
Creating Equitable Research Assignments
4:00 – 5:15 PM, Wednesday, March 23, 2022
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.

The more we understand the aspects of this process that students find overwhelming, the better we become at creating alternatives to traditional research papers or building in opportunities for students to develop their own paths to learning. Beginning with what students struggle with the most, this workshop will propose strategies for designing assignments that are scaffolded and manageable for students without sacrificing academic rigor.

Teaching with Equity
12:00 – 1:30 PM, Thursday, March 24, 2022
The Teaching with Equity workshop is designed to enhance your ability to identify when and where seemingly small changes in course planning and design could foster better learning experiences for your in-person and remote students. Participants will be offered a space to share successful (and not-so-successful) course activities and policies they have implemented, with the goal of reflecting upon the importance of keeping equity at the forefront of their teaching practices.

This workshop builds and expands on principles presented in our Fundamentals of Teaching Inclusively workshop. If you are new to the concepts of diversity or inclusion in pedagogy, we encourage you to register and complete that workshop first. If you have already participated in that workshop, but would like to refresh your memory, please take a look at this recorded version.

How Surveillance Capitalism Ate Education For Lunch
4:00 – 5:00 PM, Thursday, March 24, 2022
Recent policy trends in education have ushered in expensive and extensive data systems with AI-Based Learning Analytics pitched as the most innovative of solutions to close equity, access, and graduation gaps in education. This session introduces attendees to critical analyses of such policies, inquiries regarding who and what entities stand to most benefit from or be harmed by resulting analytics, questions regarding data governance, privacy, consent, and ethics in conducting educational research at a mass scale, and recommendations for education leaders to recognize and avoid common pitfalls associated with the adoption of emerging technologies as solutions for education challenges.

Check https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/ or https://calendar.pitt.edu/department/office_of_diversity_and_inclusion for updates.
See https://www.oacd.health.pitt.edu/content/professionalism-series for more info.

**Constructing A Resume for Employers Outside of Academia**
12:00 – 1:00 PM, Wednesday, March 23, 2022

How do you effectively prepare a written document, such as a resume, that communicates your experience to employers outside of the Academy? Your resume is the first step in landing your next interview, so it's essential that it makes the impact that you intend it to!

**Ask Me Anything: Q&A Session for Postdocs**
12:00 – 1:00 PM, Thursday, April 7, 2022

Spend your lunch break with representatives from Pitt’s Center for Postdoctoral Affairs in the Health Sciences for an informal question and answer session. Participants will have the opportunity to submit questions in advance or be able to ask their questions live during this remote session. Even if you don’t have any questions at this time, join us to learn what’s on the minds of your fellow postdocs. Questions may span a wide variety of topics such as career development, programming, benefits, classifications, compensation, postdoc guidelines, funding opportunities, among others. The questions posed during this session are purposely crowdsourced so we can learn what’s important to you.

**Additional Resources:**

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