Welcome back to campus!

CENTER FOR TEACHING & RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY

The CTRE Monthly Newsletter

VOL.6   FEB 13, 2024

Setting the bar

DR. JACKSON BARTLETT, DIRECTOR

Organizations can evolve passively or actively over time. Passive evolution responds or bends to change, while active evolution requires setting goals and planning to meet those goals. With the growth of online learning as an option for our students over the past few years, we want to be ahead of the curve.

That's why we are building a new, fully integrated suite of technologies to support teaching and learning. We'll also require longer term personal and relational investments to get there, however. Over the next few months, CTRE staff will visit each department, listening and learning to help develop tailored strategies for teaching in any modality and to help each department set a baseline expectation for what a good course looks like in Brightspace.

Our dedicated faculty want to take CSU to new heights. As consultant and coach, the CTRE is here to help build the conditions to make that possible. Onward!

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Faculty Resource Network: Consider applying for the Network Summer 2023 or Visiting Scholar Program in New York City where faculty from any discipline attend teaching seminars, access NYU resources, and make lasting professional connections. To express interest, email CSU's FRN liaison, Jackson Bartlett.

CTRE Grants: It's time to submit your application for a CTRE Spring grant! Each semester, the CTRE awards small, $1,000 grants for outstanding projects in the areas of research, teaching, and professional development. This semester's applications are due March 29, with awards made in April. Note: grants are for competitive projects taking place at least a semester out from the award date.

Faculty Advisory Board: We have vacancies that need to be filled! Reach out to Jackson to nominate yourself or someone else for a two-year term.

Fall Programs & Events

Moving to Brightspace, our new LMS!

Brightspace will open this Spring to begin preparing for Fall classes. If you'd like to use Brightspace this Fall, please email us with your name and the course number/title, and we will make sure your course is available to students. ALL faculty can log in now to build course templates any time, and past Moodle courses will appear in Brightspace.

Ed Tech Practice Sessions

This Spring, we're focused on Brightspace in addition to our regular programming. Register for one of three sessions to get familiar with the platform and start setting up your course, all with expert guidance from our instructional design team!

Register for a session now

T3 Workshop Series

These are 60-min, interactive workshops designed to advance the practice of teaching in any discipline. Check out our offerings for this fall:

Inclusive Syllabus: Communicating with clarity, care, and intention
Tuesday, February 13, 3:30pm, Zoom

The First Two Weeks: creating community & connection in your class
Tuesday, April 9, 3:30pm, Zoom

Go to our events page to find out more and register for a workshop.

Faculty Success: Fixes to our review, promotion, and tenure (portfolio) system

Faculty Success, formerly known as Digital Measures, is software that allows faculty to keep track of their research, teaching, and research activities and generate reports. This year, we've made some improvements. What you can expect for Fall review:

- When you generate a report, instead of downloading it and emailing it to the review committee, you will click "submit" and it will go into a traditional online workflow.
- Users now have access only to their own accounts without exception.
- Course evaluations are now directly integrated, making it possible to add them to your report without downloading it and uploading it again.
- Additional reporting capabilities for Chairs and administrators.

For non-technical inquiries regarding RPT or your DAC, please reach out to your Department Chair or to Bernie Rowan, Associate Provost of Contracts & Administration.

Theodis Garth, System Admin

SUPPORT & CONSULTATION

The CTRE is here for you when you need us, whether it's help with ed tech or a conversation about your teaching. Skip the phones for the fastest response: for help with the learning management system, the student evaluation system, or faculty portfolios, reach out to **elearning@csu.edu**. For help with pedagogy or building your course, or to schedule a workshop or training for your department, email **ctre@csu.edu**. You can also use the link below to set up a meeting with one of our expert staff.

Book a Consultation

ONLINE TEACHING

Teaching online for the first time? All new online instructors are expected to complete the online course training program offered by the CTRE. The OCT is an asynchronous course for new to advanced teachers on the fundamentals of teaching online. The course is taught by our expert instructional designer Rochelle Johnson and is available each semester.

If you're creating a new online course, please reach out to the Distance Education Committee to have it reviewed.

Read more

WHAT'S NEW IN ONLINE RESOURCES

In addition to offering the T3 workshops series, the CTRE has just launched the beta version of the T3 Resource Library on our website. There faculty can access links to internal and external guides, videos, and other resources on teaching, ed tech, research, and university policy. For a taste of the kinds of things you can access in the T3 Resource Library, check out this Inclusive Syllabus Rubric and Template.

Contact us with suggestions for what you'd like to see!

Browse the T3 Library

GRANTS & RESEARCH

The CTRE is working to ensure that, as the university continues its upward trajectory, so too do the resources offered to faculty for their research, teaching, and professional development. Full-time faculty are encouraged to apply for competitive grants to support their work each Fall and Spring.

Grant applications are reviewed based on set criteria by the CTRE Faculty Advisory Board. Reach out to get involved.

Apply for a Grant

Visit Our Website!