

GIFT Exchange

Advocacy in the Classroom: Attending to LGBTQIA+ and Gender-Expansive Identities through Experi

Diversity and Inclusion

Cortny Stark, Jeff Peterson

Achieving competency as a multiculturally-informed educator is a lifelong process of enhancing one's knowledge of identities and cultures, skills in attending to the needs of diverse students, and awareness of one's own biases. In the classroom environment, educators must cultivate an inclusive space where the experience and perspectives of students from marginalized and underserved communities are represented and honored. This GIFT Exchange will provide examples of several experiential activities that will aid educators in facilitating positive dynamic learning experiences about LGBTQIA+ and gender diverse identities.

Capture That Lecture! Innovative Uses and Lessons Learned From Five Years of Using Lecture Capture

Instructional Technology

Scott Kupferman

This GIFT Exchange will explore the world of lecture capture technology, including Panopto, which is free and available to all UCCS faculty. Lecture capture combines audio, screen capture, video, captions, transcripts, and other features that support student learning and engagement. Innovative uses of this technology will be shared, with a particular focus on supports for students with disabilities. Lessons learned from five years of using lecture capture will also be discussed.

From a Teaching Philosophy to a Living Teaching Statement

Assessment

Karin Larkin, Michelle Neely, Tisha Mendiola Jessop

Sponsored by the Faculty Assembly Women's Committee, this GIFT exchange is about recrafting your teaching philosophy and turning it to a living teaching statement with tips for building a good teaching portfolio. The statement and portfolio forms one leg of our RPT and annual evaluation documents and can be a powerful indicator of teaching effectiveness. We offer tips on turning your teaching philosophy into a purposeful and reflective teaching statement and how to demonstrate your efficacy in the classroom without relying on biased FCQs. We will offer tools, tips to get started, and additional resources for identifying, updating, and refining your teaching statement and portfolio.

Got OER?

Planning for Teaching and Learning

Angie Dodson, Linda Button, David Weiss, Susan Vandagriff, Baye Herald

Looking for course material that is... More affordable and accessible for students? Customizable to better support your course topics and activities? Proven to increase student engagement and success? Then, check out how to experience SUCCESS through the use of open educational resources (OER). This exchange interactively introduces the steps for Starting, Using, Choosing, Customizing, Educating, Surveying, and Seeking OER.

How to use Microsoft Teams to increase student participation and earn better grades

Instructional Technology

Greg Williams

In my experience - Engineering - students often times wait until the last second to get help on homework and often feel like they are the only ones experiencing the lack of understanding for various topics covered in class. In this presentation, I'll show how to utilize Microsoft teams so that students can help each other by sharing notes, helping each other with homework, and understanding the material better. I will show how to create a Class Team, add students into the team, utilize the class notebook to take classroom notes (instead of using the whiteboard) and how to promote collaboration between students.

No Right Answers: Using Visual Thinking Strategies for activating engagement & critical thinking

Teaching and Learning Outside the Classroom

Daisy McGowan

Imagine your first-year students having both the confidence and communication skills to debate complex concepts with their classmates and you, disagreeing civilly and building on information from others in the process. This roundtable will share how college educators can implement Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) as a model for authentic discovery in their courses and collaborate with GOCA, UCCS' academic art galleries program, which is a freely available

resource to faculty and students. Visual Thinking Strategies is an inquiry-based teaching strategy in which students express opinions based on detailed observations of works of art and provide evidence to back them up. The goal is not to teach the history of a work of art but instead to encourage open-ended discussion with no “right” or “wrong” answers. VTS requires no special art training for the facilitator or the students. The goal of VTS is not to teach the history of a work of art but, rather, to encourage students to observe independently and to back up their comments with evidence.

Professional Development Design to Improve Teaching and Learning

Planning for Teaching & Learning

Kacey Ross, Michelle Brown

Effective teaching and learning relies on faculty who never stop developing as educators and professionals. In 2017 and in 2018, the First-Year Rhetoric and Writing (FYRW) program at UCCS initiated two different programs designed to foster the growth of faculty and, ultimately, our effectiveness as teachers. This GIFT discusses these initiatives—an ongoing program called “Flex PD” and an annual event called a “Pedagogy Showcase.” Flex PD was developed by the FYRW governance group in an effort to give faculty more autonomy over what types of professional development work they undertook and to reward (compensate) work our faculty were already doing. Flex PD is a menu of options for how faculty can meet their contractual professional development requirement. It includes items like discussing scholarship with a colleague, attending a “brown bag” session, joining a teaching circle, and serving as a faculty mentor for a student group. The “Pedagogy Showcase” is an annual opportunity for faculty to share innovative parts of their teaching with colleagues in a mini-conference setting. In 15-20 minutes each, faculty have presented on topics such as effective forms of peer review, ways to integrate current events into class 'on the fly', building community in the classroom, integrating reflective practices into coursework, and creating multimodal assignments, among many others. Together, these initiatives have helped FYRW faculty stretch, grow, and develop over the last two years. If you're interested in enhancing the professional development opportunities available to faculty in your program or department, come and learn more!

Quick, Easy, and Free ways to Engage Your Students and Assess Student Learning

Classroom Methods

Katherine Cliff

"Does that make sense?" Crickets. How do you know, really KNOW, that your students understood what you tried to teach them today? Maybe a handful of students ask and answer questions, but do they speak for the group as a whole? We will demonstrate the use of simple engagement techniques that you can easily incorporate into the way you already teach, including the think-pair-share structure, the Sage and Scribe structure, and multiple response strategies. We will present varied FREE technology tools that you can use to get your students involved in their learning, such as Socrative, Plickers, and MyOpenMath. We will discuss how to plan time into every lecture for student participation (and formative assessment). Attendees will participate in creating simple activities in their own content areas, and come out of this session with a clear idea of how to plan for student engagement.