

NVCC's Center for Teaching (CFT)

Spring Newsletter

2021



Welcome to Spring 2021! You made it! We know that there has been so much change over this past year – globally, nationally, and locally. It has forced us to dig deep, find resilience, cultivate compassion, and practice flexibility... as humans, and as educators. Our Center for Teaching (CFT) is here to support you, as you continue to support your students.

This newsletter contains information about our local and systemwide CFT spring programming, as well as guidance about where you can find more resources related to teaching and learning. There are also opportunities for you to guide us... help us best support you by sharing your programming suggestions and/or proposals. Our continued themes for this academic year are **Educational Equity, Online Pedagogy, and Self-Care**. Our events and resources will be anchored by those three overarching themes. We will be offering **live virtual events and providing digital resources and teaching tips through our NVCFT-Teaching-and-Learning Blackboard site**.

Reach out! Contacts: **Nikki McGary** (CFT Chair): nmcgary@nv.edu; and **Ruth Urbina-Lilback** (Teaching & Learning Consultant): rurbina-lilback@nv.edu

CFT Events: Spring 2021

Comparative Suffering and Finding Meaning

Monday, February 1st @ 12:30 – 2:00 PM



The pandemic has brought about this idea that we are all in this together, a universal experience. This is true, however we have each had our own individual experiences. Understanding how our suffering is our own and that comparing ourselves to others prevents us from finding "meaning" will be the focus of this CFT Event with Professor Christine Cocchiola.

EVENT LINK: <https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/a28a6df982904a4f8dd0e4c870f3bf81>

Digging Deeper with OER

Wednesday, February 3rd @ 2:00 – 3:00 PM



OPEN EDUCATIONAL
RESOURCES

This program will outline strategies for searching, evaluating, and implementing OER. The presenter will cover such resources as Creative Commons, digital reserves from the Library, open textbook options, OER repositories, and low-cost courseware. Hosted by Jenna Stebbins, Librarian and OER Library Liaison. **Note:** please email Jenna Stebbins to share which disciplines you would like featured in her presentation: jstebbins@nv.edu

EVENT LINK: <https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/79212e5d966d4f4f9023ae4a9cd3ccec>

Lunch and Learn: “Zipcode Destiny: The Persistent Power of Place and Education”

Thursday, February 11th @ 12:30 – 1:30 PM

Did you know that only about 7.5% of children of relatively low income will have the chance to reach the top fifth of the US income bracket? And that if those children grow up in a rural area, their likelihood of reaching the top fifth is at least twice as opposed to children in urban cities? What factors are strong predictors of upward mobility? And yes, race and education as CERTAINLY part of this discussion. Join Ruth Urbina-Lilback and listen to this podcast where researcher Raj Chetty reviews what studies have found around the prospects of economic upward mobility in the US. If you are not able to join us, feel free to listen to it when it works for you: [Hidden Brain - Zipcode Destiny](#)



EVENT LINK: <https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/37c3db42ce364c878285315a69f86804>

Gender Identity & Gender Pronouns

Wednesday, February 17th @ 1:00 – 2:00 PM

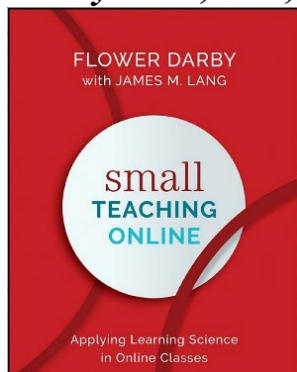


Learning about gender identity and gender pronouns can help us create a safe and respectful learning/work environment. It can also help us build confidence in terms of how we interact with our students and each other, including people we are meeting for the first time. Nikki McGary will review relevant terminology and share strategies for cultivating a space that welcomes all genders, as well as discuss how we can best navigate those uncomfortable moments when we feel unsure or linguistically stumbled.

EVENT LINK: <https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/0fff057bd78f4c3ca689b436cf7f331f>

CFT Spring Book Club: *Small Teaching Online*

Fridays 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, and 3/12 @ 10:00 AM



Find out how to apply learning science in online classes. The concept of small teaching is simple: small and strategic changes have enormous power to improve student learning. Instructors face unique and specific challenges when teaching an online course... This book outlines practical and feasible applications of theoretical principles to help your online students learn. It includes current best practices around educational technologies, strategies to build community and collaboration, and minor changes you can make in your online teaching practice, small but impactful adjustments that result in significant learning gains.

- Explains how you can support your online students
- Helps your students find success in this non-traditional learning environment
- Covers online and blended learning
- Addresses specific challenges that online instructors face in higher education

Small Teaching Online presents research-based teaching techniques from an online instructional design expert and the bestselling author of *Small Teaching*. To learn more about the book, click [here](#).

*There is **unlimited access to a digital copy** through our Library (thanks NVCC Library!!). For the link to the digital copy: [click here](#). If you would like a hard copy of the book, please RSVP ASAP so it can be mailed directly to your home address: Nikki McGary, nmcgary@nv.edu. Hard copies are limited to 6 people. But there is no limit to the size of the book club since we have unlimited digital access. The more the merrier!*

EVENT LINK (4 sessions): <https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/bf6236f1b47e481989258c958a4a6c93>

CFT DROP-IN's

Tuesdays 2/23, 3/30, and 4/27 @ 3:00 – 4:00 PM



CFT DROP-IN's are back! Drop by for a few minutes or as long as you like in these sessions. Do you have ideas you want to run by someone? Do you have questions or need help with something you are trying in your teaching? We are NOT experts, but we are here to offer a listening ear, suggestions and maybe even run ideas by you 😊. It can feel like an isolating teaching environment – but know you are not alone! Hosted by: Ruth Urbina-Lilback (your TLC). Additional sessions by appointment – contact Ruth: rurbina-lilback@nv.edu

EVENT LINK (3 sessions): <https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/a99010cc2a984608b4f973681c5717e2>

The Sacred Syllabi: Applying an Equity Lens to Our Contractual Obligation to Students (co-sponsored with the SJS)

Thursday, March 11th @ 12:30 – 2:00 PM



In this interactive and hands-on virtual workshop, professors Cocchiola, Taylor, and McGary will provide a space to assess our assumptions, values, attitudes, and beliefs that shape our teaching. It's an opportunity to discern how our syllabus welcomes students, affirms

them, demystifies college, our expectations, and the course requirements as well as challenging policies and practices that may disadvantage historically marginalized students. Begin the journey as we think about the experiences of each and every student and our responsibility to provide a contract that is both inclusive and equitable.

EVENT LINK: <https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/b345bdeb6e81420a9f41dcc770c38f3>

Your Story of Resilience: A facilitated writing workshop

Friday, March 26th @ 10:00 – 11:00 AM



As a way to continue this Fall's Spirit of Teaching program, this workshop will allow faculty to identify a personal time of resilience and explore it through lightly facilitated writing prompts and exercises. Participants don't have to have attended previous sessions to attend the workshop, however all are encouraged to share

their own stories of resilience. Learning to trust one's own writing voice is an ongoing process with which to both strengthen personal writing practice and inform the teaching of it to our students. Hosted by Cindy Eastman, Adjunct Professor of English.

EVENT LINK: <https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/70c6e19280da4ed18db92f1e199e83ec>

Bring *Hamilton* into the room where it happens: your classroom!

Wednesday, April 7th @ 3:00 – 4:00 PM



Please join Professors Gil Harel and Chris Rempfer as they share how you can use the musical, *Hamilton*, to illuminate a variety of pedagogical and disciplinary best practices in your classrooms with a contemporary resource that speaks your students' language. We have ideas to aid you conceptually and practically in a wide variety of disciplines: History, English, Communications, Sociology, Anthropology, Political Science—

even Mathematics! Everyone knows *Hamilton* is brilliant. We'll discuss why and offer opportunities to help *Hamilton* kick-start your curriculum!

EVENT LINK: <https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/a44f1bbcc93c463aa63c976e263388a1>



Library Database Spotlight on STEM

Tuesday, February 23rd @ 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

Librarians will highlight some of the best resources for STEM, including Films on Demand, Science Reference Center, GreenFile, Statista, and more.



EVENT LINK: <https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/c6c3faf02de74ed3ac0b59f0972c5370>

Library Database Spotlight on Business

Thursday, March 4th @ 11:00 AM



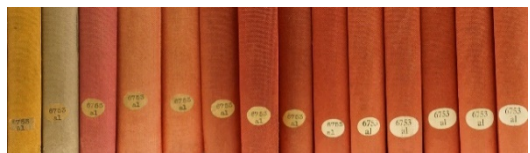
Librarians will highlight some of the best resources for Business, including ABI/Inform, Small Business Reference Center, Statista, MainFile company profiles, and the Newspapers like the NY Times and Wall Street Journal.

EVENT LINK: <https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/28f640a5f10140339196e5427222fbd0>

Library Database Spotlight on English

Thursday, April 15th @ 12:30 PM

Librarians will highlight some of the best resources for English, including Writer's Reference Center, Bloom's Literature, the Gale Series Drama, Poetry, and Short Stories for Students, Literary Reference Center Plus, and JSTOR.



EVENT LINK: <https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/519d1bab16dd4ca3a213928d72ddb6c6>

Library Database Spotlight on the Arts

Tuesday, May 4th @ 12:30 PM

Librarians will highlight some of the best resources for the Arts, including Films on Demand, ArtStor, Swank Digital Campus, JSTOR, and more.



EVENT LINK: <https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/67e59a12b2e240948dcb0289f8bd2f99>



Monday Morning Mentor

NVCC's Center for Teaching is continuing to share this Spring our subscription to the Monday Morning Mentor. Remember, these are **FREE 20-minute presentations** available on demand for 1 week. Expect a Monday email from Ruth Urbina-Lilback (our TLC) each week. **BONUS!** Each presentation offers a certificate of completion that you can use for your personal records. They are also a huge savings to you - these seminars would cost \$100- 200 when purchased for individual view. Please contact Ruth Urbina-Lilback if you have any questions: rurbina-lilback@nv.edu. You can preview the list of upcoming presentations [here](#).

Topic Suggestions?

Please take one minute to anonymously share any suggestions you have for future CFT events. Your responses help shape our programming and ensure that we are meeting your needs! Click [here](#) for a very, very short survey.

Call for Proposals:

Yes, we teach our classes. But we can also teach each other! **Do you have something related to teaching and learning that you would like to share?** Perhaps you have an activity that works, a framework that guides your teaching, an assignment that students love, or a skill and/or perspective from which others can glean insight? The truth is that we are all working so hard independently... and sometimes, it is easy to forget how much we can learn from one another. Take a minute to reflect and consider what you have to offer. Sometimes the most simple things can have a profound impact. Contact Nikki McGary (NVCC's CFT Chair; nmcgary@nv.edu) and/or Ruth Urbina-Lilback (NVCC's CFT Teaching & Learning Consultant; rurbina-lilback@nv.edu) to talk about your ideas. We are excited to hear from you!

Our CFT Blackboard Site:

NVCFT_Teaching_and_Learning: NVCFT_Teaching_and_Learning

Instructor: Nikki McGary; Jenna Stebbins; Ruth Urbina-Lilback;

Our NVCFT_Teaching_and_Learning Blackboard site currently provides the following:

- Event Resources
 - From fall 2020, that includes resources from events related to OER, rubrics, engaging discussions, high-impact practices for student success, self-care, resilience, and gratitude. From the Event Resources menu item, you can explore the resources and recordings associated with each event. Event resources for spring will be posted as they happen.
- Additional Resources
 - Icebreaker ideas (for online, LRON, and traditional classes).
- On-Demand Professional Development
 - Links to the Monday Morning Mentor, Go2Knowledge, and the K. Patricia Cross Academy.
- Plagiarism Tutorial (created by NVCC's Library!)
 - This tutorial can help prevent plagiarism in your classes! Check it out and upload it into your own class sites! Students who complete the tutorial get a certificate of completion.
- “Show & Tell” – quick teaching tips

- These are five-minute videos featuring quick teaching tips. If you want to contribute to the collection, please contact us!
- CFT Newsletters
 - There will be a CFT Newsletter each semester, and they will be archived here.

We will be updating our Blackboard site regularly. If you have any additional resources that you would like to add, please email us! And please let us know if you don't have access to our Blackboard site but would like to be enrolled! [Nikki McGary at nmcgary@nv.edu]

Reach Out to Ruth (our TLC!):



As the NVCC's Teaching and Learning Consultant, **Ruth Urbina-Lilback** works to create opportunities for professional development in areas of teaching and learning for full and adjunct faculty and instructional staff. She serves in our local NVCC CFT committee, as well as the State-wide Steering Committee. At the state level, she works with TLC's from other colleges to develop and offer cooperative programs catered to meet the needs of all community college faculty in the system. Ruth is a resource at NVCC, and she is available on a confidential basis to faculty who seek assistance with teaching and learning. Contact: rurbina-lilback@nv.edu

Upcoming State-wide CFT Programs and Events

More information at the Connecticut CFT site: <https://ctcft.org/>

Please be on the lookout for more updates re: statewide events from Ruth!

Pathways Workshops: The Pathways Workshops are didactic in nature – they teach participants specific concepts and techniques, and focus on practical implementation in the college classroom. The overarching theme this year is **Diversity in Teaching** with a “How to be an Antiracist Educator” series. The next event is on Friday, February 12th from 3-5:30 pm for a virtual workshop on *Creating Inclusive Antiracist Educational Experiences* with Dr. Bryan Dewsbury, Associate Professor of Biology at the University of Rhode Island. During this workshop we will discuss the contexts that drive the need for inclusive practices, and how an understanding of those contexts determines which inclusive approaches we can enact to create inclusive antiracist educational experiences for our students. Please see the email from Ruth Urbina-Lilback dated 1/25/21 for more information. You can register at <https://tinyurl.com/CFTFEB> (space is limited, so register now!).

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Registration is simple: Enter your name, your college email address and the password of your choice. Do not wait - join our online community of learners from our 12 community colleges. Sample Webinar titles include: Best Practices for Student Success in Developmental Education, Best Practices in College Teaching: Creating an Active Learning Environment, Creating Tests that Assess Higher Order Thinking Skills, Diversity, Supporting First-Generation Students: Providing Access, Maximizing Student Achievement & Increasing Persistence.

NVCC CFT Committee:

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Ruth Urbina-Lilback ([Teaching & Learning Consultant](#)): rurbina-lilback@nv.edu

Sandra Eddy (Professor, CIS, Business)

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Mitch Holmes (Professor, Business)

Kim O'Donnell (Professor, Psychology)

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Steve Parlato (Professor, English)

Julia Petitfrere (Professor, English)

Carlos Plaza (Assistant Professor, Math)

Chris Rempfer (Assoc. Professor, English)

Kathy Taylor (Professor, Legal Studies)

Angela Tiru (Professor, Psychology)