



The Joy Shechtman Mankoff
Center for Teaching & Learning presents ...

Talking Teaching

Fall 2014

PLEASE SAVE THE DATES & JOIN US FOR GREAT CONVERSATIONS . . .

Talking Teaching is a series of informal discussions of teaching-related topics—suggested by faculty members—over food. Talking Teaching provides an opportunity to build community, to pause and reflect on our teaching and on our students' learning

Topics are listed below, with times and preliminary descriptions. *We are looking for discussants for this semester.* For each conversation, eight to ten discussants will bring a question or an idea to spark the collective exchange of ideas. Imagination, not extended preparation, is the only requirement.

Please contact Chad Jones (cjones8@conncoll.edu) if you are interested in attending or serving as a discussant. We hope to see you at these events!

MAKING OUR CLASSES MORE INCLUSIVE

FRIDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER, 8:30AM TO 10:15 AM

How can we make our classes a more welcoming place for all students, regardless of the subject matter of the course? In this discussion we will consider practical ideas for increasing the inclusiveness of our classes. These include the physical arrangement of the classroom/office, classroom management, and helping all students to relate to the subject matter being taught. We will hear from faculty members who attended an AAC&U Institute on Teaching to Increase Diversity and Equity in STEM as well as perspectives from across disciplines. *Co-sponsored by the Academic Resource Center (ARC) and the Center for the Comparative Study of Race & Ethnicity (CCSRE).*

Discussants include: Christine Chung, Leo Garofalo, Noel Garrett, Ashley Hansen, Mike James, Chad Jones, James Lee, & Ariella Rotramel.

DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE & INNOVATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

FRIDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER, 11:50 AM TO 2:00 PM

One approach to keeping your courses fresh is to routinely develop new assignments. Last year the CTL began to collect examples of original and effective assignments, with the hope of sharing ideas that each of us might find appealing for our own courses. This session will focus on how an assignment might achieve multiple goals: to be inclusive, to promote critical thinking, to make feedback more effective, and to make class time more valuable. We will also discuss ways to determine if a new assignment is effective. Using an existing assignment that you deem in need of revision, you can explore ideas and get feedback from colleagues across campus as you transform the old assignment into something effective, exciting, and new.

CAPITALIZING ON THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE: SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

FRIDAY, 3 OCTOBER, 11:50 AM TO 2:00 PM

How does the CELS or Center summer internship, which is completed by approximately 75% of our rising seniors, impact your teaching? Do you use your students' experience in your course? Do your advisees alter the trajectory of their plan of study as they prepare for their internship, or after they return from it? How can students gain a greater appreciation for how their internship relates to your courses? Join a group of students, CELS counselors, and Center directors to explore ideas for further connecting the internship to the work you do in your courses.

This event will include student participants; it is part of a new CTL series called "Talking Teaching Too," which emphasizes the exchange of ideas about teaching & learning between and among students and faculty members.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE CURRICULAR REVISION PILOTS?

Offered at two times ...

FRIDAY, 10 OCTOBER, 8:30AM TO 10:15 AM

THURSDAY, 16 OCTOBER, 11:50 AM to 2:00 PM

As we continue the curricular revision process, several pilots are being implemented to test out proposed ideas. These pilots include first year seminars, some with residentially-based clusters, team advising, ConnCourses, and others. In these two discussions we will hear from those who are participating in the pilots about how they are going and what is being learned. This will be an opportunity to brainstorm about how to build upon the positive aspects of the pilots to revise the curriculum as a whole. *Co-sponsored by the Office of the Dean of Studies, FSCC, & EPC.*

CONNECTING YOUR RESEARCH OR CREATIVE OUTPUT WITH YOUR CLASSROOM

FRIDAY, 31 OCTOBER, 8:30 AM TO 10:15 PM

As faculty, many of us experience our teaching roles as separate from and sometimes as obstacles to our own research and / or creative output in our fields. This session will explore ways in which the classroom can be used to facilitate or enhance our other work and strategies to bring our own work into the classroom. What are some of the approaches we might use to enlist students to participate in or contribute to our own research as part of their coursework? What are the ways this can benefit them and us? What distinctive pedagogical issues arise when we bring our own work into the classroom and how can these be negotiated in productive ways?

This event will include student participants; it is part of a new CTL series called "Talking Teaching Too," which emphasizes the exchange of ideas about teaching & learning between and among students and faculty members.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT: WHAT IS IT? & HOW DO YOU GET IT?

THURSDAY, 6 NOVEMBER, 11:50 AM to 2:00 PM

Research into Connecticut College student experiences points to the importance of faculty-student engagement to student success and positive perceptions of their education. As faculty members at a small selective liberal arts college, we have the opportunity to truly engage our students. For the past 4 years faculty have submitted proposals to the Faculty-Student Engagement Fund to support activities that enhance our courses. In this workshop you can learn from our colleagues' efforts, generate ideas for activities that are inclusive and enrich the experience in your courses, and develop your own proposal to be submitted in early January for a Spring 2015 course.