



ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN  
TEACHING & LEARNING (CETL)  
Newsletter, December 2023

*"If we want to grow as teachers -- we must do something alien to academic culture: we must talk to each other about our inner lives -- risky stuff in a profession that fears the personal and seeks safety in the technical, the distant, the abstract."*

*Parker Palmer*

*The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life*

## **CETL – We're here for YOU!**

At the end of fall semester, you may be reviewing your teaching and making plans for next semester. If you have questions, need to knock around ideas, or are looking for resources, email us for a consultation ([CETL@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:CETL@stcloudstate.edu)). **If we don't have the answer, we will help you find it.** Do you have questions, ideas, and feedback? Let us know [using this link](#).

**FINAL Idea Swap of the Semester (CETL) – Designing your syllabus with students in mind.**

**Thurs. Dec 7, 10-11 am, online.** Join us in this idea swap session with [Maegan Jones, CLA, demonstrating use of Liquid Syllabi \(think videos, not water or melted wax\).](#)

We will watch Dr Jones' demo, then participate in lightly structured conversation on syllabus design.

### **CETL – Finals Week Respite Station**

**Dec 11-14, MC 310.** Stop by the CETL conference room **from noon to 3 pm during finals week**

for a break, nap, conversation, cup of tea, or to borrow a book from the CETL resource library.

### **UPCOMING TEACHING & LEARNING EVENTS**

#### **End of Semester Faculty/Staff Connection**

**December 13, 5-7 pm** Olde Brick Restaurant, St Cloud, MN. Whether you're new to SCSU,

wanting to renew and strengthen connections, or need an end-of-term break, we hope you will come hang out!

## **TEACHING IRL @ SCSU**

### **stop, start, continue?**

Many instructors use these questions to gather input from students. As you reflect on fall semester, turn the questions to **yourself**. Let the answers guide your decisions for spring semester:

#### **To support student learning and success:**

- What might I stop doing?
- What might I start doing?
- What might I continue doing?

## **#TEACHERS ARE HUMAN**

Whew! It has been a semester of change, upon change, upon change here at SCSU! When times are tough, it's natural to either push down difficult feelings or ruminate in them. Take a look at this mood elevator and do an end of the semester check in.



Ideally, each of us would operate in the curious, interested zone or above, but we're human. We experience all emotions.

- Where's your mood right now?
- What advice would you give to a friend experiencing those emotions?
- Allow yourself to take that advice

## SOTL-INFORMED TEACHING

Being an effective teacher is an ongoing craft. Looking for research-supported practical information

about teaching? We recommend **these two resources** for on-demand webinars, worksheets, videos, and toolkits.

- [Online Teaching Toolkit | Resources for Online Instruction \(acue.org\)](https://www.acue.org/resources/online-teaching-toolkit/)
- [Faculty eCommons - Online Course Design Support](#)  
(reach out to CETL or SCSU Online for more info)

## AND MinnState's [NED Courses](#)

- Academic Equity [Webinars \(on demand\)](#)
- Regular and Substantive Interaction and Universal Design for Learning [\(on demand webinar\)](#)
- Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>-Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 [Empathy by Design](#)
- Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>-Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 [Manage Course Dates to Improve Student Engagement](#)

See you at Spring Semester Convocation! January 2 - 5

## THE CETL TEAM

**Janet Tilstra**, PhD CCC-SLP (CSD) Faculty Fellow for SoTL & CETL Director

**Michelle Kukoleca-Hammes**, PhD (Poly Sci) CETL New Faculty Fellow

**Paul Chappell**, CETL Office Manager

**David Perrault**, Graduate Assistant  
**Fairooz Nawar**, Student Assistant