

CELT Teaching Tip for November 14, 2019

About the *Inclusive Classroom* training

The Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT) is strategizing the most effective method to support the "University actions to address racism and discrimination" outlined in these ten actions (PDF) (<http://bit.ly/2KewTql>), and President Wintersteen's message from Nov. 8, 2019 (PDF) (<http://bit.ly/32LduUV>). CELT has begun planning to, "... conduct annual training for faculty in each academic department on the importance of, and approaches to, creating an inclusive classroom environment." More information to come in December.

For resources, visit CELT's Creating an Inclusive Classroom website (<http://bit.ly/celtinclusion>). Particularly the downloadable CELT's Mindful and Learner-Centered Syllabus Checklist (PDF) (<http://bit.ly/celtsyllabus>), and CELT's Strategies to Create an Inclusive Course (PDF) (<http://bit.ly/celt-strat>).

An opportunity to give thanks

Showing thanks through the lesson of grace in teaching

Recently, a colleague shared, "The lesson of grace in teaching: From weakness to wholeness, the struggle and the hope" blog post (<http://bit.ly/2RT1xau>) with me. This inspiring talk was written by Francis Edward Su (Professor, Harvey Mudd College) upon receipt of the Mathematical Association of America's Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award (<http://bit.ly/2RTqPW1>).

Professor Su writes, "... good instructional techniques are necessary for good teaching. But they are not sufficient. They are not the foundation." He elaborates that instead, grace-filled relationships are the foundation for good teaching in that "grace gives you the freedom to explore, freedom to fail, freedom to let students take control of their learning, freedom to affirm the struggling student by your weakness."

Professor Su provides a number of excellent ways to ensure grace is the foundation of teaching by learning students' names, providing opportunities for students to make connections with the material, and sharing with students something of ourselves, whether it is the struggles that we have faced in our academic careers or taking an interest in their lives.

Professor Su closes his talk with, "... And not only will grace inspire our students, but it will also inspire us. Just like my students, the moments I remember best from my teaching are the grace-filled moments I have shared with my students and colleagues and former teachers, many of whom are here today. I want to thank them because I didn't deserve those blessed moments. But they gave them to me anyway."

Who makes you feel like a valued member of the ISU community?

The Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT) is partnering with ISU Learning Communities, the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, the Student Government, and the Graduate and Professional Student Senate to celebrate and promote effective teaching, advising and mentoring with the annual recognition initiative #CyThx at Iowa State University.

We hope that all Cyclones take time to acknowledge their Iowa State University faculty, graduate teaching assistants, peer mentors, advisers, faculty/staff mentors, colleagues, and more. Before November 30, Cyclones are encouraged to answer, "Who makes you feel like a valued member of the ISU community?" via our #CyThx at ISU online submission web form (<http://bit.ly/cythx>).

The #CyThx honorees will be recognized with an email and an acknowledgment on the #CyThx webpage (<http://www.celt.iastate.edu/cythx/>) between fall semester grade submission on December 26, and January 10. Additionally, campus leadership will receive notification of who received a #CyThx.

With a joy for teaching,

Sara Marcketti, Director
Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching

CELT Faculty Spotlight: Alex Ramirez

Alex Ramirez, Chair of the CELT Advisory Board is an Associate Professor in Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine (VDPAM) and Interim Assistant Dean for Academic and Student Affairs in the College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Ramirez suggests to "Show students that you care. Listen to their concerns/comments. Listening does not imply agreement or that the student is always right; it just provides an opportunity for you to hear their perspective. Reply to their emails promptly even if it is a simple acknowledgment that you received their message. This will keep communication channels open; which will ultimately help you become better and will greatly impact students' life and learning."

Further, he says "Get to know CELT right away. CELT can help you pave a good, solid path to success so the earlier you can get to know them and their resources, the easier it will be for you."

In particular, Dr. Ramirez recommends the CELT Teaching and Learning Academy (<http://bit.ly/celt-tla>). Having an academy helps develop a peer group of faculty in other departments in which you can share ideas and learn from their experiences; individuals which otherwise you may not have ever interacted with. This program is an obvious top choice!

Miller Faculty Fellowship proposals due Dec. 9th

The Miller Faculty Fellowship program annually provides recipients with opportunities to enhance their scholarly work in undergraduate academic programs and develop innovative approaches to enhance student learning. Recipients have up to 12 months to meet their project goals. The deadline for Miller Faculty Fellowship proposals for the 2020-21 academic year is Monday, Dec. 9. Program and application details are online (<http://bit.ly/celt-miller>). Questions may be directed to CELT, celt-miller@iastate.edu.

Learning Online: Canvas and Beyond

Make your course accessible to all students

Canvas provides a number of tools to ensure all students are able to use your materials.

- Verify your tables, headings, colors, images, and links with the built-in accessibility checker (<http://bit.ly/2Uq7Pkm>).
- Include ALT text on your embedded images to ensure students who rely on screen readers are provided with access to the same content as other students. Learn more on ISU's Digital Access website (<http://bit.ly/2niNSdy>).
- Uploaded PDF, PowerPoint and Word files should be checked before being added to Canvas. See how to check your Office files (<http://bit.ly/2rANA2F>) and make your PDFs accessible (<http://bit.ly/2mmNsUo>).
- Videos uploaded to Studio can be automatically captioned (<http://bit.ly/2O8znrB>). Users have reported up to 85% accuracy and corrections are quick and easy to make.
- Use the Link Validation tool to check all web links within your course (<http://bit.ly/36ZlvYv>) and see details regarding each broken link.

Need help?

Stop by our CELT Open Labs. visit CELT's Canvas Open Labs webpage (<http://bit.ly/canvas-open-lab>) for days, times, and location or contact Canvas 24/7 support by clicking on the ?Help icon on the Global Navigation menu (far left of your screen) in Canvas for the 24/7 support options.

CELT's Upcoming Programs

To view our program descriptions and our most up-to-date schedule, visit CELT's Event and Registration webpage (<http://bit.ly/celtevents>):

- Seminar, ISU Online Learning Community (ISU-OLC), Nov. 15 (11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.)
- Seminar, Service-Learning Teaching and Learning Community, Nov. 20 (11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.)
- Meeting, Team-Based Learning (TBL) Teaching and Learning Community, Nov. 22 (1:10-2:30 p.m.)
- Seminar, Discuss Published Education Research in Your Discipline, Dec. 2 (4:10-5 p.m.)
- Workshop, Building an inclusive and learner-centered syllabus, Dec. 3 (4:10-5 p.m.)
- Workshop, Applying the Quality Matters Rubric (APPQMR), Dec. 4 (9-4:30 p.m.)
- Workshop, Turning your scholarly teaching into Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL), Dec. 5 (12:10-1:30 p.m.)
- Seminar, Service-Learning Teaching and Learning Community, Dec. 11 (11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.)

How to Register

For in-person events, register via the Learn@ISU website (<http://learn.iastate.edu>), or email your name, department, name of the event, date of the event to celt@iastate.edu. Many of our workshops are available in-person and/or online via Zoom. If it's offered online via Zoom, registration will be a part of the ISU Event Calendar entry.