

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

Talking Teaching

Fall 2021



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

Flexibility in Face of the Unknown: Strategies for Teaching Fall 2021

Thursday 9 September 2021, 9 AM to 0:30 AM via Zoom (link will be sent to registrants).

How can we best approach and “plan” for the uncertainties of the upcoming semester? As we enter the Fall semester, there are many unknowns, in addition to anxiety and stress around returning to all in-person teaching and learning. How can we approach our teaching and work with students to maximize their success and learning, while minimizing stress and anxiety for ourselves and for students? How can we find flexibility within College policies and expectations? What can you do to mitigate the potential disruptions caused by Covid, by student absences, or any potential illness related to ourselves or our family? Flexibility, community, and equity were key concepts for our teaching and course design this past year, so what lessons have we learned that we can apply to our current teaching, especially to ensure full participation?

Co-sponsored by FSCC and Research Support & Curricular Technology.

Finding Your Center in a Turbulent Semester: A Workshop for Faculty

Offered twice:

Friday 17 September 2021, 10 AM to 11:30 AM on Zoom (Link will be sent to registrants)

Wednesday 6 October 2021, 10 AM to 11:30 AM on Zoom (Link will be sent)

As we struggle to find our way in a semester that has already knocked us off our feet, how are you adjusting your ideas about what life will be like? After the disruptions, uncertainty, and trauma of the past 18 months, how do we as faculty take up the rhythms of academic life while honoring what we have learned? What burdens will you set down? What will bring you joy? What other challenges are around the corner? Whatever your stage of burnout, and however you are feeling—fearful, angry, hopeful,

disappointed, or all of the above—in this workshop you will reflect upon what you have observed about yourself over the past months to build a vision for your fall semester. You will leave this workshop with a sense of purpose and intentionality as we face this challenging time.

Facilitated by Karen Gonzalez Rice.

Continuing to Cultivate a Community of Care

Wednesday 29 September 2021, 11:45 AM to 1 PM Online (Link will be sent to registrants)

Given all that faculty and staff are facing, how might we consider our conception of community to respond to our shifting needs and challenges at the interpersonal and institutional level? We are offering this workshop again because of the continuing stress of the pandemic.

Nickita Valero, a Canadian-based community activist, states that a community of care involves “being there for people without them having to take the initial first step. It's about adopting a [systematic] ethos of compassion and very intentionally applying that.” In other words, a community of care asks people to move beyond promoting a vision of individual self care by intentionally creating a community that takes the responsibility of caring for one another seriously. This approach can involve a range of acts such as checking in on folks to see how they are doing to cooking meals for folks to working for the collective improvement of our campus culture.

Some questions we will discuss include:

- With all the upheavals, shifts, and challenges that are continuing how can we foreground a community of care here at Connecticut College?
- What are the values and practices it should involve? How does such a community relate to the larger mission of the college?
- How can faculty, staff, and administrators actively create community together?
- Are there things we could do for one another, both on- and off-campus, that could help sustain us as whole people and make our work for and with our students more powerful?

This workshop will offer some tools for thinking about community and some strategies for moving forward.

*Discussants include Ginny Anderson, Cheryl Banker, Tiffany Thiele, and Derek Turner.
Co-sponsored by FSCC and Staff Council.*

If you have yet to complete our anonymous survey please do so at:
<https://forms.gle/MfY2pbeTqgsjmU6f6>

Creating a Community of Care

Thursday 11 November 2021, 3 PM to 4:30 PM on Zoom (Link will be sent to registrants)

This event will build upon the discussions started in “Continuing to Cultivate a Community of Care” and the faculty/staff meeting. We will briefly review the results of the informal faculty & staff survey and then brainstorm concrete suggestions and actions faculty and staff can take as a community to support one another. Please see the original description for more information about the concept of a “community of care.”

Co-sponsored by Staff Council and FSCC.

Bias-Aware Peer Observations Workshop

POSTPONED--new date in Spring 2023 semester

Wednesday 17 November 2021, 4 PM to 5:30 PM

As faculty, we need to think about our own peer observations and how we can minimize bias, especially in the context of our ongoing and ever evolving work of dismantling racism, sexism, homophobia, ableism, and other axes of discrimination and inequity on our campus. How can we mitigate unconscious bias in peer evaluations? Evidence highlighting the persistent presence and impact of unconscious or implicit bias in a variety of work settings is well documented (for a recent meta review of the literature please see Forscher, et. al., 2019). Although ubiquitous, implicit bias can be addressed and changed. Quite simply, “implicit bias changes only when contexts change”(Payne and Hannay, 2021). In a recent article, Edward Pitman (2021) argues that having a structural lens, engaging an intersectional scope, creating a context for repeated cultural engagements, and engaging in an educational model versus one off training are pivotal for changing implicit bias in higher education. In the literature on higher education, implicit bias is primarily discussed in terms of hiring practices, teaching evaluations, and classroom dynamics.

As part of our workshop, we will share a document that will serve as a starting point for drafting something for our campus community.

Co-sponsored by CAPT, FSCC, Division of Institutional Equity, & Inclusion, Center for the Critical Study of Race and Ethnicity (CCSRE), and the organizing committee of the White Colleagues Committed to Dismantling Racism (WCCDR).

Open Educational Resources (OER): Support and Strategies for Using Free, Adaptable & Open Textbooks

Thursday 2 December 2021, 2 PM to 3:15 PM on Zoom (Link will be sent to registrants)
To register please visit <https://conncoll.libcal.com/calendar/ctl/oerocks>.

Are you currently using or considering adopting an open educational resource (OER) as your primary textbook? OER allow for faculty innovation while increasing student access and cost savings. Join a discussion about the OER adoption process, open pedagogy, creating OER, and the future of OER on our campus. Share ideas with colleagues who have implemented open education practices in their courses, and hear about effective approaches to teaching using OERs. We will also discuss the Connecticut College Open Educational Resources (OER) Grant and the 2022 Connecticut Open Educational Resource Grant Program which provides funding and staff support to faculty who wish to create, adapt, or integrate OER into a course.

Co-sponsored by Research Support & Curricular Technology (RS&CT)
