



Welcome Back!

Hello MSUB faculty! The CTL is excited to have you back on campus, and we have lots going on this semester, including a new Faculty Co-Director. Please welcome Dr. Jennifer Scroggins to the role! She joins me (Andrea Aebersold) and Eric Gilbertsen in planning and facilitating CTL activities.

A major CTL project this year is the Canvas transition. You'll be hearing much more from us soon, but I'll give you a brief overview of where we are at. Teaching in Canvas goes live Summer 2025. The main work happening this semester is mostly behind the scenes as we transfer your courses from D2L to Canvas. Our vendor, K16, is managing this transition and will automatically move all your courses from the last 3 years into Canvas. If you have materials that fall outside of this window, we will have instructions on how to download them on your own. More information coming soon! Canvas trainings will begin in Spring 2025.

The CTL theme for this year is [Empowering Student Perseverance](#). We want to learn more about where our students struggle and how the CTL can support faculty in addressing these challenges. See more below about faculty discussions and panels on this topic. And be sure to [check out our events page](#) for all the upcoming opportunities to enhance your teaching!

I hope you had a chance to read good book this summer! I had a few good ones that I'll share. Although it was terrifying, I recommend *Nuclear War: A Scenario* by Annie Jacobsen. This non-fiction book outlines what it would look like should nuclear war begin. Trust me, it's wayyyyy worse than any of us imagine. It was really informative and interesting, but also insanely bonkers in how we got here and how dangerous it is.

Slightly lighter topic though still not a cheery read is *The God of the Woods* by Liz Moore. It's well-done mystery that begins on page 1 when a camper disappears from her bunk house at summer camp. To add to the complexity, the camper's brother disappeared over a decade before this. The writing is excellent, and I couldn't predict the ending.



Faculty Discussion on Disappearing Students

For the 2024 – 2025 academic year, the Center for Teaching and Learning is focusing on student perseverance. Our aim is to better understand institutional data, faculty and student experiences, and where we can support pedagogy and improve student outcomes. We'll have three events in this series. Our first is a discussion on disappearing students – why do they ghost us and how do instructors respond?

Wednesday, September 25th at 3 pm in COE 328 or via Webex

[Please register here!](#)

Faculty Learning Communities on Artificial Intelligence

Do you want to learn more about AI and how to use it in your courses? Our MUS Teaching Scholars, Kari Dahle-Huff and John Pannell, invite you to join a Faculty Learning Community where colleagues can learn and discuss AI together.

Join the League of Exceptional Educational Experimentalists

Facilitated by John Pannell, this FLC seeks to test the AI waters and see what works (and what doesn't) in the classroom. Meeting times will be determined by participants so [sign up and share your availability](#).

AI in Higher Education –Fostering Student Engagement and Assessing Learning

Facilitated by Kari Dahle-Huff, these FLCs focus on enhancing teaching and learning practices and tools. For more information and to sign up, please click on the session title.

[Fostering Student Engagement and AI](#) – Thursday, October 3rd at 1 pm in COE 328.

[Assessing Learning and AI](#) – Thursday, November 14th at 1 pm in in COE 328.

Join the Reflective Practice Series



Pausing to reflect on your teaching and work is a helpful practice, but it's challenging to find the time! The CTL invites faculty to join our new reflective practice community which offers the opportunity to reflect and connect. Here's how it works – the group will spend 15 – 20 minutes on written reflection. If time is tight, you are welcome to head out! If not, interested faculty are then invited to stay and discuss their reflections for another 15 – 20 minutes.

Meetings are bi-weekly on Fridays at 1 pm in both CTL locations and via Webex. The series begins September 13th so [sign up here](#) and a reflective practice journal will be sent to you.

New Resource - Guide to Peer Evaluation

In consultation with research and faculty across campus, the CTL designed [a faculty guide for teaching-focused peer evaluation](#). These are optional guidelines to the classroom observation process which includes downloadable resources such as an observation log and an evaluation letter template. These sources can be modified to fit your discipline and/or DRTC requirements. If you are in need of an evaluation but aren't sure who to ask, the CTL can help connect you with an evaluator.



Epigenetics and the Native Experience: Understanding the Effects of Trauma through a Cultural Lens with Dr. Little Bear

Dr. Richard Littlebear is MSUB's visiting elder from the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. He will be leading this training on epigenetics; the study of how environmental and other factors can change the way genes are expressed. Epigenetic changes don't alter the sequence of a person's genetic code, but they can play an important role in development and health. This training is part of the Native American Achievement Center's "EmpowerED Futures: Bridging the Native American Achievement Gap" project.

Monday, September 9th at 3 pm in COE 328.

[Please register here!](#)

