



December Newsletter

Student Belonging Events



College Belonging Workshops Dr. Lisa Nunn

Dr. Nunn earned her B.A. in Literature and Theater from Whittier College, and both her M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California, San Diego. She is currently a Professor of Sociology at the University of San Diego, where she serves as the Director for the Center for Educational Excellence.

Dr. Nunn is best known for her important work in student belonging. She is the author of *College Belonging* and *33 Simple Strategies: A Week-by-Week Resource for Teaching First-Year and First-Generation Students*. She focuses on the struggle that students experience as they transition from high school to university life. Her books provide practical tools that faculty can use to foster greater academic belonging with their students.

Session 1

Fostering College Belonging

January 11th, 2022 (In-Person)

KSU Ballroom

11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.*

How could colleges foster a greater sense of belonging for students? Understanding how belonging happens in classrooms (academic belonging) and in campus cultures (campus-community belonging) allows everyone to comprehend the significant roles we represent in the lived experiences of students.

* Healthy lunch options are provided for those who have registered for the Working Lunch (01/11/2022)

KSU Ballroom, 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Session 2

Strategies for Fostering Academic Belonging

01/11/2022 (In-Person)

KSU Ballroom

1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.*

Building on session 1, join us for a deeper dive into concrete, practical strategies faculty can use in their teaching and interactions with students to foster college belonging.

Sponsored by the



Center for Teaching and Learning

Office of the Provost

www.kent.edu/ctl



Registration for all sessions is required
Visit www.kent.edu/ctl to register



The Student Belonging Project has allowed your strategies to improve students' sense of belonging to help others at KSU. Shown below are 5 straight-forward strategies that you can consider adopting for your next class session.

End of semester strategies for student belonging:

- Share a story of failure (e.g. exams, courses, job applications, manuscript rejections). This is especially important for first-year students since failure may be a new experience.
- Invite students to reflect on what they have learned, both successful and unsuccessful actions. Remind them that learning from mistakes helps prevent repeating them.
- Ask students to share words of wisdom for students taking your course in the future.
- Say farewell to students when the semester ends. Consider letting them know what you have gained from the semester and invite them to stay connected in future semesters.
- Reiterate the welcome that students will experience during office hours (or student hours as we prefer to call them). Consider using one of the student/office hours templates found here [Student Belonging Resources](#) to create a welcoming environment.

We would love to hear how you are helping to support students' sense of belonging. Please consider using this [link](#) to contribute to our growing database of strategies. **You will be entered into a random drawing to win a prize.**

Congratulations to Student Belonging Project Prize Winner Faculty member from Biological Sciences Regional Campus

As the random drawing winner of the Student Belonging Project, this faculty member believes that communication is key to making students feel a sense of belonging. *"I always encourage students to ask, to share and to communicate with me as well as with their classmates to help each other to learn one course together and to adapt a college life together."*

To read the faculty member's complete strategy and other valuable submissions, visit the Student Belonging Project [website](#)

[Click here to submit your strategy and see others](#)



Other Upcoming Events



e² Save the Date

Friday, March 18, 2022

Open Applications

Spring Reading and Writing Groups

University Teaching Council Summer Teaching Development Grant

Spring 2022 Faculty Reading Group

Faculty reading groups help connect KSU educators interested in building community and developing their teaching through cross-disciplinary conversations. Monthly reading groups will provide an opportunity for participants to engage in meaningful conversations on topics related to teaching, professional development, and trends in higher education. This reading group is primarily intended for Kent State faculty (full or part time); other members of the community are welcome if space is available. Please register to attend by Wednesday, January 15th, 2022. To facilitate interaction, this reading group will be offered synchronously via Teams and in person on Kent campus. You will be able to indicate on the Qualtrics what days/times and formats work for your schedule. A confirmation email and a copy of the book will be sent to all participants before the first meeting.

The Spark of Learning: Energizing College Classroom with the Science of Emotion by Sarah Rose Cavanagh, 2016, West Virginia University Press, 1st Edition.

In her book, *The Spark of Learning*, Sarah Rose Cavanagh seeks to enhance student motivation and learning. Through practical recommendations for teaching in the classroom to connections with neuroscientific research on the brain, she posits that if you as an educator want to capture your students' attention, harness their working memory, bolster their long-term retention, and enhance their motivation, you should consider the emotional impact of

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your teaching style and course design. She brings to bear a wide range of evidence from the study of education, psychology, and neuroscience, and she provides practical examples of successful classroom activities from a variety of disciplines in secondary and higher education. Facilitator: Michelle Corvette, Ph.D., Assistant Director, Center for Teaching and Learning.

Please use the following link to register for the Faculty Reading Group:

[**Register for Faculty Reading Group**](#)

Spring Faculty Writing Groups

The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) will continue to offer space to allow all faculty the opportunity to remain on-track with their writing goals throughout the academic year. Faculty writing groups help faculty maintain, as well as increase, writing productivity and also help faculty overcome writing barriers (Jensen, 2017; Sword, 2017; Geller and Eodice, 2013). These writing groups are for faculty looking for a quiet space for writing and support of any phase in writing that moves you from idea to publication. Informal, yet dedicated Faculty Writing Groups are being formed for this Spring. Please take just a few minutes to indicate your preferences as we begin to form these groups, and we will contact you once the writing groups are formed. Please note that space for each session is limited and groups will be formed based on the order the surveys are returned.

[**Register for Faculty Writing Group**](#)

Summer Teaching Development Grant Applications

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The University Teaching Council's Summer Teaching Development Grant is intended to enhance student learning by engaging faculty to significantly improve teaching methods, develop curricula, or create innovative course materials. The project needs to exceed normal course preparation, and it should either improve current pedagogical practices or introduce new pedagogical methods or materials that will significantly improve teaching and enhance student learning beyond a single course or single faculty member. For more detailed information and a PDF of application questions, visit the [University Teaching Council website](#).

The University Teaching Council has raised the reporting expectation for this grant. Awarded faculty are required to present at the 2022 UTC Celebrating College Teaching Conference on October 21st and submit a Final Grant Summary Report that will minimally include:

- The completed activities during the grant period.
- The measured or anticipated effect of the project in terms of student learning at Kent State.
- The public/peer review of their findings (or the plan for this public/peer review).

A portion of the final award for ten weeks (\$1,000.00) or five weeks (\$500.00) will be withheld until the University Teaching Council has reviewed and accepted the report.

The application deadline for the 2022 Summer Teaching Development Grant is February 4, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. EST. To apply go to the [University Teaching Council Website](#) or go directly to the application by clicking on the button below:

Submit Summer Teaching Development Grant Application

December Featured Faculty

Center for Teaching and Learning



Christie Bartholomew, Ph.D.
Psychology
Trumbull Campus

Dr. Bartholomew is being recognized for her ongoing efforts as a newer faculty member who is committed to making a difference for her students through her continuous improvements in her teaching.



Loubna Bilali, Ph.D.
Department of MCLS
Kent Campus

Dr. Bilali is being recognized for her engagement and attention to evidence-based practices in her classroom.



James Seelye, Ph.D.
Department of History
Stark Campus

Dr. Seelye is being recognized for his commitment to elevating teaching at Kent State.

Learn more about what they have accomplished and view previous featured faculty at

<https://www.kent.edu/ctl/featured-faculty-month>

We would love to hear from you about what you and your colleagues are doing. Email us your nominations at ctl@kent.edu.

Further Learning Opportunities

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Inclusive Teaching Endorsement Opportunity

Kent State instructors are eligible to earn the Inclusive Teaching Endorsement offered by the Ohio College Teaching Consortium. More information on how to take advantage of this opportunity to deepen your learning and commitment to inclusive teaching can be found by clicking the button below.

[Click here to learn more about the endorsement](#)



Connect with Us:

CTL is here to support you; whether it is teaching face-to-face, remote, or a combination of both. Email ctl@kent.edu with your questions and/or set up a consultation time.

ctl@kent.edu

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