CTE
Center for Teaching Excellence

Fall 2017 Newsletter

Message from CTE Chair

CTE have gone through many changes during 2016-17, as it has made its progress to take its role of a faculty-driven organization. Last year, CTE offered eight workshops on teaching, supported four teaching projects and faculty’s participation in conference through CTE’s grant program, and nominated faculty for OATYC teaching award.

Last January CTE’s office moved to Culinary Arts building next to our new meeting room, CU 216. CTE Staff Associate Deb Zvara wonderfully creates an inviting atmosphere in the new office, as she welcomes any faculty who wants to know about CTE’s works. For Co-Chairs, Karin and I, the highlight of last year must be our participation in the Achieve the Dream 2017 Conference, held in San Francisco, in February 2017. We learned about how other community colleges promoted the issue of equity, and what CTE’s role could be to enhance faculty’s awareness of equity. As a result, Karin and I planned CTE’s campus-wide book-reading project, “One Book One Campus,” with a generous support of Provost.

Finally, Co-Chairs want to thank all who contribute to CTE’s impact. CTE especially acknowledges President Ballinger and Dr. Dryden for their continued support, CTE’s Executive Committee, those faculty who volunteer to review grant applications each semester, and CTE workshop leaders and presenters. CTE appreciates their encouragement and help in making CTE a vibrant part of the LCCC campus community.

At last, I thank Karin Hooks, Co-Chair of CTE, for her dedication to re-building and leading CTE last two years. She brought many brilliant ideas and energy to CTE in addition to her beaming personality. Now, Deb and I have to send her with our best wishes, as she is appointed as Interim Dean of Arts and Humanities. Good news also comes along: Marianne Carvour at Health and Wellness Science volunteered to take a leadership of CTE as Co-Chair in the coming semester, while assisting me as Vice Chair this semester. We look forward to an exciting and productive year coming, and we hope to see more faculty get more involved with CTE.

I am honored to continue on leading CTE for the 2017-18. CTE looks forward to an exciting and productive Fall semester, and we hope to see all of you get more involved with CTE’s various project.

Sincerely,

Jewon Woo, CTE Chair
Message from Outgoing Co-Chair

It has been my pleasure to serve alongside Dr. Jewon Woo as CTE Co-Chair for the past two years. In our efforts to promote and support innovative teaching practices across campus during this time, we have reinvigorated CTE, restructured the CTE grant process, and reenergized faculty through a wealth of professional development workshops.

Before I discuss why I’m stepping down as co-chair, allow me to take a moment and encourage you, if you have not already done so, to join CTE’s Executive Committee. As an Executive Committee member, you will help plan on-campus activities related to teaching and learning and explore ways for faculty to share their teaching interests and expertise with their colleagues. The committee meets the third meeting of each month, and all faculty are welcome.

Thanks to my supportive and indefatigable friend Jewon and our talented and knowledgeable support staff, Deb Zvara, my time with CTE has been extremely rewarding. Whether helping to organize Faculty Development Days, publishing CTE’s newsletter, or reviewing grant applications, our work has been accomplished in a collaborative, congenial atmosphere. As I transition into my new role as Interim Dean of Arts and Humanities, I am both nostalgic to think of leaving this comradery behind and excited to pursue new opportunities.

Sincerely,
Karin Hooks

CTE News Updates

CTE’s New Location

Last January, CTE moved from its old office in University Center to our new home in Culinary Arts Building 225. Deb is in her office on Wednesday and Thursday.

New CTE Executive Committee Members

CTE deeply appreciates the faculty who joined CTE for the first time in the year of 2016-17 and welcome all returning faculty. Here are our new members of CTE Executive Committee: Marianne Carvour (H&W), Natalie Daniels (A&H), Nancy Halbrooks (A&H), Tammy Macek (E-Learning and S&H), Justin Sevenker (A&H), and Karen Sisk (A&H). CTE Committee meets six times during an academic year to plan CTE workshops and related activities. Fall 2017 meetings are scheduled on the third Monday of each month from 3:30 to 4:15 pm in room CU 216. The remaining dates are October 16 and November 20. Bring your passion for teaching!

Syllabus Model

Last summer, CTE and E-Learning (Tammy Macek and Karla Aleman) teamed to revise a syllabus model with up-to-date information and policies. The new model syllabus format can be downloaded from https://www.lorainccc.edu/cte/center-teaching-excellence/resources-and-links/syllabus-model/
“One Book, One Campus” provides the opportunity to create an interdisciplinary project to enhance equity on campus. CTE selects one book for a common reading experience to share with the LCCC campus community, including faculty, staff, and students. The project helps the LCCC strengthen its mission of raising the community’s awareness of equity issues. By reading one book, administrators, faculty, staff, and students can create a common ground for discussion on equity, which leads underrepresented students to unite academically through the sense of community. CTE facilitates book-discussion meetings, offers mini-lesson plan suggestions, and leads open forums in Fall 2017. In the following semester, we will organize a student essay competition and a campus-wide conference on the book to create the LCCC community’s sense of connectedness and mutual support.

One Book, One Campus for 2017-18 is Rebecca Skloot’s *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* (2010, Broadway Books). If you need free copies for your students, please contact cte@lorainccc.edu or 440-366-4156.

LCCC librarian Bethany Miller created LibGuide page for instructors and students. You can find the link to the Libguide here: [http://libguides.lorainccc.edu/immortallifeofhenriettalacks](http://libguides.lorainccc.edu/immortallifeofhenriettalacks). She will help instructors and students find resources for any project related to *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* in the year of 2017-18.

Please join book discussions on Skloot’s *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, which are followed by Dr. Harry Kestler’s lab tour. You can register at [https://www.lorainccc.edu/cte/one-book-one-campus/](https://www.lorainccc.edu/cte/one-book-one-campus/).

**Book Discussion Dates in Fall 2017**
- October 4th, Wednesday 3 pm IL 113  Facilitator, Dr. Karin Hooks
- November 1st, Wednesday 3 pm IL 113  Facilitator, Professor Kim Karshner

**Facilitate CTE Workshops**

CTE is looking for Workshop leaders from among LCCC’s faculty and staff. If you have an idea for a CTE workshop, please let us know. We will be happy to work with you to help make the event happen. CTE plans and promotes the event, provides refreshments, and collects feedback.

Workshop presenters get to share their projects with their colleagues and add another line to their CV. Workshop attendees get to hear about some of the exciting work being done across campus and develop a better appreciation of their colleagues. And CTE fulfills its promise to support innovative teaching practices and continues spreading the word about the CTE Grant process. It’s a win-win-win situation! Just contact us with your idea for a workshop and we’ll work on getting it scheduled.

This month, Dr. Karen Sisk (A&H) facilitated a workshop, “Making the Most of Our Comments on Student Essays” to explore the best commenting practices for both our students’ learning and for managing our paper loads.

Honoring the Hispanic Heritage Month, Dr. Raquel Ortiz (Hunter College) will present “The Power of Our Stories” at 2 on Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at Cinema Hall in Stocker Center. This presentation is open to students, faculty, and staff. Please join the presentation with your students.
OATYC Teacher of Year Nomination

CTE nominated Craig Semsel (S&H), Regan Silverstri (S&M), and Clementine Compton (A&H) through open nomination in Spring 2017. They will attend the 50th OATYC annual conference in October. Next nomination will be announced in Spring 2018.

OATYC Conference

The Ohio Association of Two-Year Colleges (OATYC) will celebrate 50 years of providing a forum for sharing and improving education in Ohio’s two-year institutions by hosting an annual conference at Lakeland Community College in Kirtland on Friday, October 13. This year’s theme is “Go for the Gold—Pathways to Completion.” Here are LCCC presenters and topics.

- Karin Hooks and Jewon Woo (A&H), “Writing Pedagogy for Success of Students of Color”
- Mary Grady (H&W), “Flipping the Classroom to Engage the Millennial Learner”
- Regan Silverstri (S&M), “College Students Get Excited About Whiskey”
- Gerry Nemeth, “Using PowerPoint Jeopardy in the Classroom”
- John Crooks (UP), “The Power and Ease of Transfer Through University Partnership on Community College Campuses”
- Clementine Compton, Patricia Mack, and Justin Sevenker (A&H), “Developing New Pathways to Completion in LCCC’s Writing Program”
- Selina Gaddis (SL), John Crooks (UP), Alex Moen, and Carson Moen (LCCC students), “The Power and Importance of Engagement on a Community College”

CTE Grant Program

CTE Grants encourage faculty to assess and enhance their teaching and to pursue professional development. Eligible projects include scholarly conferences, development workshops, innovative teaching projects, and course research and redesign projects. In Fall 2017, CTE received five teaching-related project proposals, and continuously receives applications for conference presentations. If you miss this semester’s due date, consider applying in Spring 2018! For details, visit https://www.lorainccc.edu/cte/center-teaching-excellence/grants-general-information/.

Here is Spring 2017’s grant recipients for teaching projects.

“Student NanoTube” Research: Expansion of Research Initiatives in the Department of Chemistry” and “Another Round of Whiskey: Student Presentations at Multiple Spring Conference” by Regan Silverstri (S&M)

“Nonfiction and Feature Writing Presentation by a Pulitzer Winner, Jim Sheeler” by Cliff Anthony (A&H)

“Testing New Teaching Technology” by Lucy Malakar (SSHS) and Don Huffman (EBIT); and,

“Jeopardy Lights and Buzzers” by Gerry Nemeth (S&M).

Congratulations!
Interviews With CTE Grant Recipients

Cliff Anthony
Associate Professor, Journalism

Presentation by Jim Sheeler

CTE: Congratulations on the CTE grant for your project! Can you explain, informally, a bit about your grant project: what you proposed, what actually happened, and anything you learned along the way?

Cliff: At the outset, I would like to thank you for the grant that went toward the speaking fee for Pulitzer winning journalist Jim Sheeler who presented a session on the importance of persistence and patience on April 3 at Stocker Cinema Hall. Jim had held a similar presentation two years ago without any compensation and, hence, the speaking fee was deemed appropriate. It would motivate him to conduct similar events for free for LCCC students. He is a nationally renowned speaker.

Encouraged by our gesture, Jim donated copies of his bestselling book *The Final Salute* to about a dozen journalism students and to a few Collegian staffers.

The grant application process was simple.

CTE: How does this project affect students in and out of the classroom? Can you speak a bit about the impact on student success?

Cliff: More than 80 people attended the event and most of them were students. Jim’s presentation reiterated the importance of patience and persistence. These traits are valuable to students, especially to journalism students. Motivated by Jim’s presentation, the Collegian staffers worked hard and wrote more stories and produced a 16-page edition. Usually, the Collegian publishes eight pages.

Jim’s presentation was the main topic of discussion in the class. Students were clearly inspired by the presentation, which was reflected in the feedback collected at the end of the event.

The event was publicized in local newspapers, which highlighted LCCC’s community outreach efforts. It also provided an opportunity for Public Relations students to gain hands-on experience. They wrote news releases, contacted area high schools personally and through social media and served as ushers. They also produced fliers and program brochures. Such experiential learning is invaluable.

CTE: How do you plan to develop your project further beyond the past grant period?

Cliff: The presenter, Jim, agreed to tape his talk and use it for future class discussions. His book, *The Final Salute*, and his writing style will be analyzed in the class on a regular basis.

CTE: What’s your best piece of advice for future CTE grant applicants?

Cliff: Please continue to organize such events.

CTE: Anything else you’d like to add?

Cliff: Keep up the good work.
Lucy Malakar  
Associate Professor of Economics  

**Testing New Teaching Technology**

**CTE:** Congratulations on the CTE grant for your project! Can you explain, informally, a bit about your grant project: what you proposed, what actually happened, and anything you learned along the way?

**Lucy:** Testing new teaching technology. Trying to test various ways to allow instructors to bring their own device (BYOD) and make it work with classroom projectors to help bridge the technology gap between students and faculty. Some of the items we bought would not work in a classroom setting with our wireless network but we did find a relatively inexpensive combination that would allow instructors to BYOD.

**CTE:** How does this project affect students in and out of the classroom? Can you speak a bit about the impact on student success?

**Lucy:** Has not impacted any students in classrooms yet but has the potential to. In our experience, an engaged student is a successful student. By trying out new technologies that would change the classroom presentation dynamic, we will increase student engagement and, in turn, increase their educational success thereby helping LCCC achieve its vision.

**CTE:** How do you plan to develop your project further beyond the past grant period?

**Lucy:** We’ve also been awarded an LCCC Foundation grant that will allow us to buy and test additional pieces of equipment in the process of setting up a Teaching Innovation Lab. We also plan to hold a session during Development Days that shows our low-cost way of making any classroom with a projector a “smart room.”

**CTE:** What’s your best piece of advice for future CTE grant applicants?

**Lucy:** Just apply! You never know what you can get unless you ask for it.

Dr. Regan Silvestri  
Assistant Professor of Chemistry  

**Another Round of Whiskey**

**CTE:** Congratulations on the CTE grant for your project! Can you explain, informally, a bit about your grant project: what you proposed, what actually happened, and anything you learned along the way?

**Silvestri:** In the Spring of 2016 we received our first CTE grant award, to help set-up an independent student research program on the chemistry of the flavor of whiskey. This has since grown into an on-going initiative, work that is conducted in collaboration with our industry partner Cleveland Whiskey. Our recent CTE grant award in the Spring of 2017 was to further this initiative, by supporting the travel of our students to present their research at various local and national conferences.

**CTE:** How does this project affect students in and out of the classroom? Can you speak a bit about the impact on student success?

**Silvestri:** Beyond the scientific results of the research and the student experience therein, what we have established is a perpetually on-going research group in the Department of Chemistry at LCCC. The experience of being a part of this group leaves students with a deep sense of connection to the college. For example, we currently have two students who have completed their studies at LCCC and transferred to a four year college, however they still return to the LCCC campus every week to continue their work on the project. Obviously these students feel a deep sense of belonging to something, and a heartfelt connection to our campus. What we are creating here is a connected network of highly successful LCCC alumni.
CTE: How do you plan to develop your project further beyond the past grant period?

Silvestri: We started conservatively, with two students working on the project. We then grew to a group of 5 students, followed by a group of 7 students. Next semester we will likely have a group of 15 plus students, all working independently on various aspects of this multi-faceted project. My work as the faculty research advisor focuses predominately on identifying opportunities for the students to present their work in public, and then guiding them through the process of preparing to present publicly. As the scientific research is supposed to be “independent”, I try as much as possible to leave that work to the students and endeavor sincerely to limit myself to only “advising” them on their research. Largely, I do not teach them how to analyze whiskey samples for flavor compounds in the lab, I merely show them the lab instrument which does it and they figure out the rest; I do teach them how to make a highly technical presentation clear and succinct. Ultimately, I feel that the experience of publicly presenting their work is the true value of participating in this program for the students.

CTE: What’s your best piece of advice for future CTE grant applicants?

Silvestri: I’m certain that someone reading these words has recently thought “If only..., then I could...”, and my reply would be that CTE can help you make that happen. For example, many of us I’m sure have had the passing thought “My students don’t really need to buy this entire textbook, if only I had some resource (videos, PDFs, exercises, manuals) posted on my Canvas LMS site.” Not only can the CTE help you make that happen, the process for the CTE grants program is quite streamline which makes getting through all of the administrative aspects quite painless (compared to other external grant application processes).

CTE: Anything else you’d like to add?

Silvestri: The key to our on-going success with this project has definitely been the securing of multiple sources of funding. For example, CTE grant awards limit conference travel to $200, but we have nonetheless been able to send students to pricy national conferences by putting these funds together with other external sources of funding such as American Chemical Society grants. The American Chemical Society grants also do not fully fund the budget necessary for student travel to pricy national conferences, so multiple sources of funding, each which partially support, need to be put together. The job of the Faculty, as I see it, is to put everything together.

Photo (L-R): Selena Vazquez, Christopher Wright, Clayton Mastorovich, Regan Silvestri, Daniel McKeighen, Katie Nowlin, Valerie Gardner, Heather Ketchum.
Jeopardy Lights and Buzzers

Background

I have been using Jeopardy games as part of the educational process for several years. The specific games are created with a PowerPoint file, but the experience is jazzed up by using a set of lights and lockout buzzers. I own a set of these buzzers and lights and would be happy to lend them to other interested LCCC employees. As an adjunct faculty member, I am on campus at most two times a week. It is very difficult to coordinate the loan and return of this equipment. I thought to myself, it would sure be nice if the college itself could somehow purchase, store, maintain, and distribute this equipment.

The Actual CTE Story

I got an e-mail from the CTE department about funds being available for college related projects. I thought that if the college owned a dedicated set of lights and buzzers, more instructors and staff would be able to use them. I filled out the grant application, and submitted it on-line to the CTE committee. I was notified that my grant application was approved, and I was very happy.

There was a slight glitch when I went to purchase the equipment from the vendor. The vendor that I had used in the past had sold the business to another company, and the price was slightly more than the amount I had specified in the grant application. I explained the situation to the CTE coordinators, and we were able to make some adjustment, and purchase the equipment from the new vendor. I turned the receipt in and was promptly sent a reimbursement check.

My Advice for Future CTE Applicants

Go for it! The application form is simple and straightforward, and the CTE staff is very helpful!

I will be doing a demonstration(s) for college faculty and staff sometime in the beginning of the Fall 2017 semester. At that time, we will play a generic educational Jeopardy game, demonstrate the use of the lights and buzzers, and award some prizes! I also will distribute CD’s containing the PowerPoint Jeopardy template, and go over the procedure to be used to “sign the equipment” out.
Spotlight on Adjunct

The Adjunct Faculty play an important role here at LCCC CTE interviewed two adjunct professors, all recommended to us as excellent teachers.

Carolyn Gang, Adjunct Professor of Mathematics

How long have you been teaching here at LCCC?
I started working at LCCC in 2006 teaching math in the evenings. I looked forward to this even after I had put in a full day teaching high school. I taught 3 semesters at that time and then returned to the scene again in 2010. I retired from my high school career in 2012 and now am at LCCC 2 days a week.

What is your teaching philosophy? How do you see your role in the educational process?
I really enjoy working with the students at LCCC. It is nothing shy of exciting when students have that light bulb moment and math becomes clearer. I love to see the faces of the students when they meet success and understand the connection between hard work and end results. Harvey Firestone suggests “You get the best out of others when you give the best of yourself.” I try to keep upbeat about math so that just maybe some students will replace fear of math with enjoyment of math. I believe small successes can lead to greater ones that carry over to other subjects and aspects of life.

Dr. Primus Igboaka, Adjunct Professor of Communication

How long have you been teaching here at LCCC?
I have worked as an Adjunct Faculty in Communications Department, School of Arts and Humanities at Lorain Community College (LCCC) since August 2010. Before taking up the adjunct instructor position at LCCC, I have taught for over 14 years—4 years of which I taught as a Teaching Assistant at Department of Media and Communication at Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green.

What is your teaching philosophy?
My teaching philosophy evolves from lessons learned from early childhood from parents and teachers that made significant impressions on me. They as role models made me stay focused and later found school to be fun and made me realize how important education is to a person’s success in career and life.

What is the best part of your teaching and working with students at LCCC?
My greatest moment in classroom, and I testify to that is when one of my most “difficult” students – meaning one that was very stubborn, rude, not ready to listen or non-compliant to instructions and rules and not meeting deadlines, suddenly turn around to be doing everything so perfectly. I have encountered few of them in my classroom at SC 209 & 211 classrooms. When such a student that was rude to their fellow students and talking over students are in my class – and refused to obey instructions, I always reminded my students that this is communication class and at the end of the course, whether they accept it or not we must show that we have tried our best to be effective communicators. In my teaching, I do emphasize and instill these values. I anticipate students to take these ideals along with them as they pass through
Spotlight on Adjunct  continued...

I personally see the classroom as an unintended and unconscious space for exchange of ideas on subjects I teach based on everyday experiences with students and others. I used real life everyday experiences to teach students on themes and topics in the class so that they could relate these subjects to their lives for easy understanding. I have learned that listening to students, making them be part of the class, seeing them as individuals and not as a group are all integrated practices of relating and teaching that are relevant in motivating students’ interests and their learning process.

Join the CTE Community!

The CTE Executive Committee is a group of faculty devoted to assisting ALL LCCC faculty with training and professional development through:

- Planning on-campus activities related to teaching and learning,
- Sharing information about conferences and professional development opportunities related to pedagogy, and
- Exploring ways to share teaching interests and expertise.

All faculty are encouraged to join the CTE Executive Committee.

Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month from 3:30—4:15 PM in CU 216.

Monday, September 18
Monday, October 16
Monday, November 20
CTE Executive Committee, 2017-2018

Jewon Woo, Chair .........................................................................................................................Arts & Humanities
Marianne Carvour, Vice Chair ...............Allied Health, Nursing, Health, and Wellness Sciences Recreation
Iona Abraham ...............................................................................................................................Arts & Humanities
Heather Bubnick ..........................................................................................................................Science & Mathematics
Natalie Daniels .............................................................................................................................Social Sciences and Human Services
Aimee Dickinson .........................................................................................................................Social Sciences and Human Services
Kathryn Dobeck ..........................................................................................................................Science & Mathematics
Vince Granito .............................................................................................................................Social Sciences and Human Services
Dee Gross .......................................................................................................................................Arts & Humanities
Nancy Halbrooks ..........................................................................................................................Arts & Humanities
Primous Igboaka ..........................................................................................................................Arts & Humanities
Kim Karshner ...............................................................................................................................Arts & Humanities
Robert Kozar ..............................................................................................................................Social Sciences and Human Services
Jennifer Kukis .............................................................................................................................Social Sciences and Human Services
Tammy Macek ..................................................................................................................................eLearning
Justin Sevenker .............................................................................................................................Arts & Humanities
Karen Sisk .......................................................................................................................................Arts & Humanities

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