



January 2026

THE CenterPOINT Press

A monthly publication of the Center for Inclusive Teaching and Learning (CITL) at UW-Stevens Point

Attend the 30th Annual UWSP Teaching Conference

Join us on Wednesday, January 14, for the 30th Annual UWSP Teaching Conference, **“Teaching with Joy: Restoring Connection and Purpose.”** This year’s conference will begin in the DUC Laird Room (Stevens Point campus) with a keynote presentation from Dr. Kristen Lee, Ed.D., LICSW. She is an internationally recognized, award-winning behavioral science clinician, researcher, educator, speaker, and comedian from Boston, Massachusetts. You can read more about Dr. Lee’s background on our [conference web page](#).

Conference breakout sessions, offering a variety of topics, will be shared by our colleagues. Attendees will also participate in a workshop, **“Navigating Expanding Demands: A Workshop on Actionable Faculty Wellness Strategies,”** where we will explore practical approaches to setting and sustaining healthy professional boundaries that promote wellness. The workshop also emphasizes building a culture of community care within the university, highlighting small steps that can strengthen our support networks.

All UWSP faculty and staff members are invited to attend. The full conference agenda is available on our [conference web page](#). Refreshments and lunch will be provided. Please register to attend to ensure you receive all conference correspondence and updates.

[Register to attend.](#)

Teaching with Joy: Restoring Connection and Purpose

Dreyfus University Center (DUC)
Laird Room - 2nd Floor

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Inside

Video Captioning Work Continues	2
Complete the Request Form for Honorlock Exam Proctoring	2
Collaboration on Student Support Through CITL’s Book Group	3
CITL Faculty Fellows for 2025-26	3
Course Design Sessions Offered	3
OPID Spring Conference Call for Proposals	4
UWSP 2026-27 Wisconsin Teaching Fellows and Scholars Named	4
Accessibility Reminders	4

Collaboration on Student Support Through CITL's Book Group

This fall, CITL hosted a faculty Book Group reading and discussing the book *33 Simple Strategies for Faculty: A Week-by-Week Resource for Teaching First-Year and First-Generation Students*. CITL's Angie Servi and participants met monthly to explore practical strategies for better engaging students who are navigating college for the first time or who may lack generational familiarity with higher education.

Throughout the sessions, participants shared classroom experiences, reflected on the diverse backgrounds and challenges our students bring with them, and exchanged ideas for building community in the classroom and academic confidence overall. The final meeting closed with recommending additional books and resources, extending the conversation beyond the book group and reinforcing a shared commitment to student-centered teaching.



Course Design Sessions Offered

The CITL staff will be offering Course Design Short (CDS) sessions in Spring semester. During the CDS process, the course author will work with a CITL instructional designer and will receive customized support and feedback. Participants who successfully complete all required components will be eligible for \$200 in CITL professional development funds.

Interested faculty and instructors are encouraged to visit our [CITL – Course Design Shorts](#) web page for more information and to apply. **The deadline to apply is Friday, February 13.**

CITL Faculty Fellows for 2025-26

Dr. James Berry, an Associate Professor of English, joined CITL in Fall of 2025.

Dr. Berry is supporting CITL's work on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL). In addition to leading a Faculty Learning Community on SoTL, Dr. Berry is also providing feedback and ideas to CITL on how to provide additional support for SoTL work moving forward.



Dr. Liz Fakasis, a Professor of Media Studies, will be joining

CITL in January 2026.

Dr. Fakasis will be working with us during the spring semester to support CITL's

ongoing work on high-impact practices, with an emphasis on first-year courses, including first-year seminar/introduction to the major course.



OPID Spring Conference Call for Proposals

The Universities of Wisconsin's Office of Professional and Instructional Development (OPID) welcomes your proposals for the 2026 *Spring Conference: The Joys of Teaching & Learning – Reclaiming Hope*. We invite you to join us in reflecting on your scholarly practice of teaching and learning.

Proposals Due Online:

Submissions will be accepted for review through
Monday, January 5, 11:30 p.m.

[Complete the Proposal Submission Form](#)

The Conference will be held in-person at the Memorial Union, Madison, on Thursday, April 23 and Friday, April 24, 2026.



UWSP 2026-27 Wisconsin Teaching Fellows and Scholars Named

This fall, three UWSP faculty were selected by the University Professional Development Committee to participate in the Wisconsin Teaching Fellows and Scholars (WTFS) program for 2026 – 2027.

Dr. Jennifer Collins, Professor of Political Science, and **Dr. Ismaila Odogba, Professor of Geography**, have been selected as Scholars, and **Dr. Natalie Cummings, Teaching Assistant Professor of Voice**, has been selected as this year's Fellow.

Their WTFS experience will kick off this May at Faculty College.

Congratulations!

Accessibility Reminders

Digital Accessibility 101 (DA101)

Online training for instructional staff, non-instructional staff, and student workers.

REMINDER: All UWSP Faculty and Staff members should complete DA101 by the end of January 2026.

Bite-Sized Remediation Guide (BSRG)

A self-paced, step-by-step resource to help instructors address accessibility issues.

Visit CITL's [Accessibility Training web page](#) for updates, information, and links to DA101 training and the BSRG Canvas course.

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