

March 2023

THE CenterPOINT Press

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

Fitting In Time for Professional Development

Time is not something we tend to have in excess. With that in mind, CITL's weekly Teaching Tips were created to offer useful information in under ten minutes on a variety of topics. Learning about effective instructional strategies, tools, and resources for your courses contributes to student success and can provide time-saving efficiencies for you.

We share our weekly Teaching Tips in video, infographic, or resource sheet format. These are brief, informational pieces meant to share professional development learning that fits into your busy schedule. We hope you have been following along and viewing our Teaching Tips in the Message of the Day Announcements and on our [Facebook page](#).

We recently created a page on the CITL website that includes links to all the Teaching Tip content in one place. So, if you remembered reading a great Teaching Tip on inclusive classrooms, for example, you can find it on our [new Teaching Tips web page](#).

Is there a topic you would like covered in our Teaching Tip Tuesday? Please email your suggestions for future Teaching Tips to citl@uwsp.edu.



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March



APPLICATION DEADLINE
Course Design Shorts
Wednesday, March 1

[Apply](#)

Safe Zone Training
Friday, March 31
10:00 a.m. - Noon

[Register to attend](#)

Spring Break
March 18 - 26

Handling Absences for COVID and Other Illnesses

Our campus and community continue to see rising COVID cases, as well as other illnesses, that are causing students to be absent from classes. We have seen an increase in students reaching out to the Office of the Dean of Students and Student Health Service requesting absence verification or excuse notes. When students or instructors reach out to us about excused absences, we share the following:

University attendance guidance

<https://www.uwsp.edu/regrec/Pages/Attendance-Policy.aspx>

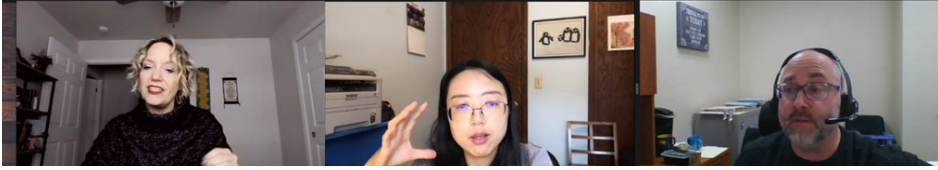
Specifically, *“If you are absent from classes because of emergencies, off-campus trips, illness, or the like, your instructors will give you a reasonable amount of help in making up the work you have missed.”*

When it comes to requiring doctors’ notes for verification of illness, this is coming from a place of privilege that we would not advise. Student Health Service does not provide excuse notes for students to miss class. Our community healthcare providers have also expressed concern about students calling them for notes. If students are uninsured, underinsured, or even if they have insurance and have co-pays, requiring this note can place an unnecessary financial burden on students. For providers, these requests take time away from other critical patient care. The nature of the illness may not even require a visit to the doctor or urgent care.

Current CDC guidance states that individuals who have tested positive for **COVID** should self-isolate for a period of five days from symptom onset. Individuals should continue to wear a well-fitting mask for another five days. Many other illnesses affect our campus community, such as flu, mono, strep, and other viruses that may cause students to miss classes.

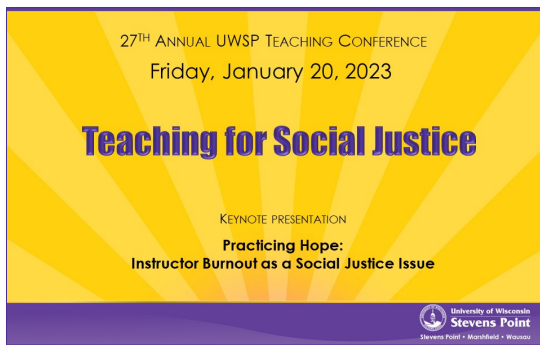
Especially given what we have learned during the pandemic, we hope attendance policies continue to be identified and adjusted with the above guidance in mind. While we understand deadlines are important and students are expected to do their part academically, emergencies come up and it is best to trust the student is being truthful and assist as reasonably as possible.

Office of the Dean of Students, Student Health Service,
and Center for Inclusive Teaching and Learning



View the Videorecording and Content from the Teaching Conference

The videorecording of the keynote presentation from the UWSP Teaching Conference is available through our [website](#) along with submitted session content.



Attend the OPID Spring Conference

Thursday, April 20 & Friday, April 21, 2023

MEMORIAL UNION, MADISON

In-Person and via ZOOM.

Register to attend:

<https://www.wisconsin.edu/spring-conference/>



More regional and national professional development opportunities are shared on the [CITL website](#).

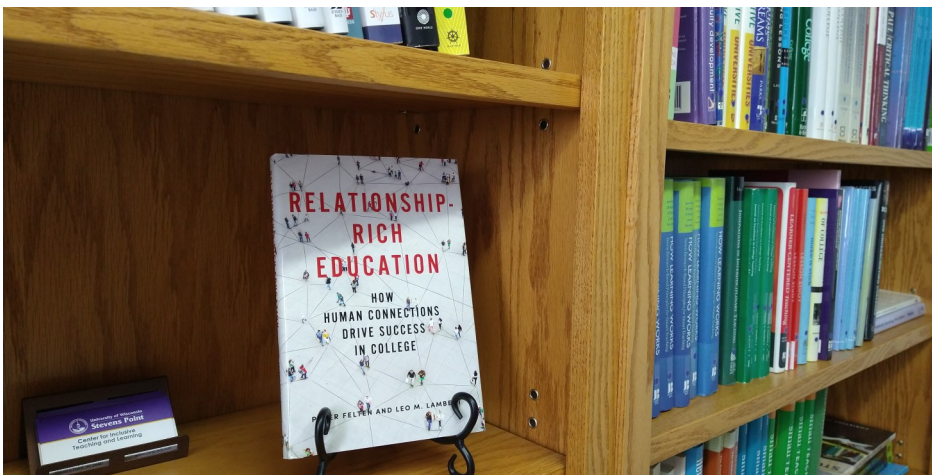
See the 'In the News' section on the home page.

System-Wide Book Group Begins

The system-wide Book Group, which is lead-in to the OPID Spring Conference, has amassed a large number of participants.

Discussions sessions via Zoom, on the book *Relationship-Rich Education*, are beginning in twelve different groups in March. Nineteen faculty and staff members from UWSP are participating.

If you did not sign up but wish to read the book, you can access the [ebook](#) available through UWSP Libraries.



Faculty/Staff Safe Zone Training

Several sessions of the Safe Zone training workshop are offered this semester for UWSP faculty and staff members.

March 31, 10 a.m. - Noon

April 26, 2 - 4 p.m.

May 23, 1 - 3 p.m.

[Learn more and register to attend.](#)



Visit Our Website for Assistance and Support

The [CITL website](#) provides access to support, services, and opportunities right on the home page.

You'll find CITL hosted or sponsored events in the 'Opportunities' section on the right-hand side. Regional and national professional development opportunities are listed in the 'In the News' section.

All faculty and staff members are encouraged to utilize the 'Quick Links' on the top right.



Contacting CITL with Quick Links on our Website

Email: citl@uwsp.edu This is the best way to contact us. You will receive a prompt response from an available team member, as many are monitoring this inbox.

Book an appointment: For your convenience, feel free to [book an appointment](#) for Instructional Technology and Design Consultations with one of our team members.

Request a consultation: We are available to support you on a [variety of topics](#).

[Request a consultation](#), and a CITL team member will contact you to schedule.

Increase Efficiency and Improve Communication

Some simple adjustments can be made to improve navigation in Canvas courses. CITL team members strongly recommend downloading the UWSP Online Course Template from Canvas Commons. Click on Canvas Commons on the left menu in Canvas. Search 'UWSP Online' to locate the UWSP Online Course Template, then click 'Import/Download' and select the courses you would like to import the template into. The Template is filled with useful information, as well as a START HERE module and a STUDENT RESOURCES module ready to be used in your course.

Creating a Canvas course layout that follows a consistent template can reduce student frustration and provide a more fluid connection and communication with students. Contact the CITL team for assistance or with any questions at citl@uwsp.edu.

