

November 2020

THE CenterPOINT Press

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

Sharing What We've Learned in 2020

The season of autumn is always a time of change in Wisconsin. Although the falling leaves are a reminder that a harsh winter is coming, most of us take time to focus on the positive and enjoy the bright color palette of the changing landscape. During these past eight months though, focusing on the positive can feel like quite a challenge. As educators and Pointers however, we are resilient and resourceful. Our compassion, flexibility, and innovation have assisted us in navigating these trying times.

The Center for Inclusive Teaching and Learning (CITL) encourages you to share what you've learned. We are seeking proposals for the 25th Annual (and very first virtual) UWSP Teaching Conference, "**Lessons in Disruption**", to be held on Friday, January 15, 2021. We especially encourage proposals that focus on the practical application of tools, strategies, and principles in the categories of compassion, flexibility, and innovation.

Compassion: How have you shown compassion for yourself, for your colleagues, and for your students in light of COVID-19 and national racial unrest combined with some of the more mundane challenges of teaching and learning?

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PROPOSALS ACCEPTED 25th Annual UWSP Teaching Conference

Types of Proposals

Individual/Panel sessions,
40-minutes in length.

Proposal Submission

The electronic submission of
proposals is due on or before
December 4, 2020.

[Submit your proposal.](#)

Review and Selection Process

The teaching conference
planning committee will select
proposals that are consistent with
the goals and mission of the
conference.

Notification

Presenters will be notified by
Friday, December 16, 2020.

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Events

Fall Book Group

Oct. 27, Nov. 10, Nov. 24
11:00 a.m.

Online Course Design Institute

November 9 - December 11
Tuesdays, 1 - 3 p.m. and
Fridays, 10 a.m. - noon

Safe Zone Workshop

Monday, November 16
1:00-3:00 p.m.

25th Annual UWSP Teaching Conference: "Lessons in Disruption"

Friday, January 15, 2021

Watch for registration
information in December.

Educational Program Presented About Body Image and Diversity

CITL student intern Maddie Kirschner (Senior, Heath Promotion and Wellness) facilitated an educational program, "For Every Body" on Thursday, October 8. Based on her research, including surveying the UWSP student body, Maddie shared important information relating to body stigma and biases, and how content on body diversity can be incorporated into the classroom. A [recording of the program](#) was created for those unable to attend.



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How do you get students to show compassion for each other—or even to you? How are you relating to your colleagues through a lens of compassion? How are you showing compassion toward yourself as you wrestle with structural oppression (and perhaps your complicity in it), with trying to help your kids eLearn while also keeping up with your job responsibilities? What has worked and what hasn't?

Flexibility: A core principle of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is providing options for students. This past semester, we've been explicitly asked to provide an asynchronous online learning experience to any student that needs it in addition to whatever other format we've opted to teach in. How are you managing this need for flexibility? What are you doing differently this time around? What can you do to make your courses nimble enough to respond to evolving current events, such as Black Lives Matter? How are you providing flexibility for your colleagues and constituents that rely on your services? What takeaways might be transferrable when we return to "normal"?

Innovation: Some of us thrive in moments of radical disruption. We welcome the opportunity—and really, in this context, the *demand*—to completely rethink how things are "typically" done. What novel strategies, possibilities, and approaches have you been able to explore only because of the challenges presented by 2020? What possibilities do you envision moving forward? What has made you say, "I've never thought of this this way before. Why weren't I/we doing this all along?!" What strategies have you used to prompt and support innovation among your colleagues?

Online Course Design Institute Session is Offered

CITL is offering a synchronous Online Course Design Institute (OCDI) from **November 9 to December 11, 2020**. The OCDI includes a weekly Zoom session, development of course content, and submission of activities in Canvas. Weekly Zoom sessions will be **Tuesdays from 1 to 3 p.m. and Fridays from 10 a.m. to noon**. Participants are asked to attend one Zoom session each week based on their availability. (There will be no activities the week of Thanksgiving.)

UW-System received an anonymous donation which they are allocating to campuses to incentivize participation in online learning professional development. A limited number of \$500 stipends remain for participants who complete the Nov-Dec 2020 OCDI. For participants to be eligible for grants, they must be teaching at least one for-credit online or hybrid course during either the Winterim 2021 or Spring 2021 term. Those who have received CITL funding for online professional development or course design grants in the past are ineligible for this stipend. Anyone can participate in the OCDI, but not everyone may receive the stipend if demand exceeds availability.

Get Involved with FSGSA

The mission of UWSP's Faculty and Staff Gender-Sexuality Alliance (FSGSA) is to be a visible presence on campus and bring together lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning individuals and their allies across all areas of the university for the purpose of reducing fear, prejudice and discrimination. We educate members of the campus community on LGBTQ+ issues and promote a safe and open environment at UWSP in order to welcome, encourage, discuss, and support diversity.

We would like to invite you to join our group and welcome your suggestions for other activities and initiatives we might undertake. By joining our email list, you will typically receive 1-2 emails per month from the executive board with information on events as well as reports and meeting minutes. If you would like to get more involved, you can attend our monthly executive board meetings or join one of our committees as well!

To get added to our list or learn more about our committees or the executive board, please contact us at fsgsa@uwsp.edu. FSGSA Co-Chairs for the 2020-2021 Academic Year are Sylf Bustamante and Brianna Burke.

Interested faculty and staff should complete the [Nov-Dec 2020 OCDI Enrollment Form](#) by November 10, 2020.

The goals of the OCDI are:

- to help participants learn and implement best practices related to online course design and teaching
- to help participants apply technology tools to improve student engagement and support learning
- to support participants as they design and build their online course
- to foster the formation of faculty cohorts/networks

Register for Safe Zone Training

One more virtual session of the Safe Zone training workshop will be offered this semester for UWSP faculty and staff.

Monday, November 16, 1-3 p.m.

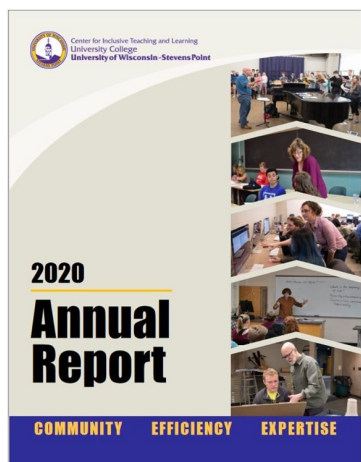
[Please register to attend.](#)

Facilitators will email the Zoom meeting information the day of the session.

Learn more about UWSP Safe Zone training workshops on the [CITL website](#).

Annual Report Announcement

CITL's [FY20 Annual Report](#) is available on our [website](#). The Annual Report shares what has been accomplished and what is on the horizon, along with a view of how CITL resources, both fiscal and human, are allocated.



Our Mission

The Center for Inclusive Teaching and Learning (CITL) is devoted to providing opportunities for professional and personal growth of the teaching and learning community by supporting pedagogy, instructional technology, and instructional design for all modes of instruction and has, as the central tenet of its mission, the goal of fostering a dynamic campus committed to student learning within a culture of inclusivity and diversity.

canvas



corner

Accessibility Checker Tool Added

UW System recently added the UDOIT tool to all UW System hosted courses. It is available via your course navigation menu and is not visible to your students.

What is UDOIT?

The Universal Design Online content Inspection Tool, or **UDOIT** (pronounced, "You Do It") enables faculty to identify accessibility issues in their Canvas course content. It will scan a course, generate a report, and provide resources on how to address common accessibility issues. It was created by the Center for Distributed Learning (CDL) at the University of Central Florida.

What does it do?

UDOIT will identify "errors" and provide "suggestions" in the following areas of your course:

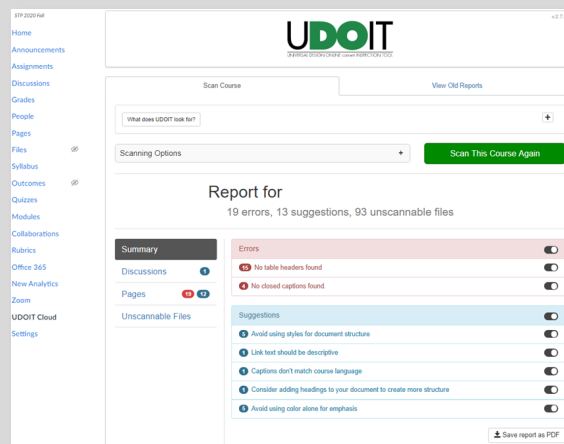
- Announcements
- Assignments
- Discussions
- Files (i.e. html files)
- Pages
- Syllabus
- Module URLs

It will check for the appropriate use of the following:

- Use of headings in page structure
- Alternative text for images
- Table headers
- Color contrast
- Descriptive link text
- Video captions

Please note: some items cannot be examined by UDOIT. These include external documents and some videos/audio files for captioning/transcripts.

For more information about UDOIT from the instructor perspective, visit the UCF [UDOIT information page](#).



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