



THE Center POINT Press

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

September 2017

Dear Colleagues,

As we know, our classrooms (virtual or brick-and-mortar) are not neutral spaces. We bring our whole selves in as people when we teach, and our students do the same when they come together to learn. In the wake of national upheaval, it makes sense, then, that our classes are affected by what is happening in the outside world.

The recent racist, bigoted, and hate-filled violence in Charlottesville, Virginia, was undoubtedly shocking and awful, but unfortunately it was only the most recent grand manifestation

of the white supremacist legacy still haunting daily life in the United States. In moments like these, it is important that we reaffirm our values as inclusive and engaged educators, and that we prepare ourselves for critical, but difficult conversations in our courses and on our campus more broadly.

To that end, below is a short sampling of the many valuable resources to help guide your work with students in the wake of tragedy and controversy--past, present, and future.

Furthermore, we are always available at CITL to help anyone looking to address difficult and important current issues in their courses. To set up a consultation, please contact the CITL team at citl@uwsp.edu or me directly, lindsay.bernhagen@uwsp.edu or extension 3177.

Be brave and be engaged. Our students' education depends on it.

Best,

Lindsay
and the CITL Team

- [The Charlottesville Syllabus](#), as compiled by UV graduate students
- NPR, [Resources for Educators to Use in the Wake of Charlottesville](#)
- Huston & DiPietro, [Teaching in the Eye of the Storm](#), To Improve the Academy
- Michigan State University Academic Advancement Network, [Resources for Difficult Dialogues in the Classroom](#)
- The Ohio State University, University Center for the Advancement of Teaching, [Resources for Teaching the Presidential Election and Other Controversial Topics](#)
- University of Michigan Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, [Returning to the Classroom After the Election](#)

Center for Inclusive Teaching and Learning

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Upcoming Dates

September 5

Online Course Development Grant application deadline - [details here](#)

September 13

Welcome Reception
 4:00 - 6:00 pm, CITL Lobby

September 14

Course Design Institute
 application deadline - details at right

September 20

What's New? Wednesdays
 Lisa Theo, CCEEL
 Noon - 1:00 pm, ALB 403A

September 22

CITL Advisory Board
 application deadline - see page 3

September 27

What's New? Wednesdays
 Nancy LoPatin-Lummis,
 GEP/University Honors Program
 Noon - 1:00 pm, ALB 403A

Welcome Reception Is Scheduled

The Center's team members invite UWSP faculty and staff to a Welcome Reception in the CITL offices, 403 Albertson Hall, from **4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 13**. Stop in to visit with colleagues and team members. Refreshments, hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be provided; a cash bar will be available.



CITL team members, Sean, Sara, Eric, and Lindsay, are ready for Fall Semester.

Participate in a Course Design Institute

Thursdays, September 21 through October 19
 11:00 am - 1:30 pm, in the CITL training room
 \$200 stipend available

Are you preparing to teach a new course, or are ready to make a change to one you are already teaching? Join CITL for a five-part intensive institute designed to provide you with the tools, the time, and the collegial support to really dig in and design or re-design your course.

By the end of each institute, participants will have created the basic structure of a course, including plans for a syllabus, assignments, assessment tools, and a course outline. Perhaps even more importantly, they will have had a chance to exchange feedback with a diverse group of colleagues from across our university, allowing them to share their ideas about teaching and gather new ideas from their peers.

Participants must commit to attending the first day and at least three more days of the institute to be eligible for the \$200 stipend. If you are interested, please fill out the [Course Design Institute Fall 2017](#) application by Thursday, September 14.

Participation is limited to eight people. Future institutes will be offered over winter break and during Spring Semester.

Join a Learning Community

Interested in getting new ideas about teaching from peers around the institution? Want to try something new, but not sure how to get started or how to decide whether it's working? Join a year-long CITL Learning Community. The overarching goal of a learning community is for instructors to make informed changes that increase the effectiveness of their teaching with the support of a community of peers. The specificity of those changes will be directed by the participants themselves, with the learning community intended to provide collegiality, guidance, and resources.

Things to know:

- Each learning community will meet three times per semester (for roughly 90 minutes each time) as a group.
- Each meeting will be loosely structured to accommodate the community-building desired by the participants.
- Each participant is required to have a mid-term assessment administered by CITL staff and to observe the teaching of at least one other member of the group each semester.
- Participants are also encouraged to work one-on-one with CITL staff for specific guidance on their individual projects and/or goals.
- Each learning community is limited to 10 participants.
- Learning communities will meet at times that best fit the scheduling needs of participants.
- CITL will provide compensation of \$500 per participant.
- At the end of the year, participants' projects and/or reflections will be shared on the CITL website.

Selection criteria: Only a limited number of participants can be selected to participate in each learning community. Application will be evaluated, in part, on the strength and thoroughness of your answers to the questions on the application form. However, our selection of participants will also be guided by our desire to assemble learning communities with members from a variety of disciplines and colleges.

Fill out a [CITL Learning Community Application](#) now, and watch for more opportunities come Spring!

Learning Communities Starting This Fall

NEW INSTRUCTOR LEARNING COMMUNITY

This learning community is open to faculty and instructional staff that have been at UWSP for two years or less. Participants in this community will focus on using research-based strategies for designing and delivering courses. They will also build a professional development plan and a mentorship network for their first years at UWSP.

INCLUSIVE TEACHING LEARNING COMMUNITY

Are you interested in making your course more inclusive to an increasingly diverse student body? This learning community is open to all faculty and instructional staff. Participants in this learning community will choose one area of focus (teaching methods, assignments, course content, communication/interactions) for enhancing inclusivity in their courses. With the support of colleagues and CITL, they will monitor and report on their results.

Become a Member of CITL's Advisory Board

CITL is now taking applications for members of its advisory board. The board will meet three times per academic year to offer input on the CITL's overall plan and direction. An effort will be made to have a wide representation of stakeholders from UWSP.

If you are interested, please fill out the [CITL Advisory Board Application](#) by Friday, September 22.



The Remodeling Is Complete!

Check out all the photos of the newly remodeled Center for Inclusive Teaching and Learning on the [CITL Facebook page](#).

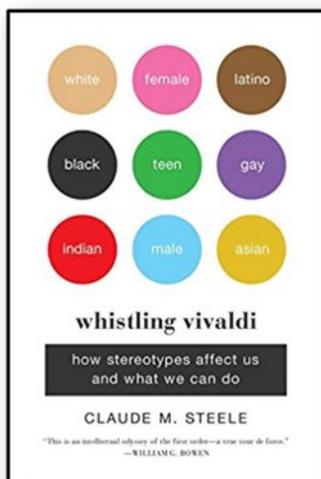
New Weekly Series for Faculty and Staff

Information on campus resources, policies, and services will be shared each week during “What’s New? Wednesdays” offered from noon to 1:00 p.m., in the CITL training room (ALB 403A).

No pre-registration is necessary. Faculty and staff are invited to stop in any Wednesday, (September 20 through November 15) for this informational brown bag series. Follow [CITL on Facebook](#) to view information on upcoming presenters and topics. September presenters are listed in the sidebar on page 2.

Fall Book Group Begins in October

“Whistling Vivaldi: How Stereotypes Affect Us and What We Can Do” by Claude M. Steele



Fridays (October 6, 13, and 20) from noon to 1:00 p.m. in the CITL lobby
Don't forget to bring your lunch!

Join us for a three-part book group. In *Whistling Vivaldi*, Claude M. Steele, who has been called “one of the few great social psychologists,” offers a vivid first-person account of the research that supports his groundbreaking conclusions on stereotypes and identity in education. He sheds new light on American social phenomena from racial and gender gaps in test scores to the belief in the superior athletic prowess of black men, and lays out a plan for mitigating these “stereotype threats” and reshaping American identities. Participation is limited to 10 people, all of whom committing to attend at least 2 of 3 meetings will receive a complimentary copy of the book. **If you are interested, register here:**

[Whistling Vivaldi Book Group Sign Up](#)

Teaching Professional Development Funds Available

Would you like to attend a conference or other professional development opportunity to improve your teaching? Do you have Scholarship of Teaching and Learning research you’d like to show off? CITL now offers grants of up to \$500 to support your travel. If you are interested, please complete the [Teaching Professional Development Funds 2017-2018 Application](#). Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis throughout the 2017-2018 academic year.