



# THE Center POINT Press

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

February 2018

*Dear colleagues,*

It's hard to believe that it's February already! With all of the changes happening on campus, time seems to be moving more quickly than ever.

Though the semester has just started, it is not too early to start thinking about ways to collect student feedback so that it is formative, rather than summative, for you as an instructor. After all, a critical element to creating an inclusive classroom is giving students a voice in their learning. Students are daily participants in your classes and have unique insight as to what is helping or hindering their learning. There are several ways to collect feedback: handout a notecard at the end of class to ask student what's going well or whether there's something they'd like you to revisit; use Qualtrics to set up an anonymous

survey; or, have someone from the CITL team conduct a mid-semester student focus group (called a Small Group Instructional Diagnostic, or SGID, in much of the educational development literature).

A midterm student focus group is a way to gather rich, contextualized information about your course and your teaching facilitated by a neutral member of the CITL team. After having an initial consultation with a CITL facilitator to learn what you would like to discover through the experience, you would schedule 20 minutes on a usual class day to step out of the room and allow the facilitator to become a "research tool" for you. The



CITL Director Lindsay Bernhagen, Ph.D.

facilitator asks your students to have small group discussions about three questions related to their learning in your course. Then, the facilitator pulls the smaller groups back into a full class discussion to summarize and clarify their feedback.

After the focus groups, you will meet with the CITL facilitator to review the data collected from your students – written feedback from the students' small group discussions, and the facilitator's

**Inside:** Upcoming opportunities, D2L to Canvas transition information, and teaching conference photos.

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## Center for Inclusive Teaching and Learning

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## Careers and Coffee Workshops

This workshop series is designed to help faculty and staff learn helpful information for working with students on career related topics. This semester, the session topics include:

February 14 or 15: **Interviewing**

March 14 or 15: **Networking and Social Media**

April 11 or 12: **Job Search Tips and Tools**

All sessions will be 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. and held in ALB 403A. See the [flier](#) for complete details and the registration link.

**Note:** Workshops are free and pre-registration is required - limited to 15 participants per session. Coffee and donuts are provided!

## Take Part in a CITL Learning Community

The Center for Inclusive Teaching and Learning is offering a year-long **Teaching with Technology Learning Community** beginning this semester. Learning communities meet three times per semester and CITL provides \$500 compensation to each participant.

The **Teaching with Technology Learning Community** is both for instructors who regularly use technology in their instruction *and* for those wish to learn more about teaching with technology. Participants will focus on various topics related to technology in teaching such as: technology selection, accessibility, pedagogy, and privacy/security. Participants will select one or two student learning objectives (SLOs) that they wish to enhance by using technology.

### Specific Goals for Participants

- Choose one or two course-level SLOs that you will focus on.
- Develop and implement a plan to enhance student achievement of the selected SLO(s) through the use of technology by:
  - Selecting the appropriate technology to meet your needs.
  - Developing learning objects and learning activities that incorporate the technology.
  - Develop assessments that accurately evaluate student learning of the SLO(s).
  - Use Quality Matters alignment principles and backward design to assess your work and ensure quality design.

Read more information about learning communities and apply on the [website](#). **Application deadline is February 9.**

## JOIN US IN THE CITL

### FOR A BROWN-BAG ROUNDTABLE DIALOGUE:

#### Addressing Individual Distinctions within Large Classes

Thursday, March 1  
 Noon – 1:00 p.m.  
 ALB 403A

This session will raise awareness about visual, audio, and social impediments that can create an unbalanced learning experience for many students in our classrooms. Let's make sure every student has an equal opportunity to succeed. We ask that you please [register to attend](#), but walk-ins are also welcome.

#### Facilitators:

Neil C. Heywood, Ph.D. - Professor of Geography  
 Andy Held, Interim Director - Disability and Assistive Technology Center

## Canvas Transition is on Schedule

The Canvas transition project is still on track to begin migration in April 2018, with courses starting in September 2018. CITL staff can help you in migrating your courses to Canvas, but we can't assist you until you've let us know you're ready to start thinking about moving.

We are moving 35 courses in Fall of 2018. If you would like to be considered for moving to Canvas in Fall 2018, you'll need to add your courses to the migration queue before **February 8, 2018**. Even if you don't plan on starting in Canvas until Spring 2019 or later, you should get on our list now. We anticipate a large volume of course moves during the summer of 2019, sign up early to get ahead of the rush. Add your courses to our [migration schedule](#).

## Canvas Preparation Sessions Are Starting

It's time to prepare D2L courses for the transition to Canvas! Though we're still a few months away from being able to start moving courses, there are some things that you can do to get a head start on migration. We'll work through the different tools in D2L, and identify the areas that may cause problems during your migration.

Please sign up for the session you wish to attend so we can create a migration sandbox for you to work from in D2L. Sessions will be held in ALB 403A. Computers are available, or bring your own.

Participation is capped at 12 per session. [Please register!](#)

More dates/times will be added soon.

### Current session dates are:

Wednesday, February 21 - 5:00 p.m.,

Thursday, March 1 - 10:00 a.m.,

Tuesday, March 6 - 2:00 p.m., and Wednesday, March 14 - 4:00 p.m.



## Attend a Canvas Information Session

As you hopefully know, D2L is being replaced by Canvas across the UW System, including at UWSP. Information sessions will provide an overview of the project, updates on where we are in the planning process, information on our migration schedule, training opportunities, the migration process, and more. We'll do our best to answer the questions that you might have about Canvas and the transition. Sessions will be held in ALB 650. **No registration is required.**

Session dates are:

Thursday, February 15 - 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 20 - Noon

Wednesday, February 28 - 2:00 p.m.

Monday, March 5 - 5:00 p.m.

If necessary, more dates will be offered.

[uwsp.edu/canvas](http://uwsp.edu/canvas)

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impartial summary of the large group discussion. Together, you will work to interpret the comments to help you decide how you would like to address the student feedback with your class, giving you the chance to make adjustments and clarify any points of confusion for your students before the end of the term. The feedback collected is shared

confidentially only with you as the instructor. This process of gathering feedback frequently results in better instructor-student communication and a greater sense of community in the classroom. Students are often impressed that the instructor took the time to ask for their feedback in a detailed manner, and in return, they respond with insightful, eloquent, and constructive responses,

improving the teaching and learning environment for all!

If you are interested in this service, or if you would like to discuss other ways of enhancing your teaching, please email or call us soon! It's best to complete these focus groups between weeks 5 and 9 of the semester.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "L. B. ...".

# Annual Teaching Conference Brings Us Together

The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual UWSP Teaching Conference was held on Thursday, January 18 in Albertson Hall. Twenty presenters were on hand to share their expertise and knowledge under the theme, "Teaching for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Citizenship."

Presenters' materials from the conference are available on the [website](#). And, be sure to check out more photos from the event on the [CITL Facebook page](#).



"It was energizing to learn from and talk with others."

"Every session I went to had interesting things to offer and ideas that I can try in my classroom."

"All topics were very relevant to what I teach and discussions were focused on similar challenges we all face as faculty."

"I especially appreciated how all were encouraged to interact, discuss, and learn."

