



Center of Teaching Excellence & Learning

Learning Connections: It's All About Partnerships!

Volume 3, Issue 3: February 2022

Spring 2022 Goals

Upcoming Workshops:

- Engaging Students
- Working with Students with Learning Disabilities

Other Exciting Goals:

- Podcast—Stay Tuned
- Trailblazers/Innovators Monthly Nominations

Message from:

Dr. Orlando Patricio, CTCL Content Creator/Facilitator

Warm greetings to all! I want to personally welcome you to the Center of Teaching Excellence and Learning (CTEL) at Laredo College. I am Dr. Orlando Patricio, professor of physics and assessment coordinator at the Department of Natural Sciences. I am grateful to the LC administration for selecting me as one of the content creators/facilitators to help lay the foundation and framework of CTCL's mission and vision.

The Center aims to formalize in keeping records of the research-based strategies and best teaching practices that the faculty could benchmark from and use them effectively in their classrooms. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic in the background, our educational goals and objectives have moved towards the emergence and development of more engaging, exciting activities for all learning modalities (online, hybrid, traditional face-to-face).

The LC faculty will innovate and try new strategies to attract students to attend class discussions and participate actively in all coursework activities. We, as faculty, have the will and courage to implement new techniques in the classroom to find out which work best for our students. We need to prepare ourselves by conscientiously attending CTCL professional development activities and learn from each other (as a community of learners).

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Center of Teaching Excellence & Learning

Presentation to the LC Board Student Success Committee

Dr. Veronica Martinez & Dr. Elizabeth Rodriguez presented to the LC Board Student Success Committee on Monday, January 24, 2022. Dr. Martinez highlighted the goals of the QEP, while Dr. Rodriguez highlighted the goals for the Center of Teaching Excellence & Learning, how the goals tie into the QEP, and the upcoming plans for the Center of Teaching Excellence & Learning.

This is an exciting time for the Center as we begin to develop workshops to offer faculty many professional development opportunities. Everything we do at CTCL is driven by **STUDENT SUCCESS** and the LC board members are eager to learn more!



Welcome Message from Dr. Patricio (continued)

We must keep an open mind in learning these current pedagogical strategies and implement your own unique style in your respective classrooms. Your personal touch makes teaching and learning more authentic as proposed by Piaget in his constructivism approach to learning. In here, the learners construct their understanding of the lesson material based on their experiences coupled with the instructor's interpretation grounded from training, education, and experience. This provides greater emphasis on relevance and practical applications of lessons making learning more meaningful.

I am excited to see you all in CTEL's professional development opportunities, workshops, and podcasts.

Thank you for your commitment to excellence and student success!

CTEL Superstars!

Congratulations to CTEL's 1st

Faculty Trailblazers

Mr. Alonzo Laurel and Ms. Jessica Rodriguez



This nomination comes from Ms. Hortencia Gonzalez, Program Director.

Mr. Laurel and Ms. Rodriguez have gone above and beyond their teaching responsibilities, not just in the classroom, but also in complying to all local clinical site guidelines so that our students could complete their clinical hours.

Ms. Gonzalez would like them to be recognized and commended because they have demonstrated excellent teamwork. Due to the pandemic, all of our RT courses were moved online. We worked as a team, and they not only assisted Ms. Gonzalez in creating all of the required Canvas courses, but they also helped enhance the courses as we went. They had created a great Canvas course organization, provided plenty of student materials, and met all of the QM requirements.

CTEL Superstars!



Students' reviews have demonstrated that they are pleased not just with the content and organization of Canvas, but also with how well they teach students. Both use various teaching techniques to instruct different types of learners. Both faculty members are adamant about completing their continuing education requirements by participating in webinars and attending conferences.

They were provided webinars on teaching techniques and improving effective communication and listening, as well as how to educate college students, through Coursera and LinkedIn, and they completed all of these courses and learned a lot and put it into practice. They have monthly team meetings where they actively participate and bring up key topics such as teaching techniques and content revision for students.

Both of faculty members are always on time and happy to help others, many of them being the new Diagnostic Sonography Program faculty members. The RT Accreditation Agency (JRCERT) came to evaluate the program in January. It was the first time dealing with an accreditation visit at the College. They worked together from the beginning to the end. The site visitors complimented the Program Director, Ms. Hortencia Gonzalez on how well organized the program was and how strong the RT team appeared to be. We are grateful for their involvement on the RT team. Annual feedback from clinical site staff and students has been really positive.



You make us Laredo College Proud!

Keep up the great work!!!

If you'd like to see faculty in your area recognized, send your CTEL Trailblazer nomination to CTEL@laredo.edu.

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? We'd love to hear from you!

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