



Center of Teaching Excellence & Learning

Learning Connections: It's All About Partnerships!

Volume 4, Issue 4: April 2022

Spring 2022 Goals

Upcoming Workshops:

- Part II -Engaging Students Workshops
- Student Survey

CTEL Faculty will continue to develop and offer engaging and exciting workshops on important pedagogical strategies for faculty. Stay tuned!

Message from:

Professor Maria Lourdes Gutierrez, CTET Content Creator/Facilitator

I am Maria de Lourdes Gutierrez, and I have been teaching Psychology at LC since 2007. It is such an honor to be a part of the Center of Teaching Excellence and Learning, and to work with an amazing team. The main focus of the Center is to foster a community of faculty and staff devoted in improving teaching strategies, best practices, and increasing student learning.

In the time I have been teaching at LC, the way we teach has changed drastically, and so has our student population. We now have a large amount of online and dual students. This has brought us new challenges and opportunities.

We have also been through a deadly pandemic that has affected all of us. Our students and faculty have lost loved ones, acquired new fears and concerns, and many are still struggling with the consequences of the pandemic. I am sure most of you have noticed that many students seem apathetic or even depressed or anxious. We are working with a generation that has been through a lot and of course this affects their learning and student success.

CTEL has given me an opportunity to learn about research-based strategies to help us face some of the challenges we are facing in the classroom and I am excited to learn from you and share what I have learned with you. I have no doubt that together, we will rise to these challenges. Thank you for your dedication to our students!!!! I look forward to seeing you at our professional development workshops.



CTEL Faculty Workshop

A Holistic Approach to Engaging Students—Part I

On Friday, March 25th, the Center of Teaching Excellence & Learning hosted their first workshop. The workshop was a HUGE success! Nearly 80 faculty members were in attendance. The workshop was hosted on-site & via zoom to allow faculty to choose their preferred mode of delivery. Another two sessions will be offered on April 8, 2022. Please be sure to register to secure a seat. Part II of this workshop will also be offered in April. An email with registration information will be going out soon.

Faculty Trailblazer



Dr. Quingguo Meng has excelled in the classroom by having an overall course design that is accessible and engaging for students taking chemistry online courses. This dedication in ensuring the quality of his general chemistry course has been recognized and certified by quality matters. He is dedicated to helping students understand course material by often tutoring students or setting up review sessions outside of class time. He is a great advocate for students as he often stays behind class to meet with students if they need help understanding concepts. Students have often commented how they enjoy his class as he has a way of making topics interesting to learn. As noted by students, he does this by going over the material in great detail instead of just giving them the information. He also provides excellent feedback and many students appreciate the organization of the class making it easy to find information and understand his expectations.

His dedication also extends outside of the classroom as he has been an active participant in the Title III: Leadership, Excellence, and Academic Preparedness in STEM (LEAPS) program. In this program, he serves as a faculty research partner where he mentors undergraduate students in conducting scientific research. He has also helped students prepare and write research reports and presentations as part of the LEAPS symposium. The natural science is proud of all the hard work he has done and his commitment to helping students succeed in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).



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.

“Congratulations to our CTEL faculty for their endless commitment! Their hard work was evident during the delivery of the first workshop!!”

Dr. Elizabeth Rodriguez,

Dean of Academic Innovation & Technology

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

Helen Keller



Be on the lookout for upcoming workshops!!

Future Topics/Projects Include

- **Teaching to Generation Z Learners**
- **Addressing different styles of learning**
- **Creation of self-paced online academy for all faculty**



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

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