

March 2024

THE CenterPOINT Press

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

Join Us for Spring Book Group

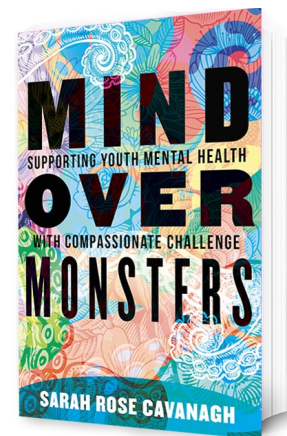
Our Spring semester Book Group is an encore of *Mind Over Monsters – Supporting Youth Mental Health with Compassionate Challenge* by Sarah Rose Cavanagh. Dr. Cavanagh’s keynote presentation at the Annual Teaching Conference provided solution-focused recommendations that attendees found valuable. We are offering Book Group discussions facilitated by CITL Director Erin Speetzen for those who want to explore this important and timely book.

Twelve copies of the book are available for checkout from the CITL Resource Library.

Meeting times via Zoom:

Thursdays, 3 - 4 p.m.
(March 28, April 4, 11, and 18)

[Learn more and register to attend.](#)



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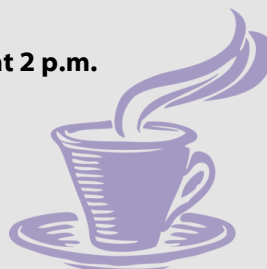
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Coffee with Colleagues

UWSP faculty and instructors are invited to drop in and join the conversation at the **Basement Brewhaus** in the **Dreyfus University Center (DUC)** on

Tuesday, March 5 at 11 a.m. or Friday, March 8 at 2 p.m.

There is no formal agenda for these discussions. The soft focus topics are flexibility, student needs in the classroom, mental health, and academic success. We hope to see you there!



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Take Advantage of CITL's Program and Course Design Support

"Taking time to meet with the CITL consultant regularly was very helpful. Not only did it hold me accountable and keep me on track, they also provided great ideas and insights from an external perspective."

Consultations are available for academic units or individual faculty. Many consultations are available, ranging from Program Development to Activity Development.

Course Design and Course Revision Support is provided for faculty and instructors. Full Course Design or Revision typically lasts 12-16 weeks. During this process faculty receive support to plan, align, build, and review their entire course.

Course Design Shorts is an abbreviated course design or course revision process that lasts 6-8 weeks. During the Course Design Shorts Program, faculty receive support to plan and align their entire course and to start building the course in Canvas.

- This is for anyone who wants to design or revise a course, and is available for all course modalities and instructors. Course Design Shorts sessions are held via Zoom and follow-up sessions with individuals can be via Zoom or in-person.
- Participants who successfully complete all required components with CITL staff will be eligible for \$200 in professional development funds.

New Faculty Learning Community to Launch Later This Year

CITL will be offering an opportunity for faculty members to join a Faculty Learning Community centered on creating educational videos for online courses. The Learning Community will begin in Fall 2024, and the application to participate will be available later this semester. Stay tuned for more details on this opportunity!



Introducing a New, Tiered Safe Zone Training for Faculty and Staff

Starting in 2022, the Faculty and Staff Gender-Sexuality Alliance (FSGSA) began redesigning the Safe Zone training, with efforts led by the Safe Zone Coordinator, along with a working group of students and staff. In order to receive a Safe Zone placard on campus, you must complete the Safe Zone training. However, for folks who may have recently completed a training with a previous employer before joining the Pointer family or have completed trainings independently for their own learning, as well as those on campus who have scholarly expertise in gender and sexuality studies or are members of the LGBTQ+ community themselves, we wanted to streamline access. And so began the process of creating a tiered Safe Zone training.

Tier 1 covers topics such as gender identity and expression, pronouns, sex assigned at birth, and sexual and romantic orientations. Tier 1 has a test-out option, which you can find on the [CITL Safe Zone web page](#). Tier 2 goes deeper and covers intersectionality, privilege and oppression, and highlights ways that we can all be allies to and advocates for the LGBTQ+ community. Tier 2 does not have a test-out option and must be completed to receive a Safe Zone placard. There is also a Tier 3 to Safe Zones – this is your continued education. This can be attending and engaging in FSGSA and QRC events on campus, self-education, and/or campus service related to equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts. It can also mean revisiting the Tier 2 training, which FSGSA recommends every 3 years, as language and content changes.

Please contact the Faculty and Staff Gender-Sexuality Alliance at fsgsa@uwsp.edu with any questions regarding this revision to the Safe Zone training. Several training sessions are scheduled for this semester. Visit the [CITL Safe Zone web page](#) to register to attend a training.

Weekly Support For Instructors

CITL's weekly **Teaching Tips** are created to offer useful information in under ten minutes on a variety of topics. Learning about effective instructional strategies, tools, and resources for your courses contributes to student success and can provide time-saving efficiencies for you. We share our weekly Teaching Tips in video, infographic, or resource sheet format. Browse through the topics on our [Teaching Tips web page](#).

2024

Wisconsin Teaching Fellows & Scholars and Faculty College

Each spring, educators from across UW-System meet at Faculty College, a state-wide institute provided by the Office of Professional and Instructional Development (OPID). This year each UW campus has been asked to assemble an institutional team to address university-identified challenges of Rethinking/ Redesigning Student Assessment. The following individuals will comprise this year's team:

James Berry, English
Ornella Hills, Health Promotion and Wellness
Cary Elza, Media Studies
David Barry, Sociology
Jesse Mossholder, Education
Ismaila Odogba, Geology/Geography
Laurie Schmeling, Theater and Dance
Rachel Craig, Communication Sciences and Disorders
Rebecca Stephens, English

UWSP is once again fortunate to have three individuals from our team participate in the Wisconsin Teaching Fellows and Scholars (WTFS) program. **Ornella Hills**, **Cary Elza**, and **David Barry** will be representing UWSP this year and will develop an equity-minded Scholarship of Teaching and Learning project. **Valerie Barske** serves as a co-facilitator of WTFS and will help to kick off this year's program at Faculty College this spring.

Free Webinar Opportunities

Universities of Wisconsin has partnered with Mantra Health to provide free webinar sessions for faculty and staff on important topics. The upcoming sessions are detailed on their [digital flier](#).



Virtual Conference Accepting Proposals

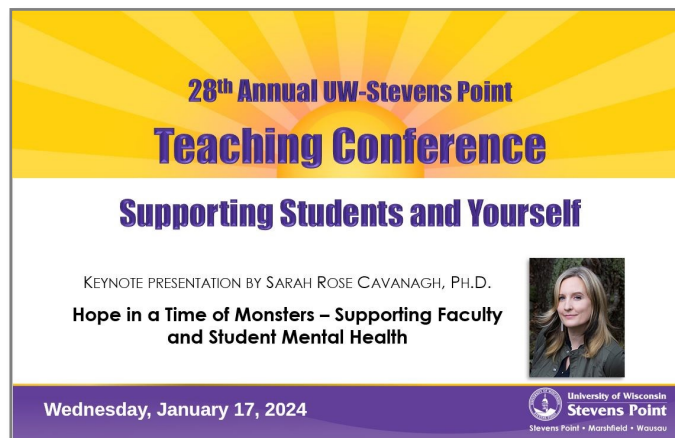
Kennesaw State University's Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning invites you to [submit your proposal](#) for the 2024 SoTL Summit virtual conference, to be held **Sept. 19-20**.

This multi- and inter-disciplinary conference is an excellent opportunity for new or seasoned SoTL practitioners to share their work and learn from others. This year there are four proposal types: SoTL Sessions, Scholarly Teaching Sessions, SoTL Posters and Scholarly Teaching Posters. **Proposals are due April 30.**

Please see [Kennesaw State University's website](#) for more information about the conference.

View the Conference Content

Were you unable to attend the UWSP Annual Teaching Conference in January? You can view the videorecording of the keynote presentation through our [website](#). Content from the breakout session presentations is available there, too.



THE JOYS OF Teaching & Learning *Engaging Students*

OPID 2024 Spring Conference for Wisconsin Educators

Thursday, April 18 & Friday, April 19, 2024
MEMORIAL UNION, MADISON

Our teaching and learning practices begin and end with students. Engaging students in learning is an ongoing challenge and doesn't happen without thoughtful, intentional efforts. Every class is different and requires nuanced approaches depending on the students, the class modality (in-person, online, or hybrid), and context. The Covid pandemic exposed the complex lives of our students, and instructors, and the multiple stressors that impact our lives. The pandemic may be under control, but some stressors remain. As educators, how are we ensuring that all of our students are engaged and supported to succeed? What strategies and approaches have you found effective or promising? We invite you to share your experiences engaging students in *the joys of learning*, and look forward to seeing you and your systemwide colleagues together at OPID's annual conference.

View the agenda, speaker bios, and register to attend on the [OPID 2024 spring conference website](#).