

November 2023



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

# Evaluating Support for Our Students and Ourselves

**A**s educators, we care deeply about the success of our students. Over the past several years, we have observed shifts in the mental health of our students, as well as a change in their executive functioning skills, such as time management, organization and planning, and cognitive flexibility. Many of us have struggled to figure out how to meet the changing needs of our students while maintaining our own boundaries and prioritizing our own health and wellness.

This year’s teaching conference, **Supporting Students and Yourself**, will provide a forum for experts from across campus to share how they have been supporting student mental health, connecting students to support services across campus, and helping students develop the skills they need to be successful while maintaining their own boundaries and protecting their own time and mental health.

All UWSP faculty and staff members are invited to attend and present. The teaching conference registration will be shared in December and the call for proposals is on page 2.

## 28<sup>th</sup> Annual UWSP Teaching Conference

Wednesday, January 17, 2024



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# Proposals are Requested for the UWSP Teaching Conference

28<sup>th</sup> Annual UWSP Teaching Conference

Supporting Students and Yourself

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Faculty and staff members from all UWSP campuses are invited to submit proposals to present at the teaching conference. The conference will be held on the Stevens Point campus and we are planning for in-person sessions.

As you consider possible conference presentation topics, here are some questions to explore:

- How can we create assignments, environments, and policies that support students in developing the skills that they need to balance academic success and well-being?
- How have you successfully empowered students to take more ownership of their learning without significantly increasing your workload?
- How have you worked with campus or community partners to better meet your needs and the needs of your students?
- What strategies have you used to establish and maintain healthy boundaries with your students?
- What resources have you provided students to help them maintain their well-being?

## Call for Proposals

accepted through Wednesday, December 6, 2023

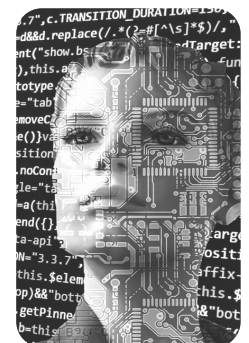
# Attend AI Series Events in November and December

Thursday, November 2: AI and the Academic Misconduct Process

Thursday, December 7: Critical Thinking and Artificial intelligence

[Register to Attend](#)

All UWSP faculty and staff members are invited to attend in person in CCC 224 or via Zoom. Recordings will be available later on the [CITL YouTube channel](#).



## McGuire to Present at Virtual Event

Join us on Zoom on **Monday, November 20, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.** to hear Dr. Saundra McGuire present *Teach Students How to Learn: Metacognition is the Key!*

21<sup>st</sup> Century students come to college with widely varying academic skills, approaches to learning, and motivation levels. Faculty often lament that students are focused on achieving high grades but are not willing to invest much time or effort in learning. This session will focus on the importance of helping students acquire simple but effective, learning strategies based on cognitive science principles. We will engage in interactive reflection activities that will allow attendees to experience strategies that can significantly improve student success by transforming students' attitudes about the meaning of learning.

### [Register to Attend](#)

NOTE: You do not need to have participated in the fall Book Group on *Teach Students How to Learn* to get valuable information from this session.

Saundra Yancy McGuire is Professor Emerita of Chemistry and Director Emerita of the Center for Academic Success at Louisiana State University. Her best-selling books *Teach Students How to Learn* and *Teach Yourself How to Learn* were published by Stylus Publishing. *The Parents' Guide to Studying and Learning* was released in January 2022 by Wise Action. She has delivered keynote addresses or presented workshops at over 500 institutions in 47 states and fourteen countries.

## Faculty/Staff Safe Zone Training

**S**essions of the Safe Zone training workshop are offered this semester for UWSP faculty and staff members. The Faculty and Staff Gender-Sexuality Alliance, in partnership with CITL, provides this training for faculty and staff members of UW-Stevens Point campuses.

**Thursday, November 30**

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



## Book Groups Provide the Opportunity to Learn Together

**T**he virtual Book Group discussion on Sarah Rose Cavanagh's *Mind Over Monsters* concluded on October 17. CITL's Nancy Shefferly facilitated the virtual discussion sessions.


Watch for Book Group offerings in Spring semester. All UWSP faculty and staff members are encouraged to participate in CITL Book Group opportunities.



## Apply for Professional Development Funds

The Center for Inclusive Teaching and Learning (CITL) offers grants up to \$500 to support travel to conferences and professional development opportunities for faculty and instructors.

Applications for grants will be reviewed on a rolling basis throughout the 2023-2024 academic year. Interested instructors should complete the [Teaching Professional Development Grant application](#).



**THE JOYS OF Teaching & Learning**  
*Engaging Students*

**OPID 2024 Spring Conference for Wisconsin Educators**  
Thursday, April 18 & Friday, April 19, 2024  
MEMORIAL UNION, MADISON

**Call for Proposals**  
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?

**Submissions will be accepted for review through the [online form](#).**  
**Due Monday, January 8, 2024**

## What You Need to Know About Mid-term Evaluations

Conducting mid-course evaluations can help instructors gather student perceptions, be informed of student concerns, and gauge student success while the course is in session allowing instructors to make changes to improve learning during the course.

Mid-course surveys are automatically distributed to students when courses are about 50% complete so that instructors have time to make changes early enough to have a positive impact.

The [University Handbook](#)

requires that faculty conduct a mid-term student evaluation and end-of-term student evaluation of teaching. Both mid-term and end-of-term evaluations are done electronically. Emails are sent to both instructors and students from the email address [evals@blue.uwsp.edu](mailto:evals@blue.uwsp.edu). By default, evaluations will launch 7 days before the last day of classes and end 7 days after the last day of classes.

The student evaluation software is managed by CITL, however, evaluation questions are determined by shared

governance. Concerns about the evaluation schedule or the list of courses for which you will be evaluated should be communicated to your department chair.

To improve student response rates, CITL recommends that you provide students time in class to complete their evaluations and reinforce the value of completing them. [Handbook policy](#) allows for opt-out of the midterm evaluation provided instructors have an alternate method of assessing the course at the mid-term.