GEORGIA COLLEGE
GEORGIA'S PUBLIC LIBERAL ARTS UNIVERSITY
Center for Teaching and Learning

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News Update
Center for Teaching and Learning

CTL Workshops for Summer 2021

The Center for Teaching and Learning will be offering three virtual workshop tracks during the Summer semester: Course Structure, Digital Teaching Toolkit, and Learning and Getting It Right.

Keep an eye out for the complete webinar schedule on Front Page and the **CTL events calendar**. Please use our **registration form** to register for these workshops! Registrants will be sent the link to attend the webinar.

Program Spotlight

As the highlight of this month's newsletter, the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) would like to share an interview with Dr. Jordan Cofer on the GC Journeys Program. Dr. Cofer has been the Associate Provost for Transformative Learning Experiences at Georgia College since 2019 and oversees GC Journeys, among other programs and offices. Last year, GC Journeys won the **2021 Regents' Momentum Year Award for Excellence in Teaching and Curricular Innovation** from the University System of Georgia (USG) and the **2020 CUR Campus-Wide Award for Undergraduate Research Accomplishments (AURA)** award.

The GC Journeys program merges high-impact practices and essential learning outcomes to offer students experiential learning opportunities as well as teaching them skills that 21st-century employers seek in their employees. High-impact practices include the first-year experience, career planning, leadership experiences, undergraduate research, study abroad, internships, and community-based engaged learning. Essential learning outcomes include teamwork and networking, analytical reasoning, written and oral communication, knowledge of global issues, creativity and innovation, and information literacy. These are the types of experiences and skills that educational research has shown will positively impact students during and after college.

At its most basic level, GC Journeys supports a combination of experiences and skills that research shows are beneficial to students while improving retention and graduation rates. More holistically, it offers unique educational experiences that develop students' ability to adapt, pivot, and upskill for success in an evolving job market, while also preparing them to think critically to answer life's big questions. Part of this experience is fostered by the teacher-scholar role taken on by faculty at Georgia College, supporting a greater connection between faculty and students. This faculty-student connection, along with the active and innovative pedagogies championed by GC Journeys, allows faculty to build an environment where students learn to work collaboratively. Faculty help students to see the value of their activities for themselves and articulate what they're learning by taking the time to explain the purpose of various learning opportunities.

"These hands-on opportunities are the future of higher education," says Dr. Cofer, and are typically only seen at a private school or in graduate school, as students not only gain knowledge but conduct their own research, make unique discoveries and produce compelling scholarship. While educational research has proven the value of high-impact practices, studies show that the average college student participates in only 1.3 practices during their college career. GC Journeys asks students to complete five such experiences, and Dr. Cofer believes the benefits stack up for students and make Georgia College competitive in the broader educational market. For the immediate future, Dr. Cofer hopes to see growing participation in GC Journeys. In the years to come, he believes that fully implementing GC Journeys will put Georgia College on the map for national preeminence.

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The Office of Transformative Learning Experiences continues to make progress in assessing GC Journeys courses in the overall program, continually improving how participation and effectiveness is tracked and measured. A group of Georgia College faculty who have led these experiences are currently developing a set of rubrics covering each transformative experience. These rubrics will be unique to Georgia College and can be used by other faculty when leading these experiences.

For faculty interested in incorporating GC Journeys into their courses or in assisting others to do the same, there are communities of practice, such as the Chancellor's Learning Scholars and the HIPs Implementation teams. The Office of Transformative Learning Experiences also offers awards and mini-grants for financial support and faculty champions who can help mentor through the implementation process for individual transformative experiences. This process can vary depending on the experience in question; faculty may need to work with their department chair or with university offices, such as International Education, Leadership Programs, First Year Experience, the Career Center, or MURACE. Once the implementation process is complete, the course will be labeled as a GC Journeys course in Banner so students will see that it's available.

To learn more about GC Journeys, please explore the **website**. For support to implement GC Journeys in your courses, please reach out to **Dr. Cofer**.

News from the CTL

Celebrating Barb Szyjko's Retirement

We have some sad and happy news to share with you. The sad news is that Barb Szyjko, our Instructional Technology Staff Specialist, will be leaving us. The happy news is that she is heading to retirement. We are grateful to her for her years of work here at Georgia College and know that many of you are as well. With that in mind, Katie has set up a Kudoboard. If you would like, we invite you to **send Barb an e-mail** or leave a message on the **Kudoboard**. Access is free and it only takes a moment to add a message.

We will certainly miss Barb and her wisdom and skill in serving the Georgia College community. Hopefully, we can send her off with messages of how impactful she has been and cheers for her next adventures.

A Note to the Georgia College Community

"I finally made the decision to retire. About time, don't you think? As my final day gets closer, I find myself reflecting on my 13+ years at Georgia College and thinking about everything I've experienced here. Some experiences have been rewarding, others character-building, and others more like a family get-together. Without a doubt, the faculty, staff, and students at Georgia College are some of the most kind-hearted, welcoming, and supportive people I've ever had the pleasure of working with. Thank you to my faculty (and I do consider you *my faculty*) for your patience, acceptance, and friendship. You challenged me every day to be better at my job and a better person all around. Thank you to my co-workers - one of the best groups of folks I've ever had the opportunity to work with. Finally, thank you to my supervisors, both past and present, for the opportunities presented and the support provided to me. I will miss everyone.

With Warmest Regards,

Barb Szyjko

P.S. Don't forget the 10-minute rule AND remember to build that grade book first!!"

Keep Up with the Center for Teaching and Learning on Social Media!

Adoptions and Insight Portal

The Fall semester is approaching quickly, and students will be returning to campus. Partner with Barnes & Noble at Georgia College to make sure your students have their course materials for the upcoming semester.

You can input your course materials in the new **Adoptions and Insights Portal (AIP)**.

1. Go to **AIP**.

2. Select Georgia College from the "Select Institution" drop-down menu.

3. Press "Proceed" by the Institution drop-down menu, which will take you to Unify.

4. Sign in with your Unify credentials.

5. Find your courses.

6. Insert course materials (textbooks and online access) or no text needed.

We ask that all textbook adoptions are completed by July 1.

If you have any questions, please email the Barnes & Noble at Georgia College Store Manager, **Sophia Pope**.

GeorgiaVIEW Updates

Assignments

The New Assignment Evaluation Experience now includes the Download drop-down menu in the Annotations viewer. When using annotations in an assignment, instructors can use this menu to download the original file without navigating to the submission list. Instructors can also download the annotated PDF file.

Attendance

The new More Actions button on the Course Admin > Attendance Registers page enables instructors to modify the visibility of attendance registers in bulk. Previously, you had to modify each register individually.

Rubrics

To improve the value of rubrics and facilitate reusing rubric criteria that have already been created, an action menu next to the criterion name provides Copy and Delete options. When an instructor copies a criterion, the new criterion is added under the original with the criterion name Copy of {name of original criterion}. The Delete function was previously available as a trashcan icon at the end of the criterion row. To improve the user experience with rubrics, instructors can now print or download a PDF of a preview or evaluated rubric. Learners can also print or download a PDF of a rubric from the desktop browser implementation of Brightspace Learning Environment. The Print button displays above the top-right corner of the rubric.

The Future of GeorgiaVIEW

The pandemic caused a great shift in the way courses were designed and presented to our students. For some faculty, it was a first-time experience using various learning technologies including GeorgiaVIEW. How did these technologies change the way you designed and taught your courses? Will you go back to your pre-COVID model or continue to use new methods and new technology tools?

Since nearly all faculty have now been introduced to GeorgiaVIEW to some degree, it could be that Georgia College is primed to take the use of GeorgiaVIEW to the next level. Most faculty are aware of the most popular tools such as discussions and assignment folders, but there are many more tools available. Some assist in course management and others for use in course delivery. Consider the following GeorgiaVIEW tools:

- A searchable glossary tool that can be populated with course-specific concepts and terms
- An FAQ tool to answer common questions related to the course or tools used in the course
- Self-Assessments allow students to test themselves with immediate feedback
- Manage Dates makes it possible to update any start, due, or end date within the tool, on one screen, without jumping from page to page to find dates to correct
- Quick Eval provides faculty with a list of all ungraded items from all courses for that semester
- Audio and video recording capabilities can be used to record feedback to assignments, provide accessibility features, etc.

These are only a few of the tools and utilities available to you. Look for future webinars covering some of these topics, or contact the Center for Teaching and Learning at **ctl@gcsu.edu** to learn more.

Text Editor

The new Brightspace Editor is replacing the previous version of the text editor tool. The new editor includes updated formatting options, color picker, font size menu, tables feature, and Accessibility Checker. New features include Lato font, drag-and-drop image, wordcount functionality, context menus while editing, and an overflow menu with additional, less used menu option.

News from IT

We hope you are having a wonderful summer thus far! Here's what is going on in IT:

- Reminder - Student email will migrate from the Gmail platform to Microsoft 365 during July 2-5. We are communicating with the students and have a website to provide information, tips, and tutorials to assist with their questions.
- You may notice a slight change in the version of Microsoft Office you use. To ensure consistency of features and functionality between individual computers, instructor/classroom PCs, and student versions of MS Office, we are changing individual computers and instructor/classroom PCs from a "Professional Pro Plus" version of MS Office to the downloaded version from Microsoft 365. You should not have any disruption of service during this change.
- We are extending our virtual Thundercloud environment to include a small pool of virtual machines that will have enhanced graphics capabilities. If this trial is succesful, we can provide student access to graphics-intensive programs via Thundercloud instead of paying for home-use licenses.
- Our summer project list includes updates to multiple instructional areas:

  3 active learning classroom transitions

  3 OS/software updatees to instructor/classroom computers

  14 AV upgrades

  40 instructor workstation PC replacements

- IT now has responsibility for managing cell phones and hotspots. Requests can be made via our Serve Help Desk by going to the self-service portal and selecting "New Telco Request GC" from the list of IT Services.
- Auxiliary Services has determined that providing cable services to residence halls is no longer advantageous. As such, our current cable contract will terminate on June 30. IT has been asked to provide TV service to departments across campus who have been using the existing cable contract. We are still investigating options and will provide an update as soon as we can determine a viable solution.

Enjoy the summer!

- Susan Kerr, CIO

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Institute on Open Educational Resources; AAC&U

Georgia College was recently accepted to participate in the AAC&Us inaugural **Institute on Open Educational Resources**, a year-long team-based professional development experience. Teams from across the country will develop strategies to expand campus engagement with and adoption of open education resources.

Georgia College's team will be led by Dr. Shaundra Walker, Director of Russell Library. Additional team members include Jaclyn Queen, Instructional Designer (CTL); Lamonica Sanford, Assessment Librarian; Jennifer Townes, Scholarly Communications Librarian, and Dr. Rodica Cazacu, Associate Professor of Mathematics.

Have Suggestions? Need Help?

Contact Us

Phone: 478-445-2520

Email: ctl@gcsu.edu

Location: Ina Dillard Russell Library, Room 375