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

September 2021
Issue 9
News Update
Center for Teaching and Learning

Constitution Week

Constitution Week is the commemoration of the signing of America's most important document, and is celebrated annually in September. This year, events begin on September 17 and end on September 23.

Celebrations for Constitution Week at Georgia College include a welcome from the Provost followed by a student debate. There will be discussions on free speech and social media, the U.S. Constitution and immigration, Native American treaties, the future of Roe v. Wade, as well as COVID and the health of democracy. A Trax on the Trail concert and an Usery Forum on Leadership will also be offered.

For more information on Constitution Week, please visit **Constitution Week Events**.

The Learning Center Brings Mindset to Its Student Staff

The Center for Teaching and Learning is delighted to spotlight the Learning Center and their work on introducing growth mindset to Georgia College students. Read on to learn more about the Learning Center's pilot mindset training program. We are grateful to Rebecca Cofer for sharing the following article with us!

When the University System of Georgia charged its institutions with infusing growth mindset into our work, Georgia College decided to share these important concepts with both students and faculty at the university in multiple ways. In a 2015 article, Carol Dweck, the mother of growth mindset, revisited the ideas in her work. In short, growth mindset is defined by Dweck as the belief that intelligence can be developed, as opposed to fixed mindset, which argues it is unchanging (Dweck, 2015).

Last year, the Learning Center (LC) decided the best way for our office to provide students information on growth mindset would be through the 150+ student staff we hire on a yearly basis. This meant training our peer tutors, SI Leaders, PASS tutors, workshop facilitators, and front desk employees on growth mindset, specifically as it related to their roles in the LC. In this way, the information could be trickled out to the larger Georgia College student population via the fantastic student staff we employ.

In the fall of 2020, the LC Programs Manager, Rebecca Cofer, used resources provided by her own research and Motivate Lab to develop a training about growth/fixed mindset. The training was piloted last year to about 20 of the LC's student leadership team. In addition to providing examples of growth mindset, the training also explored how the student staff could facilitate growth mindset in the students they see every day in their LC work. The training session was engaging and interactive, as the employees watched TED Talks by Dweck, explored the concepts together in groups, and provided opportunities for discussion about combating fixed mindsets. In a post-training survey, the pilot group was asked to rate their agreement with the following statement- "I feel confident that I can use the training information in my job at the Learning Center." One hundred percent of the group either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement. One attendee even shared that her friends and roommates now have a growth mindset board and work to reframe their thinking to embrace this new concept.

This training session will be offered to all employees in the LC this academic year. It is also now being adapted to be included in our Academic Success Workshop offerings this fall; these workshops are marketed through students enrolled in the First Year Seminar courses. Not only will our student facilitators dig in to the topic of growth mindset for GC students, but workshop activities will allow the students to engage with the information in ways that relate to their everyday lives. Application is key when discussing mindset with students, as Schawbel (2014) found Gen Z students to be less motivated by money and more straightforward in their communication. He also found that social networking was a big part of their lives; keeping this in mind, the LC has also featured growth mindset information on our various social media accounts.

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The Learning Center looks forward to bringing growth mindset to both its employees and many First Year Seminar students this year. To keep up with the LC's programs, follow us on **Facebook** or **Instagram**.

References

Dweck, C. (2015). Carol Dweck revisits the growth mindset. *Education Week*, 35(5), 20-24.

Schawbel, D. (2014). Gen Z employees: The 5 attributes you need to know. Retrieved from **http://www.entrepreneur.com/article/236560**.

News from the CTL

Peer Feedback on Teaching Request Period Now Open

The goal of Peer Feedback on Teaching (PFoT) is to provide support to instructors as they improve the quality of learning in their classroom. Deliberate, continuous improvement of one's teaching is a great joy of being a professor, and our trained observers utilize a strengths-based method to help you discover and build upon your skills in the classroom. For more information on PFoT, please visit **our website**.

For Fall semester, PFoTs are offered **September 7 through September 24** and again on **October 11 through October 29** for both in-person and synchronous online courses. If you are interested in scheduling a PFoT session for your class, please use **this form**.

Call for Proposals - Inclusive Excellence Research Grants - Application Period Closes September 17

The purpose of this grant program is to provide funding for Georgia College faculty to conduct research on topics regarding inclusive excellence in the discipline and beyond. Faculty can address inclusive excellence in a variety of ways including examining underserved populations; researching the effect of educational, economic, health, and environmental disparities; analyzing public policies and their impact on society; investigating historical events; evaluating effective and inclusive teaching; discovering the roles of specific learning outcomes in including or excluding learners; identifying the impact of the use of technology on certain populations; and recognizing the student's agency in successfully matriculating through the coursework.

Awarded funds must be expended by May 1, 2022. For more information, please see the **Program Announcement**.

Grant Amount: Up to $4,000.00

Application Period: September 1 - September 17

Winners Announced: October 5

Call for Proposals - Faculty Research Grants Round I - Application Period Closes September 17

The call for research grant proposals for Round I opens September 1, with a deadline of 5 p.m. on September 17. Awarded funds must be expended by May 1, 2022. Applicants should read the **guidance provided by Academic Affairs**. For more information, please see the **Program Call for Submissions**.

Grant Amount: Up to $5,000.00

Application Period: September 1 - September 17

Winners Announced: October 5

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

SRIS - Marking Classes in Banner for Fall 2021 - Now Open

The window to mark classes in Banner for the Student Rating of Instruction Survey (SRIS) Fall 2021 has opened and will close on October 6. Please work with your department admin to request the marking of your courses for inclusion in the SRIS. Contact sris@gcsu.edu if you have any questions or concerns.

Request for Proposals - Affordable Learning Georgia Grants, Round 20

Affordable Learning Georgia is issuing a Request for Proposals for Affordable Materials Grants with applications due by Monday, November 1, 2021. There is a $30,000 maximum award per grant. All grant applications must be coordinated through the Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects. For assistance, contact any member of Georgia College's ALG Champion Team: Faculty Champion, Shaundra Walker; Library Champion, Jennifer Townes; or Design Champion, Jaclyn Queen.

Save the Date - Open Education Resource (OER) Webinar with David Harris, Editor in Chief at OpenStax

As a part of Georgia College's participation in the AAC&U Open Education Resource Institute, David Harris, Editor in Chief at OpenStax, will lead a virtual webinar on October 19 at 2:00 pm. The webinar will be instructive for faculty who are interested in learning more about supporting student success through the provision of affordable textbook alternatives. For more information, contact Shaundra Walker, Library Director, and OER Institute Team Lead for Georgia College, at shaundra.walker@gcsu.edu or 478-445-0987.

GeorgiaVIEW Updates

Assignment Evaluation Experience

If you have not yet updated to the most current version of the Assignment Evaluation experience, you will notice a few changes the next time you evaluate an assignment.

- When providing feedback on assignments, instructors now have access to attachments from QuickLinks, web links, Google Drive, and OneDrive.
- Changes in the Rubrics tool to increase usability, including level descriptions that display when a user hovers over the slider and a checkmark appearing on the level when selected. The overall score will now appear when using the New Assignment Evaluation Experience.

Discussions

Instructors will notice the workflow now makes it easier to set date restrictions in discussions. Locking options are now consolidated with the availability start and end dates in the restrictions tab. In addition, the evaluation experience has been updated to utilize a new page layout, with evaluation tools and the post being evaluated displaying side-by-side.

Transformative Experiences and Essential Learning Outcomes Workshops

GC Journeys is the answer to several issues which came to the fore in 2015 as we reflected on 20 years of our liberal arts mission: *How could faculty and staff make our work more joyful, meaningful, and purposeful? How do we build more meaningful relationships with our students? How do we move from a primarily content-focused curriculum to something more transformative? How do we distinguish our curriculum in a system that doesn't provide much opportunity for creating something more liberal-arts-specific?*

The Transformative Experiences and Essential Learning Outcomes workshops are paired together and will help you better understand the GC Journeys initiative and make decisions about how you might like to incorporate transformative experiences and essential skills into your courses or program. Start here, and we'll help you move forward in ways that work for you. Do try to register for both sessions, but if you can only come to one, you can pick up the other one later.

Transformative Experiences - October 25, 3:30 pm to 5 pm

Essential Learning Outcomes - November 1, 3:30 pm to 5 pm

If you're interested in taking both sessions at once, we are offering **Transformative Experiences and Essential Learning Outcomes together on December 16 from 9 am to 12 noon**.

These sessions will be hosted by Drs. Cynthia Alby and Simeco Vinson.

To register for any of these sessions, please visit our Program Registration Form.

Update Browser to Display Textbox

If you or your student experiences an issue in GeorgiaVIEW where a textbox does not display as expected, you (or the student) may need to verify that the latest browser version is in use on the computer. GeorgiaVIEW is supported on the latest versions of Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Mozilla Firefox, and Apple Safari (on Apple Mac OS only). For additional information, review the **D2L Browser support** page.

News from IT

We successfully navigated through the start of Fall semester! As you might expect, this is always the busiest time of the year for our Serve Help Desk. Over the past 30 days, we have had 1,843 tickets submitted. We thought you might like to see some statistics behind these tickets.

The majority of tickets (54%) are entered directly via email sent to serve@gcsu.edu. Phone calls make up 33.1% of the requests, and 12.5% are entered via the self-service portal. A handful of other tickets come through walk-in service, voicemail messages, and our network monitoring service that automatically sends a message when a system is down. If you have not tried the self-service portal, we would like to recommend that you do so. Submitting a ticket through the portal ensures that we have the most information possible to provide assistance as quickly as possible. If you have input on using this portal, please let **Susan Kerr** know. We would like to make that as user-friendly as possible. As always, though, if your need is urgent, please give us a call at 478-445-SERV (7378).

The top three groups that were assigned the tickets are the Help Desk (31.9%), the Technology Support Services team that also includes classroom support (29.5%), and the Systems Administration team (27.5%). The CTL is also assigned a few tickets, and we always appreciate their support in providing assistance!

As CIO, a statistic that I am very proud of is that 97.7% of these tickets are in a status of closed, resolved, or waiting on a non-IT party to move forward, with only 2.3% of tickets actively assigned and on “our clock”. I would like to publicly thank my team for all of their efforts to address these issues as promptly as possible. For those who still have tickets unresolved, thank you for your patience. We will get to you soon!

- Susan Kerr, CIO

Upcoming CTL Workshops

Finding Grant and Award Opportunities - September 24, 12 noon

Getting Ready for the Mid-term Grading: Taking Full Advantage of the GeorgiaVIEW Grade Book - October 4, 12 noon

Engaging Students in Collaborative Learning and Critical Thinking with Technology - October 14, 12 noon

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CTL Workshops for the Fall Semester

Please check out our upcoming workshops through our **public calendar**. In the next month, we will be offering sessions on finding grant and award opportunities, grading for mid-terms, backward design & TILT, using digital tools in the classroom, and more. You can register for any of these workshops through our **Program Registration Form**!

Have Suggestions? Need Help?

Contact Us

Phone: 478-445-2520

Email: ctl@gcsu.edu

Location: Ina Dillard Russell Library, Room 375