

To: CPP Faculty

From: Victoria Bhavsar

Subject: Teaching microtip, upcoming programs, and "Everybody's Mentor"

Date: Wednesday, Sep 7, 2022

Dear faculty,

We all want to improve class attendance, which has a direct correlation with learning. A good way to encourage attendance is to *help students to connect with each other in your class*. Students are more likely to attend class when they will see people they know, even if those people aren't quite friends yet. It is important for us to provide opportunities for those connections in class, especially in classes where the content does not obviously lend itself to connection. But how to do it, especially beginning halfway through Week 2? Here are two ideas that will work in almost any situation.

Think-pair-share: Pose a rather tough question. Students think about it on their own for a minute or two, ideally writing down their thought. Students turn to a neighbor and exchange ideas. Two or three students are called on to share out to the class. To give participation points (also a motivator for class attendance), you can collect the written notes. This is low-barrier but effective in giving students that "in" with each other. Obviously this works better in a face to face rather than Zoom environment.

Help students form study pairs or groups: Use that class agenda idea from last week and put "study group formation" as an agenda item. Give some time *and instructions* for students to swap contact information and calendar times and a method to meet up. You can even offer a slightly more formal "[class learning community](#)," which evidence from here at CPP shows to be effective. Helping students form groups can be done in Zoom, too.

Take care,

Victoria

PS Here's a [Chronicle of Higher Ed article](#) on class attendance, very useful. Hat tip to Cynthia Peters in StratComm for this idea!

--

Research, Scholarship, & Career Support:

- **[Building a Publishing Pipeline: Increase Your Writing Productivity](#): Friday Oct. 7, 9am-12pm, in person only. [Register for more info and location](#).** Facilitated by Dr. Rosemarie Roberts, Connecticut College.

- **[Solo Success: Thriving When You're the Only _____ in Your Department](#)**: Friday Oct. 21, 9am-12pm, in person only. [Register for more info and location](#). Facilitated by Dr. Carlita Favero, Ursinus University.
- **"Everybody's Mentor"**: Lisa Kessler, CAFE faculty associate and retired interim Dean of Agriculture, provides individual, confidential consultation and coaching. Email [Lisa](#) directly to set up an appointment.
- **Faculty Learning Community for Research & Scholarship**: Revitalize your scholarship or initiate research sans funding. Email [Rick Willson](#) or [Lisa Kessler](#) for more info.
- **The "CAFE Creates" Writing Group: Fall Semester Wednesdays, 9am-11am**. Contact [Amy Dao](#) or [Erica Morales](#) for more information and to join.
- **Identifying Funding Opportunities**: Thursday Sept. 15, 12-1pm, in person or via Zoom. The Office of Research & Sponsored Projects team will talk about Pivot, the Grant Resource Center, and other sources. [Register for location & Zoom info](#).

Effective, Efficient, and Enjoyable Teaching:

- **"Small Teaching Strategies, Important Learning Gains" Series**: Learn practical, research-based strategies that are quickly and easily adoptable. All sessions held via Zoom. [Register for one or attend all!](#)
 - Thursday Sept. 8, 12:00-1:15pm: Retrieval, interleaved practice, and predictions
 - Thursday Sept. 22, 12:00-1:15pm: Gather & use mid-semester student feedback
 - Tuesday Oct. 25, 12:00-1:15pm: Exam wrappers & revision memos
 - Tuesday Nov. 15, 12:00-1:15pm: Connections, practice, and explanations
 - Thursday Dec. 1, 12:00-1:15pm: Summing up and preparing for finals
- **The Fearless Classroom 2.0**:
 - Tuesday Oct. 11, 12:00-2:00pm, via Zoom: Follow up on the award-winning "[Fearless Classroom](#)" workshops originated by Ron Heimler. Learn more about the research underlying equitable classroom practices that lead to psychological safety, and take your strategies to a deeper level. [Please register](#) for the link.
- **2022-2023 Faculty Peer-to-Peer Reciprocal Coaching Program**: Peer-to-peer reciprocal coaching is a systematic method for faculty to work in partnership to use new teaching skills and/or hone basic skills into sophisticated praxis. Limited to 30 participants. See the [program description](#) for details and application link.
- **Fall 2022 Improving online and hybrid teaching courses from the Chancellor's Office**: A variety of multi-week courses based on the Quality Teaching & Learning and Quality Matters frameworks; certificates of completion offered. These robust experiences address significant course design and delivery practices. One course per faculty member is allowed; limited spots available. See [OCS Professional Development Courses](#) for details and to register.

Technology:

[The End of Blackboard](#)

Cal Poly Pomona's contract with Blackboard ends June 2023. After that time, no one will be able to get data from Blackboard. Faculty will need to "harvest" any materials and information you want to have access to. Neither CAFE nor IT&IP will be able to provide individual support (i.e. we can't do it for you). See our [Transitioning from Blackboard](#) site for more information, tutorials, and sessions.

Special Announcements from Friends of CAFE:

- **The Library has a [Technology Lending Program](#).** Students can check out laptops, hotspots, headphones, calculators, and more. Faculty can check out [wireless microphones](#) for classroom use.
- **Faculty Benefits Orientation via Zoom:** The HR Benefits team can help you with benefits enrollments and/or questions related to benefits. This is Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 9:00 -- 11:30am., at <https://cpp.zoom.us/j/87480355579>.

--

Victoria Bhavsar, Ph.D.

Director, Center for the Advancement of Faculty Excellence

vbhavsar@cpp.edu | www.cpp.edu/cafe | Chat or call me on [MS Teams](#)

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Get help from CAFE M-F 8am-5pm: canvas@cpp.edu | [CAFE's Studio 6](#) at 909-869-3099