

To: CPP Faculty  
From: Victoria Bhavsar  
Subject: Canvas tips for midterm, new programs and resources  
Date: Tuesday, Feb 21, 2023 10:06 AM

Dear faculty,

As we get into midterm season, here are a couple of super-practical Canvas tips:

- We recommend [hiding Totals](#) in student grade summaries until later in the semester. This is because Canvas excludes ungraded assignments from the Total grade calculation, causing total grades to skew high early in the semester; in other words your students see a high total grade because they just haven't gotten to those assignments yet and/or you haven't been able to grade the assignments yet.
- A good practice is to [set the default grade for an assignment](#) to "0" after you have finished grading, just be sure not to overwrite already-entered grades. This is because assignments must actually be graded to factor into the total grade that you see. Any items showing a single dash ( - ) in the Gradebook (i.e., assignments not submitted) will be excluded from the total, giving a misleadingly high Total grade. Defaulting to "0" factors missing assignments into the Total.

Please email [canvas@cpp.edu](mailto:canvas@cpp.edu) for help, or feel free to call or drop by [Studio 6](#) (M-F 8am-5pm).

We have several NEW program announcements below, including an interesting discussion on balancing the two demanding roles of facultying and parenting, and the Office of Interdisciplinary Ethnic Studies Inaugural Symposium.

Take care,  
Victoria

PS: Don't forget to implement last week's plan to gather student feedback! See my 2/14 email.

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**In this email:**

- [Effective Teaching Strategies](#) – Fearless Classroom and Fearless Classroom 2.0
- [Technology](#) – Custom Multimedia Learning Objects, MediaVision Open House
- [Faculty Community & Career](#) – Parenting while Academic; Faculty Day!
- [Research, Scholarship, & Creative Activities](#) – Activate your NCFDD membership
- [News from Friends of CAFE](#) – Ethnic Studies Symposium

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**Effective Teaching Strategies:**

- **NEW! [Fearless Classroom Workshop](#) Friday March 10, 10am-12pm, via Zoom.** This award-winning, data-proven project positively impacts student success via psychologically safe learning environments. Join the Fearless Classroom movement! [Please register.](#)
- **[Fearless Classroom 2.0](#): Friday March 24, 10am-12pm, via Zoom.** Follow up on the award-winning "[Fearless Classroom](#)" workshops. Learn more about the research underlying equitable classroom practices that lead to psychological safety, and take your strategies to a deeper level. [Please register.](#)
- **[Wall of COOL 2023](#): Friday April 21, 9am-12pm.** Join us in person or via Zoom! From 9 – 10:15, hear from our four Wall of COOL 2023 faculty about their courses. From 10:30 on, we'll have a keynote workshop from Steve Robinow, host of the Teaching for Student Success podcast! [Please register.](#)
- **[CSU Online Course Services Training](#):** A variety of online, fully asynchronous (via Canvas) 3-week courses to improve online and hybrid classes. Join faculty from around the CSU in designing excellent online & hybrid courses. Courses are free; there is **no** stipend. [See the list and register!](#)

#### Technology:

- **Learn about custom [Multimedia Learning Object \(MLO\)](#) projects:** [Tuesday Feb. 21, 12-12:45pm](#) or [Wednesday Feb. 22, 3 – 3:45pm](#) (via Zoom, please register). CAFE's Erick Zelaya presents examples of MLOs and discusses how they can help students with abstract concepts. CAFE has two multimedia developers who can create customized MLOs. We don't know of any other CSU that has this service!
- **NEW! [Create Professional Course Videos at MediaVision's Open House](#): Tuesday March 21, 11:00am – 2:00pm, Building 98-B1-262.** Are you looking for creative ways to engage your students? Check out [MediaVision](#)! Visit the studios, take part in interactive video demos, and collaborate with fellow faculty and staff to discover innovative solutions for your classroom.
- **[Gradescope Workshops](#):** If you don't know Gradescope, you are *missing out*! This tool dramatically reduces pain and time for grading handwritten and hand-drawn work. We have Gradescope integrated in Canvas thanks to the College of Science. See this [workshop series](#).

#### Faculty Community & Career:

- **NEW: [Parenting While Academic](#): Tuesday Feb. 28, 12:00-12:50pm, via Zoom.** We're beginning a non-judgmental, supportive faculty community to share the Journey of "Navigating your academic career as a parent." Lecturers *and* tenure-line faculty are invited, no matter what stage of parenting you're in or what form your parenting takes. [Please register.](#)
- **[Faculty Day!](#) Thursday April 20, 11:30am-1pm, Centerpointe Dining Hall.** This long-standing celebration of faculty is CAFE's treat! All CPP faculty -- full-time, part-time, retired, new, and all in between -- are invited to enjoy lunch and time with colleagues for this fully in-person event. Come as you can and leave when you need to. [Please register](#) (it's helpful for the hardworking folks at Centerpointe!).
- **[Faculty Zoom Mondays](#):** Mondays January 23 – May 22, 12pm-1pm. Drop into this open [Zoom Room](#) to share ideas, questions, strategies, and maybe get a little tech help.
- **[The Friday Zoom Café](#):** Fridays January 27 – May 19, 3pm-4pm. For a private conversation, join the Friday Zoom Café. You'll stay in the Zoom waiting room until your turn. (You can also schedule a conversation with Victoria any time, just [email](#).)

- **"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.

#### Research, Scholarship, & Creative Activities:

- **NEW! [National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity](#)**: Thanks to President Coley, CPP has an institutional membership to the premier professional development provider for faculty success. [Activate your membership](#) to get extensive resources on scholarship, publishing, and mentoring. Our current favorite is the [Hidden Handbook](#).
- **"CAFE Creates" Writing Group**: Mondays 2-4pm and/or Wednesdays, 10am - 12pm, via Zoom. Join other faculty getting their writing done in this low-pressure, high-productivity environment. Email [Amy Dao](#) to join.
- **Feedback on grant proposals**: Lisa Kessler will provide individual, confidential feedback on proposals. Email [Lisa](#) directly to set up an appointment.

#### From Friends of CAFE:

- **NEW! [Teaching Ethnic Studies in Higher Education Symposium](#): Monday, March 13, 8:00 – 4:00pm**. The Office of Interdisciplinary Ethnic Studies (OIES) hosts their inaugural symposium. Engage in panels and discussions that explore ethnic studies, ethnic studies pedagogy, and the future of ethnic studies. If you are teaching an Area F course, this is especially relevant. [Registration Required](#).
- **[I Am First webinars](#)** (register separately for each):
  - **[Engaging Family to Bolster First-Gen Student Well-Being and Success](#): Wednesday March 22, 12:00 – 1:00pm**
  - **[Practical Strategies for Faculty and Staff to Cultivate First-Gen Student Success](#): Wednesday April 19, 12:00 – 1:00pm.**
- **[Office of Assessment Zoom workshops](#)** (register separately for each):
  - **[Recent Findings from CPP's Assessment of Critical Thinking](#): Tuesday Feb. 21, 12:00--12:45pm**. We recently assessed critical thinking skills of CPP seniors. Learn about the methodology and see how our students performed. Discuss closing-the-loop strategies.
  - **[Record Keeping for Program Assessment](#): Friday March 17, 12:00 -- 12:45pm**. Good record-keeping is essential to document progress and to prepare for program review or accreditation. Get ideas to develop a system that benefits your program.
- **[PolyX Spring Applications](#)** – Apply to add your Signature Polytechnic Experience to the PolyXHub! Deadline is **Friday April 7**.
- **[Innovation Incubator Spring Drop-In Hours](#)** – Have questions about Digital Badging, PolyX, Micro-Internships, or Pop-Up courses? Innovation Incubator hosts drop-in hours for faculty and staff to learn about these initiatives. [Register here](#) for your drop-in!

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