

To: CPP Faculty
From: Victoria Bhavsar
Subject: Free speech in the classroom
Date: Tuesday, Mar 12, 2024

Dear faculty,

Recently I was asked about resources for addressing free speech in the classroom, especially in an election year with plenty of controversy. How can we have discussions that risk raising the temperature and impact the learning environment, but that deal with critically important issues and touch our students, and us, deeply? What do we do when comments are hurtful and problematic but don't get to threatening or harassing? How can we enrich rather than exclude and harm?

There is **for sure** no simple or short answer, so CAFE will work with experts both on and off campus to provide a series of posts, workshops, and resources throughout spring, summer, and fall. If there's a specific question you'd like addressed, please email me and I'll add it to our research list.

In the meantime, I want to highlight two upcoming offerings, one from CAFE & EODA and one from the Office of Inclusive Excellence Kellogg Legacy Speaker Series:

- Thursday March 14: "[De-escalating Dialogues](#)," focusing on individual, nascent conflicts between a faculty member and a student, particularly that bubble up via email
- Tuesday March 19: "[Free Speech: What Everyone Needs to Know](#)," featuring Nadine Strossen, expert on constitutional law and civil liberties

Take care,

Victoria

--

In this email:

- [Equity in Practice Symposium](#): Thank you for submissions!
- [Teacher-Scholar: Golden Leaves nominations](#)
- [Faculty Career](#): Lecturer events
- [Teaching Nuts & Bolts](#): "De-escalating dialogues" workshop
- [Friends of CAFE](#): "Principles of Community" forum

--

["Equity in Practice" Symposium: Friday April 19, Kellogg West](#)

Many thanks to the 40+ faculty and staff who submitted interesting, inspiring ideas for presentations for the April 19 Equity in Practice Symposium! Now it's time to register for this informative, celebratory event. [Please register](#) by April 10.

Teacher-Scholar:

- **[Nominate yourself or a colleague for Golden Leaves!](#) Due March 15.** Golden Leaves celebrates members of the CPP community (faculty, staff, students, alumni, and retirees) who have authored or edited a book in the preceding year. See the [Golden Leaves website](#) for information and the nomination form.
- **“CAFE Creates” Weekly Writing: Wednesdays 10:30am – 12:30pm and Thursdays 9:00 – 11:00am.** Join other faculty [via Zoom](#) to write in a low-pressure, high-productivity environment. Step 1: State your goals. Step 2: Sit and write. Step 3: Cheer each other on! For questions or to get a calendar invitation, contact [Amy Dao](#) (Geography).

Faculty Career:

- **Lecturer events: Contact [Lydia Chen Shah](#) for questions**
 - **Lecturer Lunch: Wednesday March 13, 11:30am – 12:30pm.** Location tba. An informal gathering to strengthen our community. [Please register.](#)
 - **Lecturer Essentials Workshop: Friday March 22, 10:00 – 11:00am via Zoom.** Entitlement, reappointment, one- and three-year appointments, and evaluation. [Please register.](#)
- **Parenting Faculty Group: [Meet for lunch on March 14](#) and hear from Nick von Glahn, CFA Chapter President!** This informal community is open to all lecturers and tenure-line faculty who are parents or parents-to-be -- with "parenting" defined expansively. If you consider yourself a parent, you are one! Join us for lunch on March 14, when we will hear from Nick about the CFA agreement and provisions for parents. [Please register;](#) contact [Julie Shen](#) for questions.

Teaching Nuts & Bolts:

- **[De-Escalating Dialogues Workshop: March 14, 12:00 – 1:30pm, via Zoom.](#)** Join Michelle Elrod (EODA) and Victoria Bhavsar (CAFE) to get strategies for de-escalating conflicts with students, especially ones that bubble up over email. Discuss course design & policy strategies that head off conflicts with students to begin with. [Please register.](#)
- **Fearless Classroom Series:** Learn strategies to provide a class environment that reduces fear and stress for students, so that they can concentrate on learning! Join [Fearless First Fridays](#) via Zoom on April 12 and May 3 from 9:00 – 10:00am (meeting ID 708 755 2823, passcode 640591) for discussions and resources. Join the [Fearless Classroom Intro Workshop](#) via Zoom on March 15, 10:00am – 12:00pm for an overview of the Fearless Classroom concept.

Friends of CAFE:

- **[Kellogg Inclusive Excellence Speaker Series: Tuesday, March 19, 12:00 - 1:30pm, BSC Ursa Major](#) (in person, with lunch; [please register](#) by March 10). **Free Speech: What Everyone Needs to Know.** The Office of Inclusive Excellence presents Nadine Strossen, New York Law School professor emerita and former president of the American Civil Liberties Union, speaking about free speech and responding to hate speech.**
- **CPP’s Principles of Community Fora:** Hear the results of the recent Principles of Community survey and help shape the final statement of our community values. Attend a

virtual open forum on **Wednesday March 20 (2pm)** or **Tuesday March 26 (10am)**. [Learn more and register](#).

- **2024-25 Common Read Nominations: Due April 8.** This community initiative encourages all CPP faculty, staff and students to read and engage with the same book. In FYE courses, students participate in activities tied to the book's themes. Learn more on the [Common Read website](#) and [submit a book nomination](#).
- **Scholarship Fest is back!** It's scholarship season and the university is awarding *millions of dollars* to students of all majors. Encourage students to apply at [CPP Scholarships](#).

--

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 Canvas help from CAFE: Submit a [Canvas ticket using this link](#) OR call 909-869-3099, M-F 8am – 5pm.