

To: CPP Faculty  
From: Marisela R. Chávez  
Subject: Small Gestures, Big Impact and New CAFE Programs  
Date: Wed, Sep 10, 2025

Dear faculty,

Last week, I read the article [“I Did Feel Seen’: How creating ways to meet students individually can help them buy into a course”](#) (shared by Provost Gomez) about how small gestures from professors can leave a lasting impact on students. It profiled a psychology professor who found ways to connect with students in a 400-person course, like learning names, sending welcome emails before class begins, and following up with group messages after quizzes. Many of you may already use these strategies, and I hope the piece affirms your efforts. If not, I encourage you to find small ways to build stronger connections with your students.

There is quite a bit of information in this email, including some new CAFE programs.

Please get in touch if you have questions.

All the best,

Marisela

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## In this email:

- [Teaching and Learning](#)
  - [Call for Applications - CAFE OneHE Faculty Learning Community on Inclusive Teaching](#)
  - [CSU-wide Transparency in Learning and Teaching Workshop](#)
  - [Fall CSU Online Course Services Professional Development](#)
  - [Accessibility News: Last CAFE Workshop for September and Fix-it Fridays](#)
- [Canvas Support Reminders](#)
- [Faculty Career Growth: Individual Consultations and Parenting Student Ally Training](#)
- [Friends of CAFE](#)
  - Office of Undergraduate Research Workshops on Undergraduate Research Training Modules
  - Office of Student Success Faculty Mentor Workshop Series

## Teaching and Learning

- **Call for Applications:** [OneHE Faculty Learning Community on Inclusive Teaching](#)

Are you interested in joining with other faculty members to learn strategies, practices, and other useful information to refine your teaching? Sponsored by the Institute for Teaching and Learning at the Chancellor’s Office, Cal Poly Pomona has partnered with [OneHE](#), a

professional development platform focused on practical, engaging approaches that can be implemented immediately into your teaching practice.

The OneHE FLC on Inclusive Teaching will be facilitated by Dr. Marisela Chávez, Executive Director of CAFE, and Dr. Lisa Kessler, Faculty Associate in CAFE and will focus on **inclusive teaching**, including strategies for **larger courses** and **universal design**. Up to 25 CPP faculty members will convene monthly for 90 minutes starting on October 10, 2025 through May 2026 for a total of 6 meetings to learn, implement, and reflect on teaching strategies and practices via OneHE, and share their experiences with other FLC participants in a caring, supportive, and respectful environment. At the end of the 2025-26 academic year, FLC participants will be asked to share their successes, experiences, and reflections with the wider CPP community.

**Who can apply:** All faculty members at CPP can apply. This means lecturer, tenure-track, tenured, and FERPing faculty.

**How will applicants be selected?** The facilitators will review complete applications and if the demand for the FLC exceeds space, will prioritize faculty who are interacting with the most students.

*Please note that there is no additional compensation for participation in this FLC.*

**Application due date:** 9/22/2025

For more information, check the following link:

[APPLY FOR THE ONEHE FLC](#)

- **CSU-wide Transparency in Learning and Teaching Workshop - Small Changes, Big Impact: TILT toward Student Success**

Friday, September 19

12:30pm-2:30pm

[Register from your CSU email](#)

Want to boost student success with minimal effort? TILT (Transparency in Learning and Teaching) is a simple framework that transforms how students experience courses and other interactions with educators. Research shows that making just two assignments more transparent supports learning while significantly increasing student belonging, confidence, and persistence—and enhances teaching satisfaction.

Open to all student-facing educators in the CSU: faculty, librarians, advisors, counselors, learning support staff, and instructional designers.

- **CAFE Accessibility News**

- Last CAFE Accessibility Workshop for September: [Demystifying PDF Accessibility](#), 9/11, 12-12:45 pm, zoom
- Fix-it Fridays have begun! On select Fridays from September through November, CAFE staff will visit your college and/or department to help you make your instructional materials more accessible. For these drop-in hours, bring your laptop

and get direct support. More information will be forthcoming via email and on the [CAFE Events Page](#).

- **[Fall OCS Professional Development Courses – Registration is Open](#)**

**Fall Session 1:** October 6-26, 2025

**Fall Session 2:** November 3-23, 2025

Courses Offered Include:

- [Introduction to Teaching Online Using QLT](#)
- [Advanced QLT Course in Teaching Online](#)
- [AI Tools For Teaching & Learning \(For Faculty/Lecturers\)](#)
- [AI Tools for Higher-Ed Professionals/Staff](#)
- [Improving Your Online Course](#)

## Canvas Support Reminders

- CAFE hours: Monday–Friday, 8 am–5 pm
- Studio 6 phone: 909-869-3099
- Canvas help: Email [canvas@cpp.edu](mailto:canvas@cpp.edu), call the number above, or submit a [Canvas Request Form](#)
- For consultations on accessibility, instructional design, multimedia development, or learning technologies, visit [CAFE's Request Services Page](#)
- Please note that CAFE and Studio 6 utilize IT's ticketing system. All responses to emails to [canvas@cpp.edu](mailto:canvas@cpp.edu) or [studio6@cpp.edu](mailto:studio6@cpp.edu), and any requests submitted using the forms linked above, will come via email with CPP Service Desk as the sender

## Faculty Career Growth

- **Individual Consultations and Mentoring**

I am pleased to introduce Dr. Martin Sancho-Madriz, Professor Emeritus, as a FERP Faculty Associate. Martin Sancho-Madriz joined the faculty 28 years ago and has served the campus through various roles, including AVP of Faculty Affairs, Interim Dean of Agriculture, Associate Dean of ENV, Academic Senate Chair, and Nutrition and Food Science Department Chair. Given his vast experience at CPP, Martin will be available for individual consultations with faculty on a wide variety of topics. Please email [Martin Sancho-Madriz](#) directly to schedule appointments.

- **[Parenting Student Ally Training](#)**

Sponsored by Parenting Student Support Services, learn how to better support students who are caring for children and dependents through this training. Upon completion of the training and other requirements, participants will receive a certificate and an electronic Parenting Student Ally placard to print and display. Training is online on September 19, 2025 10 am – 12 pm.

## Friends of CAFE

- **Office of Undergraduate Research Workshops on Undergraduate Research Training Modules**

- The Office of Undergraduate Research is offering two workshops, one in-person and one virtual, focused on undergraduate research training modules. These modules are designed to enhance teaching and guide students in research. They were developed by several CPP faculty members across STEM and non-STEM fields.

- Research Playlist Workshop In-Person (with lunch provided)

- Location: CAFE Faculty Conference Room 1-228
- Date: Wednesday, September 25th
- Time: 12:00 – 1:30 PM
- [RSVP for the In-Person Workshop](#)

- Virtual Workshop Option

- Date: Monday, September 29th
- Time: 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- [Zoom Link for Virtual Workshop](#)
- [RSVP for the Virtual Workshop](#)

- **Faculty Mentor Workshop Series:**

Sponsored by the Office of Student Success, the 6-part series focuses on providing faculty members with tools, information, and resources to serve as mentors to students. Faculty who attend at least 4 of 6 sessions will receive a certificate that can be included in their RTP packet.