



# INSPIRED TEACHING

a monthly newsletter offering tips & strategies for great teaching

DECEMBER 2019  
**Improving Student Motivation**

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## Featured Podcast

 Teaching Beyond  
the Podium  
Leveling Up Project-Based Learning | Dr. Sean Niemi



### Leveling Up Project-Based Learning

Have you ever wanted to engage your students in long-term group projects but feared resistance and lack of engagement? Sean Niemi, Lecturer in the Department of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering, has developed a semester-long, project-based course that inspires students to develop projects that work— even if that means happily staying up all night! Want to know his secrets for student buy-in? [Listen to Leveling Up Project-Based Learning!](#)

# Strategy of the Month

## Use a Variety of Small and Student-Active Teaching and Learning Activities

Breaking up lecture with short, active, and student-led activities allows students to take charge of their learning and engage deeply with the content. Examples of these activities include problem-solving or discovery teaching, which allows students to discover the underlying principles at work. Cooperative learning activities emphasize the importance of social learning as students work together to find better solutions. The Center for Teaching Excellence's [Resource Library](#) offers a variety of teaching and learning activities that can be implemented in your course right away! Vanderbilt University's Center for Teaching has a great [guide on motivating students](#), and *What the Best College Teachers Do* by Ken Ben offers useful tips for keeping students motivated and engaged in the classroom.

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## Featured Workshop

### Collaborative Learning Techniques

So you have flipped your classroom, or you have decided you want to make your lectures more engaging and interactive. Now what? How about using group work to promote learning using well-planned and designed collaborative learning techniques? This workshop offers a variety of collaborative learning techniques you can use immediately in your class. Best of all, the workshop provides detailed descriptions and helpful resources so you can successfully implement activities that will engage your whole class! This workshop will be held on 12.10.19 at 1:30pm via Zoom.

[Register for Collaborative Learning Techniques.](#)



### Why We Like It

This workshop provides easy-to-use strategies for the design and implementation of effective group activities online and face to face. From group orientations and reporting to well developed peer rubrics this sessions offers it all!

# Helpful Tip

## Common Practice

### **Stacking all big assignments at the end of the semester:**

When instructors stack big assignment, surface learners and strategic learners do not fully engage in the course, or cram before assessments.

## New Idea

### **Designing scaffolded assessments:**

Designing scaffolded assessments requires students to engage deeply with the content by applying, synthesising, or evaluating the materials instead of memorizing. These strategies appeal to the intrinsic interests of learners and helps create assignments that build upon each other over time in complexity and challenge.

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# Spotlight



## **Dr. Kimberly Moore**

Dr. Kimberly Moore is a professor in the environmental horticulture department at the University of Florida. She is particularly well known for her warmth and ability to engage students and keep them enthused in a fully online

course. Each semester, Kim gets to know all of her students. She uses different strategies to engage them based on their individual personalities, backgrounds, and previous knowledge. She also understands that her students have busy lives too, and makes sure to include some silly assignments or opportunities for student creativity to come through towards the end of the semester. [Read more about Kimberly Moore.](#)

# Did You Know?

## Rising Star Award Self-Nominations Are Open!

The Rising Star Awards recognize faculty for their commitment to ongoing educational improvements and excellence. The awards will be given out at next year's Interface Conference! To submit your nomination, [view the requirements](#) first and then [fill out the self-nomination form](#). Nominations close February 20, 2020. You can read about last year's winners on [teach.ufl.edu](http://teach.ufl.edu).

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## December Workshops

### Team-Teaching 101: A Nuts and Bolts Workshop to Planning a Team-Taught Course

**Presented by Sophia Acord**

**When:** 12.2.19 3:00pm-4:30pm

**Where:** 201 Bryant Space Science Center

This workshop draws on the experience of over 15 UF team-taught courses made possible through the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere's Interdisciplinary Team-Teaching Grant to show you how different disciplines make excellent course-fellows. [Register for Team-Teaching 101!](#)

### Conversations for a Culture of Inclusion

**Presented by Gwynn Cadwallader & Irma Alvarez**

**When:** 12.5.19 1:00pm-4:30pm

**Where:** 201 Bryant Space Science Center

Discover specific inclusive behaviors and strategies proven to increase engagement, innovation, and productivity in the workplace. Participants will recognize unconscious behaviors that derail a team's full potential and practice strategies to create a respectful culture that optimizes performance and produces great results. [Register for Conversations for a Culture of Inclusion!](#)

## **Teaching Portfolio Review**

**Presented by The Career Connections Center**

**When: 12.9.19 9:00am-12:00pm**

**Where: 201 Bryant Space Science Center**

A teaching portfolio can showcase your teaching and professional strengths and help you stand out in searches for academic positions. Learn how to create your teaching portfolio in this interactive workshop. [Sign up for a time slot!](#)

## **Collaborative Learning Techniques**

**Presented by Alexandra Bitton-Bailey**

**When: 12.10.19 1:30pm-3:00pm**

**Where: Online**

This workshop offers a variety of collaborative learning techniques you can use immediately in your class. Best of all, the workshop provides detailed descriptions and helpful resources so you can successfully implement activities that will engage your whole class. [Register for Collaborative Learning Techniques!](#)

## **Technology Ingredients for Large Classes**

**Presented by Jennifer Smith**

**When: 12.12.19 1:00pm-2:30pm**

**Where: Online**

Are you looking for ways to save time, motivate reading and foster connections with and among your students? This session will provide you with ideas for your online, face-to-face, or hybrid course. The techniques we will cover are a potpourri of pedagogy, technology and just plain useful tips! [Register for Technology Ingredients for Large Classes!](#)

## **Academic Technology Open Houses: Walk-In Consultations on e-Learning**

**Presented by The Center for Instructional Technology and Training**

**When: 12.17.19 11:00am-2:00pm**

**Where: HUB 221**

Drop in anytime to talk with e-Learning experts and discover how to get the best out of your online courses. Each month focuses on a different topic— this month is “Preparing for Spring Courses in Canvas e-Learning.” Instructional designers, e-Learning Support staff, and members of the video services team will be available for one-on-one consultations. [View more information on Academic Technology Open Houses!](#)



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