



April 2021 Stronger Together

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Featured Podcast



Rising Above Adversity

What is it like to have a disability while navigating through the coursework and demands of a university? We sat down with three University of Florida students to hear their stories and the adversity they face. Staff from the Disability Resource Center also share their experience, advice, and hope for students with disabilities. Listen to [Rising Above Adversity](#)!

Strategy of the Month

Incorporate Contributions from Different Cultures

Help your students build cultural competency by exposing them to a range of cultural differences. If your course materials and examples tend to be euro-centric, include events and prominent figures from a variety of cultures in your teaching. Art, literature, and performing arts such as music, dance, and theatre can engage and invite further exploration. Incorporate research from different cultures to broaden student perspectives. Visit the [Cultural Responsive Teaching Checklist](#) for more ideas to build cultural competency in your classroom.

Featured Workshop Recordings

Anti-Racist Theory & Teaching Practice (1:59:52)

Presented by CC Suarez

This workshop offers an introductory definition and understanding of anti-racism and highlights practical ways to begin to apply anti-racist strategies in your class. This workshop is meant to assist you with your own work to self-education around this topic and practice. [Watch Anti-Racist Theory & Teaching Practice!](#)

Conversations for Connections: Racial Justice and UF (55:12)

Presented by Paul Ortiz

This workshop highlights the connection between ongoing campus and national issues focused on racial justice initiatives. Learn more about President Fuchs' Racial Justice Pledge and Provost Glover's support of the flagship Joel Buchanan African American History Project. Discover strategies for helping students identify with the topics being taught. [Watch Conversations for Connections: Racial Justice and UF!](#)

Helpful Tip

Add a Diversity Statement to Your Syllabus

A diversity statement should express your core values of inclusion. A good place to begin is by examining your assumptions. It is common for people to make assumptions, often subconsciously, that may lead to the marginalization of students in our classrooms. This is called implicit bias. Expectations that students share similar cultural backgrounds, economic privilege, come from traditional families, have parents who attended college, or are heterosexual or cisgender, can make students feel marginalized. It is important to develop an awareness of these biases and to replace them with inclusive language and behavior.



This image was taken prior to national guidelines for face coverings and social distancing.

Example Diversity Statement:

"I consider this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect, and I welcome individuals of all ages, backgrounds, beliefs, ethnicities, genders, gender identities, gender expressions, national origins, religious affiliations, sexual orientations, ability – and other visible and nonvisible differences. All members of this class are expected to contribute to a respectful, welcoming, and inclusive environment for every other member of the class."

(American Society for Engineering Educations Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion)

Did You Know?



The Interface Teaching Conference is in Two Weeks!

You won't want to miss Interface this year! The conference will be packed with sessions exploring successful, diverse student teams that collaborate on

creative assignments. These teams can energize students and result in greater learning that incorporates multiple perspectives. Choose sessions that fit your interests and schedule. The conference will be held virtually, April 14th from

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm and April 15th from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. [Register for Interface 2021!](#)

Please Note: Registration closes April 12th @ 12:00 pm

Spotlight

Join the Stronger Together Initiative!

UF Training & Organizational Development implemented a Racial Justice Education initiative called Stronger Together in February 2021.



Stronger Together provides a series of educational offerings to help you better understand and address racism and bias and promote racial justice at the individual, institutional, and systemic levels. The context of fostering awareness, building capacity, and promoting action will weave throughout the offerings. This series will help UF move forward in efforts to combat anti-black racism and to support a more diverse and inclusive campus. [View the resources and training.](#)

April Workshops

More information and registration for all workshops can be found in the [Passport Portal](#). If you are unable to register for a workshop, please [create a Passport Portal account](#), then try registering again after you receive a confirmation email. For help navigating the Passport Portal, [view the user guide](#).

Creating Engaging and Interactive Videos with PlayPosit

4.1.21 3:00PM-4:00PM via Zoom

Presented by Emily Bleibel

This 1-hour workshop is designed to get curious faculty excited about using

PlayPosit, and discover what is possible! [Register for Creating Engaging and Interactive Videos with PlayPosit!](#)

Please Note: *you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. [Create an account.](#)*

STEM Teaching with Learning Assistants

4.2.21 10:00AM-11:00AM via Zoom

Presented by Sujata Krishna

In this introductory workshop you will explore the Learning Assistance Alliance (LAA) model and how it is being applied in a few STEM departments to good effect. Learning Assistants (LAs) are trained in pedagogy and prepare for practice in the STEM classrooms in courses that they have already completed. They serve as near-peer role models and provide helpful feedback to both the students and the instructor in a course. We will explore various ways LAs are working in these courses and the resources available for starting such a program. [Register for STEM Teaching with Learning Assistants!](#)

Please Note: *you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this event. [Create an account.](#)*

Virtual Exchange Training for Faculty - Info Sessions

4.7.21 1:00PM-2:00PM & 4.20.21 11:00AM-12:00PM via Zoom

Through virtual exchange, you can connect your UF classes with students and faculty abroad to collaborate on assignments, acquire global perspectives on a given discipline, and develop intercultural competence skills. This online training program will help you design and incorporate virtual international content and communication activities into existing courses. For more information about the content covered in the training or to apply, please visit the International Center's [website](#) or attend an info session.

Info Session Dates:

- Wednesday, April 7th 1:00pm-2:00pm | [Register for this session](#)
- Tuesday, April 20th 11:00am-12:00pm | [Register for this session](#)

Getting started with PressbooksEDU Webinar

4.7.21 1:00PM-2:30PM via Zoom

Pressbooks is a simple online publishing tool that you can use to create print and digital materials that can be freely accessed by students from their tablets, e-reader devices, and computers. This training session is open to all UF students, faculty and staff, and is designed for users who are new to Pressbooks. Attendees will learn how to get started with Pressbooks, from creating a new book to publishing and exporting offline versions of the text. Visit <https://ufl.pb.unizin.org/> to create your Pressbooks account prior to the webinar. Register for Getting started with PressbooksEDU!

Advanced PressbooksEDU Publishing Webinar

4.19.21 1:00PM-2:30PM via Zoom

This training session is open to all UF students, faculty and staff, and is designed for users who have some familiarity with Pressbooks and are ready to engage in more complex activities, like adding interactive elements or integrating Pressbooks with supported third-party tools. Register for Advanced PressbooksEDU Publishing Webinar!

More information and registration for all workshops can be found in the **Passport Portal**. If you are unable to register for a workshop, please create a **Passport Portal** account, then try registering again after you receive a confirmation email. For help navigating the Passport Portal, view the **user guide**.



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