



**August 2022**  
**Preparing for a Successful Semester**

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## Featured Podcast

### BEYOND THE PODIUM PODCAST



### First Day of Class Strategies

In one of the early episodes of the Beyond the Podium Podcast, six UF instructors shared some of their best strategies for getting your semester off to a strong start! The tips shared in the episode will provide you with great ideas for fostering personal connections, establishing classroom norms, and more. [Listen Now!](#)

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## CTE Video Shorts

# CTE SHORTS

**UF** | Center for Teaching Excellence  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

## **CTE Short: Including Humanizing Elements in Your Syllabus with Dr. Michelle Pacansky-Brock**

For many instructors, teaching online has opened new opportunities for connecting with students and becoming a more authentic teacher. In her keynote address at the 2022 Interface Conference, Dr. Michelle Pacansky-Brock shared strategies for examining cultural constructs that influence how you approach your classes, relate to your students, and care for yourself.

In our first “CTE Short,” see how Dr. Pacansky-Brock shares several elements within her syllabus that enhance students’ learning experiences!

- Wisdom wall
- Teaching philosophy
- Expectations pact
- Equity statement
- Week 1 success kit
- Michelle’s 7 Tips for Success

[\*\*Watch now\*\*](#)

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## **Featured Workshop**

## **iClicker Cloud**

***Presented by UFIT Training***

iClicker Cloud allows quality engagement in the classroom. It includes both synchronous and asynchronous options including polling, quizzing, and assignments, and integrates with Canvas. Regardless of class size or delivery method, iClicker can help you increase attendance and participation, provide instant feedback, identify misconceptions in real-time, and more.

If you are planning to use iClicker for the first time or if you just need a refresher, this session will help you be ready to go when classes begin.

The training is offered by an iClicker representative and has a variety of sessions, including virtual, face-to-face, and consultations.

Training dates:

July 22 from 9:00-10:30 (virtual)

August 17 from 9:00-10:30 (face-to-face)

August 17 from 12:00-1:30 (face-to-face)

Consultations: August 17 from 10:30-12:00 (face-to-face)

**[Register for iClicker Cloud Training](#)**

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## **Did You Know?**

### **UF Libraries—Access and Resource Sharing**

You can reach out to the **[Access and Resource Sharing Department](#)** to request assistance with gathering information and resources. With their wealth of knowledge about Course Reserves and Interlibrary Loans, the team can assist you with making materials available to students (within

copyright and e-resource licensing guidelines). As an added benefit, when you **Sync the Ares System** with your class in Canvas, you can give students direct access to resources in the course!

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## Helpful Tip

### Use “The First Five” to set the stage for thinking

The first five minutes of class serve as an opportunity to capture students’ attention and set the tone for the rest of the class session. Whether you choose to use your tried-and-true strategies throughout the semester or keep them on their toes with a variety of opening activities, you can review or introduce content in low-stakes, interesting ways. Here are three short activities to get students ready for learning:

**Reflect & Write:** Ask students to write a quick note about what they remember from the previous class session, including: something they found interesting, something they may have a question about, and/or an important concept or activity they would share with a classmate who missed the session.

**Reflect & Remind:** Before they open notebooks, fire up laptops, and unlock phones, invite students to share key points from previous class sessions while you write them on the board.

**Connect:** Provide students with a relevant discussion prompt. Set a timer and allow them to share their initial ideas with their peers. This starter conversation can lead to richer discussions later on in the class session.

Center for Teaching Excellence: **First Five Minutes**

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## SPOTLIGHT

# TEACHING EXCELLENCE **FACULTY FELLOWS**



## **2022-2023 Teaching Excellence Faculty Fellows**

Sponsored by the Associate Provost for Teaching & Technology, the Teaching Excellence Faculty Fellows are a group who demonstrate excellence in online teaching. The Fellows provide guidance to members of the UF teaching community who wish to improve their **online courses** and complete online course reviews. Fellows also serve as ambassadors and reviewers for the **Pathways Online Course Reviews** process. Once the fall semester starts, visit the Teaching Excellence Faculty Fellows page to find the Fellow(s) who serve your college.

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# Strategy of the Month

## Demystify office hours

Office hours are often viewed as a time for students to pop in and ask a question about a concept from class, or to get feedback on a project. Many students aren't aware of the other benefits they can gain by meeting with their instructors during this time. If you're noticing a low rate of office visits, it may be time to do some strategic advertising!

- If you're able, offer both face-to-face and virtual options.
- Remind students verbally about your availability and extend invitations

to  
visit  
during  
office  
hours.

- Explore meeting with students at campus locations they're familiar with, like the library or student union.
- Poll students to see if they need to schedule appointments outside of your scheduled window(s).
- Consider whether you want to require at least 1 visit during the

- semester.  
Highlight  
some  
benefits  
of  
visiting  
during  
office  
hours,  
like  
discussing  
research  
opportunities,  
consulting  
about  
career  
advice  
within  
your  
field,  
listening  
about  
personal  
issues  
&  
accommodations,  
making  
connections  
to  
academic  
resources,  
or  
simply  
stopping  
by  
to  
say,  
“Hi!”
- When  
students  
visit,  
be  
sure  
to  
give  
them  
your  
full  
attention



and  
thank  
them  
for  
coming  
by.

*Carr, J. (2019, July 10). Two Tips to Increase Students' Use of Office Hours.*

*Eidinger, A. (2020, September 8). Maximizing the impact of office hours University Affairs.*

*Ezarik, M. (2022, May 20). Survey: Students want connections with professors but may not initiate them.*

*\_Nadworny, E. (2019, October 5). College students: How to make office hours less scary. NPR.*

*Nowack, Z. (2021, December 15). Why I Require Office Hours Visits. The benefits of requiring students to come to office hours (opinion).*

*Smith, M., Chen, Y., Berndtson, R., Burson, K. M., & Griffin, W. (2017). "Office hours are kind of weird": Reclaiming a resource to foster student-faculty interaction. InSight: A Journal of Scholarly Teaching, 12, 14–29.*



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