



# INSPIRED TEACHING

**A monthly newsletter offering tips, strategies  
and workshops for great teaching**

**January 2024**

## **Virtual Exchange**

Virtual exchange in higher education creates an enriched and dynamic learning experience. One significant advantage is the global perspective it fosters in students. Through virtual exchange programs, students can engage with peers from diverse cultural backgrounds, breaking down geographical barriers and promoting a more interconnected world view. This exposure to different perspectives enhances cultural competency, communication skills, and empathy. Additionally, virtual exchange provides a platform for collaborative learning, encouraging students to work together on projects and assignments. Ultimately, virtual exchange prepares students for a globalized work environment in a digital world. Consider ways you can cultivate a more inclusive, interconnected, and globally aware educational experience for those you teach.

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## **FEATURED PODCASTS**

In this season 2 episode of the Teaching Beyond the Podium Podcast, Ginny Greenway, Ph.D. in The Miller Lab at UF, shares her strategies for



helping her undergraduate students to communicate and collaborate effectively with scientists all over the world through Virtual Exchange. Click the button below and find us where you listen to podcasts!

[Listen here!](#)

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## AI Tip of the Month

If you want to learn about artificial intelligence and incorporate it into a course, then review [The UF Faculty Handbook for Adding AI to Your Course](#). This foundational guide was produced by a CTE faculty learning community and can help get you started. It begins by helping you get familiar with basic terms and concepts used in AI and Data Science. Understandably, there may be faculty and students across different disciplines who have an aversion to computer programming or using artificial intelligence in teaching. This e-book addresses that concern head-on before diving into incorporating teaching tools, strategies, and assignments.

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## STRATEGY

### Gallery Walk

Looking to scale up your strategies across a global landscape? Using strategies that have application both in the classroom and in an online environment expands the borders of opportunity for you and your students.

The Gallery Walk is a strategy that can be used in a variety of settings.

In a face-to-face classroom, the Gallery Walk would involve students brainstorming a topic or question independently and creating a visual summary of their brainstorm (on a poster or on sticky notes). The whole class would then walk around the “gallery” to explore what other groups created.

Scale up the Gallery Walk for asynchronous or synchronous environments with digital tools like Padlet. Create a Padlet wall, provide a guiding question, and ask students to add answers on online sticky notes. To extend the activity, place students in teams and provide a “line” or column in which each team can post. The Gallery Walk ends with everyone “touring” the entire Padlet wall and making comments.

To extend the Gallery Walk to an online environment, integrate the use of the Zoom whiteboard, breakout rooms, and annotation tools. Create the whiteboard and post a prompt. Place students in breakout rooms where they can interact and collaborate with their team about the prompt. Then, everyone could return to the main room where all can enjoy the Gallery Walk on the whiteboard.

To learn more about scaling up your favorite teaching strategies, explore [“Making the Move With Ed Tech: 10 Strategies to Scale Up Your In-Person, Hybrid, and Remote Teaching”](#) (Hicks, Parker, Grunow, 2023).

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## PASSPORT AWARDS

Congratulations to the November and December Passport to Great Teaching completers! To participate in the Passport to Great Teaching program, visit the [Center for Teaching Excellence's website](#).

### Badges

**Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL)**

-Emily Tobin, Analiz Faife Casas, and Mohammed Gbadamosi.

## **Cultural Competencies**

-Gheysar Niknam

## **Digital Literacy**

-Gheysar Niknam

## **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

-Joshua Higdon

## **Global Learning**

-Paola Uparela, Cyntrice Thomas, Kole Odutola, Juan Andrade, Jeanette Andrade, Misti Sharp, Heather Stark, and Christine Wegner.

## **Great Online Teaching**

-Gheysar Niknam

## **Student Focused Teaching**

-Lauren Douma, Karen Schofield

## **Certificates**

### **CIRTL Associate Certificate**

-Analiz Faife Casas, Mohammed Gbadamosi

### **Global Teaching & Learning Certificate**

-Amy Parziale, Gloria Kim, Harold Knowles, and Luis Mejia Puig.

### **Great Online Teaching Certificate**

-Gheysar Niknam

### **Great Teaching Certificate**

-Sandra Bechtel, Analiz Faife Casas

### **Great Teaching Certificate: TA Edition**

-Omeed Mirbod

### **Great Teaching for New Faculty Certificate**

-Leandra Merz

### **Principles of Inclusive Teaching Certificate**

## FYFTA FALL 2024

Markia Bowe, Melissa Brace, Keeley Browder, Danielle Chaplin, Reathe Felder, Yang Feng, Jennifer Fieber, Kuang Gong, Amanda Holloman, Shanese Matthews, Francesca Michelinì, Chamteut Oh, Angie Price, Xiaohui Qiao, Sima Sabahi, Karen Schofield, Sharareh Sharififar, Zasha Vazquez-Colon, Jinping Wang, Suzanne Weed, Marilyn Wende and Jie Xu.

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## HELPFUL TIP

### Reflection Time

After concluding a virtual exchange activity, make sure to dedicate time for students to engage in debriefing and reflect on their experience.

Encourage students to share their feelings about meetings and collaborative work and explore any disparities between their expectations and the actual experience. Providing this opportunity for reflective conversations will enable students to draw conclusions and gain insights on how the experience enriched their learning. For the instructor, the reflective time will offer insights on how to shape future virtual exchange activities that will best promote cross-culture communication skills and foster global awareness.

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## TECH TIP OF THE MONTH

### Microsoft 365 Immersive Reader

Did you know that Microsoft 365 can translate content and read text aloud? Check out the functionality of the Immersive Reader to expand teaching

and learning opportunities for your classes. The translation features can be particularly useful in facilitating communication and connections in a virtual exchange environment.

Immersive Reader can improve reading skills and comprehension through the use of the Read Aloud function, grammar options, adjustable reading, and text preferences. The program offers three main menus, including Text Options, Grammar Tools, and Reading Preferences. To further customize, consider changing the speed, tone, gender, or accents in the voice settings.

Immersive Reader can be used within Microsoft Teams, Word, Outlook, OneNote, Forms, Edge, and more! For an overview of the features and functionality of Immersive Reader, visit this [Quick Guide](#).

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## FEATURED WORKSHOPS

CENTER FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

**FIRST YEAR  
FACULTY TEACHING  
ACADEMY (FYFTA)**

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**SPRING DATES**



### **First Year Faculty Teaching Academy (FYFTA) Spring Dates**

The Center for Teaching Excellence offers the First Year Faculty Teaching Academy (FYFTA) workshop series throughout the year. This series is designed for faculty in their first few years of teaching at UF. Learn how to create a great learning experience for your students while saving time and

frustration; we invite you to adapt and use the strategies that are right for you. Spring dates:

### **In Person**

Tuesdays, January 23 – February 27, 2024

(registration closes January 16, 2024 @ 12pm)

Time: 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Location: TBD

### **Online**

Wednesdays, February 28 – April 3, 2024

(registration closes February 21, 2024 @ 12pm)

Time: 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Location: Zoom

[Apply Here!](#)

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## **SPOTLIGHT: AWARDS!**



### **Applications for the Online Educator of the Year Award Due by Jan. 16**

Presented by the Office of the Provost and the Center for Teaching Excellence at the University of Florida, the 2024 Online Educator of the

Year Award recognizes exemplary online teaching and a sustained body of outstanding online teaching practice. If you are passionate about online education and have a record of excellence in this field, we invite you to apply and showcase your accomplishments.

#### **Award Details:**

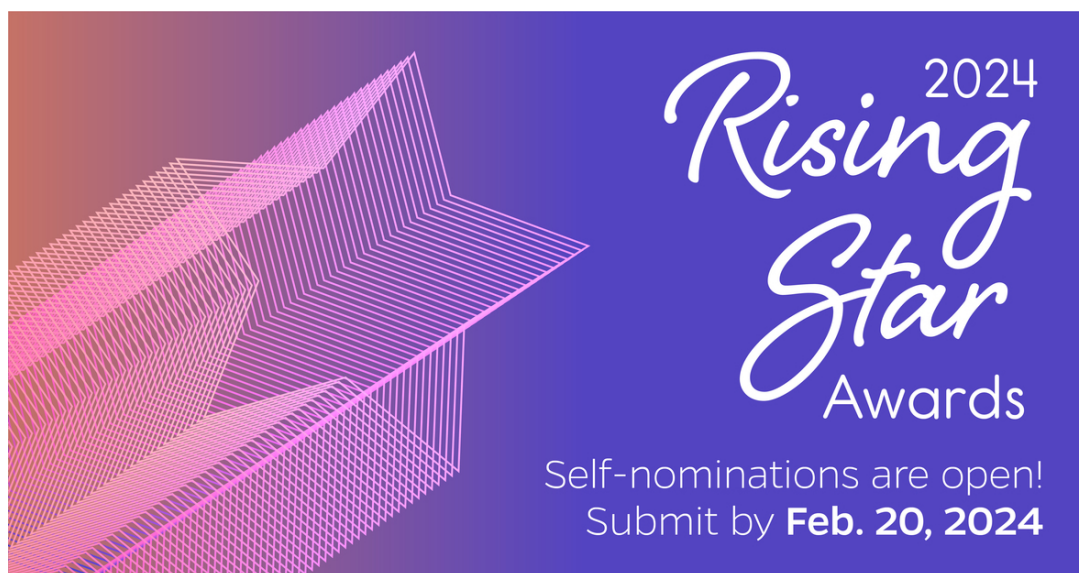
**Prize:** The university award winner will receive \$4,000 and will be UF's nominee for the newly created State University System (SUS) President's Award for Online Teaching.

**Recognition:** The 2024 Online Educator of the Year Award recipient will be showcased on the SUS Institutional Online Teaching Award webpage of the Board of Governors website.

**Applications must be submitted by January 16, 2024 at 11:59 PM.**

To learn more and apply for this award, [please visit the OEA webpage.](#)

**Apply Here!**



**Rising Star Award Applications Due: Feb. 20, 2024**



We are thrilled to announce that applications are now open for the 2024 Rising Star Award, a prestigious recognition bestowed upon faculty members who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to ongoing educational improvements and excellence. This is your chance to shine and showcase your dedication to enhancing your teaching skills and making a lasting impact on our educational community.

**Applications are due on February 20, 2024.** [Learn more about the award requirements and apply on our website.](#)

**Apply Here!**

# 2024 AFFORDABLE ACCESS AWARDS

**APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN**



SUBMIT A  
NOMINATION  
TODAY!

AFFORDABLE ACCESS  
ADVOCACY COMES IN  
MANY FORMS  
VISIT [TEACH.UFL.EDU](https://teach.ufl.edu)  
TO LEARN MORE.



AFFORDABLE UF | UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

## **Affordable Access Award Nominations Due by Feb. 26**

Do you know a person or team who has gone above and beyond to increase student access to affordable course materials? Nominate them for an Affordable Access Award! The Affordable Access Award recognizes faculty and staff who demonstrate innovation and excellence in support of

textbook affordability. To be eligible for this award nominees must demonstrate a commitment to textbook affordability by creating, adapting, or adopting low- or no-cost course materials, or advocating for their use. Self-nominations as well as nominations submitted by fellow colleagues (e.g., a faculty member, staff member, or administrator) are accepted.

**Nominations must be submitted by February 26th, 2024**

**Nominate Here!**

A dark blue poster for the AI Awards. At the top right, it says "BROUGHT TO YOU BY: THE CENTER FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE, AI2 CENTER, AND THE CENTER FOR INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY & TRAINING". In the center, there is a white line-art icon of a person with circuitry for a head. To the left of the icon is the word "AI" in large orange letters, and to the right is the word "AWARDS" in large orange letters. Below the icon, it says "FIVE NEW AWARDS HONORING AI AND TEACHING" in white. Underneath that is a bulleted list of five award categories. To the right of the list, it says "DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 26, 2024" in white. Below that, it says "APPLY TODAY!" in large white letters, followed by a QR code. At the bottom right, it says "VISIT: TEACH.UFL.EDU/AI-AWARDS/" in white.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY: THE CENTER FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE,  
AI2 CENTER, AND THE CENTER FOR INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY & TRAINING

# AI AWARDS

**FIVE NEW AWARDS HONORING  
AI AND TEACHING**

- *AI Educator of the Year*
- *AI Course Award*
- *AI Teaching Integration Award*
- *AI Across the Curriculum Ambassador*
- *AI Rising Star*

**DEADLINE:  
FEBRUARY 26, 2024**

**APPLY  
TODAY!**

**VISIT: TEACH.UFL.EDU/AI-AWARDS/**

## Introducing the AI in Teaching and Learning Awards!

We are thrilled to announce the AI in Teaching and Learning Awards, an exciting new opportunity for educators pioneering the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in teaching and learning at the University of Florida! The Center for Teaching Excellence, AI2 Center, and the Center for Instructional Technology & Training are joining forces to honor and celebrate the outstanding contributions made by UF educators in the field of AI.

There are five awards categories:

- AI

Educator  
of  
the  
Year

- AI  
Course  
Award
- AI  
Teaching  
Integration  
Award
- AI  
Across  
the  
Curriculum  
Ambassador
- AI  
Rising  
Star

These awards have been designed to recognize instructors and instructional teams who have not only adopted AI but have also creatively harnessed its potential to enhance the educational experience. If you or someone you know has been driving innovation through AI, this is your chance to be acknowledged for your dedication and passion. We encourage you to apply for these prestigious awards or nominate a colleague who deserves recognition for their outstanding work.

Nomination forms are due on February 26, 2024. Learn more about the nomination categories and apply on our website.

**[Learn More Here!](#)**

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# TRAILBLAZERS

ONLINE EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL AWARDS



## **FIVE AWARD CATEGORIES RECOGNIZING ONLINE SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS**

- *Going the Extra Mile*
- *Commitment to Excellence*
- *Service Mindset*
- *Creative Problem-Solving & Ingenuity*
- *Community-Building*

**DEADLINE:  
FEBRUARY 26, 2024**

**NOMINATE  
SOMEONE  
TODAY!**



**Visit: [teach.ufl.edu/awards-trailblazers/](https://teach.ufl.edu/awards-trailblazers/)**

## **Trailblazers: Online Education Professional Awards Due by Feb. 26**

The Trailblazers in Online Education Professional Awards recognize online support professionals who lead the way in designing engaging learning environments, facilitating best-teaching practices, and integrating cutting-edge technology to enhance course development and increase student engagement and learning outcomes. Recipients will be recognized at the annual Interface Conference.

The five categories in which Trailblazers can be nominated are:

### **Going the Extra Mile**

Consistent in going above and beyond the call of duty

### **Commitment to Excellence**

Steadfast and dedicated to continuous improvement

### **Service Mindset**

Willing to provide support to colleagues and learners

### **Creative Problem-Solving & Ingenuity**

Innovative in identifying and incorporating strategies that elevate online teaching and learning

### **Community-Building**

Inspirational colleague who promotes camaraderie among peers, learners, and various online groups

**Nominate Here!**

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## Did You Know

### 2024 UF+QM Rubric Update!

The 2024 edition of the UF+QM Rubric is launched! This comprehensive framework, designed for the purpose of conducting online course reviews, was developed by our dedicated team in collaboration with the UF Committee for Excellence in Online Learning and Quality Matters. The rubric update aims to enhance the quality and effectiveness of our online courses. We encourage all online faculty members to familiarize themselves with this valuable tool as it serves as the cornerstone in maintaining and elevating the excellence of our online educational offerings.

- Find the 2024 UF+QM Rubrics [here](#).
- The 2024 ProposalSpace call is live. Submit your online course for review today!
- Each

course  
that  
earns  
an  
Exemplary  
designation  
in  
2024  
will  
be  
eligible  
for  
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2025  
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to  
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the  
[Online  
Course  
Quality  
Team](#)  
to  
discuss  
your  
self-  
review  
with  
the  
updated  
UF+QM  
Rubric.

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CENTER FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

**WORKSHOPS**



# January Workshops

## **Empowering Student Choice: Providing Multiple Options to “Show What You Know”**

**1/18/2024 | 9:35 AM -11:35 PM**

**Instructor: Jennifer Parker**

**Location: 201 Bryant Space Science Center**

In an era of AI generated content, learn how to scale up the human component by designing lessons that personalize learning and showcase creativity and innovation. From brainstorming and storyboarding to creating and editing, this session will dig into great tools, activities, lessons, and resources for engaging any age of learner in the creating of an authentic artifact or experience to convey a message. See lesson examples and activities that give students options on platforms, processes, and products to demonstrate competency. Push the envelope with critical thinking and creativity in a variety of authentic formats that truly show what they know.

[Register Here.](#)

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

## **Effective Mentoring Strategies (EMS)**

**1/23/2024 | 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM**

**Instructor: Jeremy Waisome**

**Location: Grinter Hall Conference Room**

The purpose of this workshop is to equip graduate student and postdoc mentors with the tools and knowledge needed to be better mentors, specifically to undergraduate student researchers. This workshop will cover the following topics: (1) Research Mentoring Ethics; (2) Communication Strategies; (3) Self-Awareness while mentoring; and (4) Mentorship and Self-efficacy.

[Register Here.](#)

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

## **Getting Started with AI In Teaching and Learning: An Overview**

**1/26/2024 | 10:40 AM - 12:10 PM**

**Instructors: Leota O'Malley and John Jordi**

**ONLINE**

With over half of our students already actively using AI, what do we need to know, understand, or be able to do with it? Are you on the fence, a definite "no," or curious about what AI can do? Come explore the ethical considerations and the schools of thought around AI - as well as opportunities to be more productive in your professional practice with writing, presentations, visual imagery, and assessments. See how ChatGPT, Google Bard, Microsoft CoPilot, Microsoft Bing AI, and more are changing the way we live and learn. Part of the Getting Started with AI in Teaching & Learning series. Part 1 of a 4-part series.

[Register Here.](#)

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

## **Increasing Engagement in High Enrollment Courses**

**1/29/2024 | 1:55 PM - 3:25 PM**

**Instructor: Michael Barber**

**ONLINE**

Join us for an enlightening session that combines theory with practical application, empowering educators to create vibrant and effective learning environments in large enrollment courses. In this dynamic session, you will gain a comprehensive understanding of the significance of student engagement and explore a variety of ways to actively involve a large number of students in the learning process. By the end of the workshop, you will leave equipped with a toolbox of strategies to ensure a more enriching learning experience for both you and your students.

[Register Here.](#)

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

## **Creating Connections With Students Online**



**1/31/2024 | 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM**

**Instructor: Tiff Jenson**

**ONLINE**

Often online faculty struggle with getting acquainted with their students amongst limited face-to-face interactions, so how would you establish personal connections? This workshop discusses proven ways to creating meaningful interaction with the remote instructor. A few examples: include clever introductions of yourself, humanize your course, provide weekly overviews, personalize content, utilize cooperative learning, enable real-time communication, incentivize learning with rewards, and emphasize a bottom line.

[Register Here.](#)

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

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## Upcoming CIRTl Workshops

The CIRTl network offers many free online events and courses to promote teaching and learning in STEM higher education. All UF graduate students, postdocs, faculty, and staff are welcome to register for any CIRTl offerings. To view all upcoming events, please visit the CIRTl events page below. CIRTl classes fill up fast. Please register today to secure your spot.

### **Preparing Your Teaching Demo for a Job Interview**

**January 31, 2024 @ 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm CST**

Learn about job interview teaching demonstrations and build your confidence and adaptability in this one-part workshop on Wednesday, January 31. Register starting January 8. [Learn more and register here.](#)

### **Research Mentor Training**

**February 7, 2024 @ 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm CST**

Work with a community of peers to develop and improve your research mentoring skills in this 5-week seminar. Register starting January 8. [Learn more and register here.](#)

**Caring for Yourself as an Instructor: Applying Rest in the Classroom**  
**February 8, 2024 @ 10:00 am - 11:30 am CST**

Develop strategies for self-care and rest as an instructor in academia in this one-part workshop on February 8. Register starting January 8. [Learn more and register here.](#)

**Building Neuroinclusive Learning Environments: Best Practices to Support and Empower Neurodiverse Learners in STEM**  
**February 15, 2024 @ 11:00 am - 12:30 pm CST**

Learn neurodiversity basics, explore accessible approaches to teaching and learning, and revise a specific component of your own teaching in this short course. Register starting January 8. [Learn more and register here.](#)

**Mindset to Mastery: The Inclusive Teaching Course (Spring 2024)**  
**March 5, 2024 @ 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm CST**

Examine your own identities, values, and experiences to cultivate an inclusive mindset that informs your teaching practices in this 8-week course. Register starting January 29. [Learn more and register here.](#)

**Re-imagining data: Using arts-based methods for new perspectives in research, teaching and learning**  
**March 11, 2024 @ 11:00 am - 12:30 pm CDT**

Explore the creative potential of arts-based research (ABR) to view and understand research and teaching in a new way and from multiple perspectives in this two-part workshop. Register starting February 5. [Learn more and register here.](#)

**Exploring Teaching Careers at Research Universities with CIRTl Alumni**  
**April 3, 2024 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm CDT**

Learn about teaching faculty careers in this online panel of CIRTl alumni

who are now junior faculty at research universities. Register starting January 8. Learn more and register here.

## **CIRTL Network Teaching-as-Research Presentations**

### **April 11, 2024 @ 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm CDT**

Hear graduate students and postdocs from across the CIRTL Network share the results of their Teaching-as-Research (TAR) projects in this online presentation session. Register starting January 8. [Learn more and register here.](#)

**View the full list of CIRTL workshops here.**



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