The 17th Annual Teaching Life Retreat

**Thursday, May 7, noon - Friday, May 8, 3:30pm**

*Pierce Cedar Creek Institute, Hastings, Michigan*

Come to the retreat for reflection and dialogue around teaching. You will have the opportunity to interact informally with a small group of colleagues from a range of disciplines. Participants will choose their own retreat focus and be provided with one of the following three texts:

1. *Learner-Centered Teaching: Five Key Changes to Practice*, 2nd Ed, Maryellen Weimer, 2013

These books effectively bridge learning theory and teaching practice, providing a wealth of ideas for discussion. Each participant will be sent a copy of their chosen text in advance of the retreat.

Lodging in single rooms and four shared meals are provided. The retreat is limited to 16 participants with preference given to first-time attendees. We also ask that those who register stay for the entire retreat. For a more detailed retreat schedule, please visit: the [Teaching Life Retreat page](mailto:). To register, please log in at [www.gvsu.edu/sprout](http://www.gvsu.edu/sprout), under the "Teaching & Learning" category.
hybrid courses? Or are you interested in learning more about educational technology best practices? One option to consider is an online workshop offered by the Online Learning Consortium. Here are a few courses that are offered this summer:

- Creating an interactive syllabus
- Introduction to collaboration tools
- Introduction to online presentation tools
- Exploring digital storytelling
- Creating infographics for learning
- Increasing interaction and engagement

The Pew FTLC purchases a limited number of passes for these multi-week workshops each year. To apply for a spot, visit the Pew FTLC OLC page or view the current schedule of workshops on the OLC page.

Design Thinking Immersion

**Thursday, May 14 – Friday, May 15**

The Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center, in conjunction with the GVSU Design Thinking Initiative, will offer an inaugural 2-day workshop to introduce a hands-on experience of design thinking and the ways in which it may be used to enhance teaching and learning. The institute will be led by Kim Dabbs, the Executive Director of West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology, who has recently returned from a three-month fellowship at the d.school: Institute of Design at Stanford where design thinking was first developed. Over the course of this two-day workshop, Kim and three additional expert facilitators will provide participants with an opportunity to work with an cross-disciplinary team of colleagues to move through an entire design cycle. Participants will leave with a first-hand experience of the design thinking model and concrete ideas to incorporate into the classroom.

The Design Thinking Immersion is limited to 16 full-time faculty participants. The Immersion will held on the Allendale campus and will occupy two full days. Meals will be provided. To apply, submit the following information to Kathryn Stieler, Pew FTLC Faculty Fellow (stielerk@gvsu.edu) by Friday, April 24.

- Name
- Unit
- College
- Dietary restrictions or special accommodations required
- Briefly describe your interest in the Design Thinking Immersion and how you anticipate the experience may impact your teaching.

You may also contact Kathryn Stieler with any questions you might have about this opportunity.

How do I create a climate for learning in my classroom?

**Monday, April 27, 11-11:45am, 3068 JHZ**

Monday, April 27, 2 - 2:45pm, 107D DEV

Establishing a classroom climate that fosters learning takes intentionality. Our actions - as well as our words - play a role in establishing a learning-focused environment. Keeping the classroom climate positive is the responsibility of both sides. Learn valuable concepts you can put to work right away in every class.

In this session, we will watch a 20 Minute Mentor Commons video presentation by Maryellen Weimer and then engage in a lively discussion. Registrants will be provided with the presentation handout and supplemental resource materials.

How can I get students to take responsibility
The Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies and Office of Integrative Learning and Advising are excited to invite all members of the Grand Valley State University community to participate in this University-wide endeavor.

The Community Reading Project will make "book club kits" available for check out at the GVSU Library beginning in the Fall semester. The kits are meant to encourage community members to read and discuss the book. CRP provides venues for discussions, among other activities.

Throughout the academic year, there will be discussion groups, speakers, films, and panel discussions focusing on the themes found in the community read.

### The 17th Annual Celebrating All Walks of Life Pow Wow

**Saturday, April 11 and Sunday, April 12**  
**GVSU Fieldhouse Arena, Free and open to the public.**

This 2-day traditional Pow Wow will include

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**The 20th Annual Community Reading Project**  
**Wednesday, April 29 10 - 10:45am, 3068 JHZ  
Wednesday, April 29, 1 - 1:45pm, 107D DEV**

Learn how incorporating findings from cognitive and educational psychology research can help you encourage students to take charge of their own learning. Discover techniques you can use to increase student responsibility and establish a learning-centered environment in your next course.

In this session, we will watch a 20 Minute Mentor Commons video presentation by Christy Price and then engage in a lively discussion. Registrants will be provided with the presentation handout and supplemental resource materials.

### How can I promote deep learning through critical reflection?

**Thursday, April 30, 11 - 11:45am, 107D DEV  
Thursday, April 30, 1 - 1:45pm, 3068 JHZ**

Without deep learning, your students can come away from courses with misunderstandings and oversimplified views of complex issues. Learn how the process of critical reflection is a reliable way to deepen the learning experience.

In this session, we will watch a 20 Minute Mentor Commons video presentation by Barbara Jacoby and then engage in a lively discussion. Registrants will be provided with the presentation handout and supplemental resource materials.

### Personal Portfolio Workshops

**Monday - Friday, June 1-5, 4002 SCB - Downtown or  
Monday - Friday, June 22-26, 3068 JHZ - Allendale**

These workshops are for faculty who are preparing for pre-tenure and tenure reviews, or for promotion. Working closely with faculty mentors, participants will compose their Integrative/Reflective Statement and prepare other supporting materials for the portfolio in accordance with their college and unit personnel policies. Workshop mentors recommend that participants do not teach at the same time that they participate in this workshop. Participants usually devote at least 12-15 hours during the week to work on their portfolios. Register for a portfolio workshop in Sprout.
traditional dancing and drumming, hand drum competition, two step competition, silent auction, traditional food, Native American artists and so much more. Participation at any point during the event is welcome. You are encouraged to join during the Grand Entry, dancing and drumming portion of the event, as this is highly engaging and a wonderful demonstration of living culture. Please share this event with your students, your staff and others that may be interested. More information can be found at www.gvsu.edu/oma.
How Do I Create a Climate For Learning In My Classroom?

**Monday, April 27, 11pm – 11:45pm, 3068 JHZ**
**Monday, April 27, 2pm – 2:45pm, 107D DEV**

Establishing a classroom climate that fosters learning takes intentionality. Our actions - as well as our words - play a role in establishing a learning-focused environment. Keeping the classroom climate positive is the responsibility of both sides. Learn valuable concepts you can put to work right away in every class.

In this session, we will watch a 20 Minute Mentor Commons video presentation by Maryellen Weimer and then engage in a lively discussion. Registrants will be provided with the presentation handout and supplemental resource materials. Register in [Sprout](#).

How Can I Get Students to Take Responsibility For Their Own Learning?

**Wednesday, April 29, 10am – 10:45am, 3068 JHZ**
**Wednesday, April 29, 1pm – 1:45pm, 107D DEV**

Learn how incorporating findings from cognitive and educational psychology research can help you encourage students to take charge of their own learning. Discover techniques you can use to increase student responsibility and establish a learning-centered environment in your next course.
Reception

IN OTHER NEWS

Inclusive Excellence Teaching Institute
June 17-19

Inclusive excellence refers to the use of pedagogical strategies that address the needs of students with a variety of backgrounds, learning interests, and abilities. These strategies contribute to an overall inclusive learning environment in which students feel equally valued. In order to provide Tenure-track and Affiliate faculty with an opportunity to learn more about inclusive excellence in teaching and learning, the Pew FTLC is partnering with the Office of Inclusion and Equity to offer an Inclusive Excellence Teaching Institute which begins with a 3 day intensive workshop June 17-19, 2015. Selected participants will receive $1000.00 in professional development funds for full participation. For more information about the Institute contact Dana Munk at munkd@gvsu.edu


Thursday, April 30, 11:00am – 11:45pm, 107D DEV
Thursday, April 30, 1pm – 1:45pm, 3068 JHZ

Without deep learning, your students can come away from courses with misunderstandings and oversimplified views of complex issues. Learn how the process of critical reflection is a reliable way to deepen the learning experience.

In this session, we will watch a 20 Minute Mentor Commons video presentation by Barbara Jacoby and then engage in a lively discussion. Registrants will be provided with the presentation handout and supplemental resource materials. Register in Sprout.

Spring/Summer Teaching Circles

Would you like a great excuse to read an interesting book and discuss teaching ideas with colleagues? Join one of the following Spring/Summer 2015 book discussion groups. Following our Winter Teaching Circles, we received requests to offer these opportunities again. While we will have a wider array of offerings in the fall, we invite you to read with us this summer. Groups will meet over coffee or tea – times and locations will be decided by participants. To sign up, email Christine (renerc@gvsu.edu), indicating which book is of interest.

Elizabeth Barkley, Claire Howell Major, and K. Patricia Cross, 2014

Make it Stick: The Science of Successful Learning
Peter C. Brown, Henry L. Roediger III, and Mark A. McDaniel, 2014

Teaching Naked: How Moving Technology Out of Your College Classroom Will Improve Student Learning
José Bowen, 2012

The Skillful Teacher: On Technique, Trust, and Responsiveness in the Classroom, 3rd Edition
Stephen Brookfield, 2015

August in the Pew FTLC

Please make note of the following Pew FTLC August activities focused on teaching essentials and innovation
In addition to in-class freewrites and anonymous Blackboard surveys, another method to consider is a Mid-Semester Interview about Teaching (MIT) wherein a staff member from the FTLC conducts an interview with your students. Student and faculty response to the MIT experience has been phenomenal, a result well supported by the literature. Please visit the MIT website for additional details and a link to an online request form.

Spring/Summer Calendar

APRIL
27
How Do I Create a Climate For Learning In My Classroom?

29
How Can I Get Students to Take Responsibility For Their Own Learning?

30

MAY
7-8
Annual Teaching Life Retreat

14-15
Design Thinking Immersion Institute

JUNE
17-18-19
Inclusive Excellence teaching Institute

AUGUST
3-7

Faculty Teaching Institute: Focus on Essentials
Monday, August 17, 1:00 - 4:15pm
L. William Seidman Center
Three sessions focused on syllabus construction, first days of class, active learning strategies and challenging conversations in the classroom.

Part-time Faculty Reception
Monday, August 17, 4:30 - 6pm,
University Club, Richard M. DeVos Center
Meet and mingle with part-time faculty at GVSU.

GVSU Initiatives: Teaching Innovation Workshops
Tuesday, August 18, 12:00 - 4:00pm
Lake Ontario Hall
Lunch plus local faculty in concurrent sessions using hands-on demonstration, discussion, and active learning to share great ideas in teaching. See Call for Proposals below.

21st Annual Fall Teaching Conference
Wednesday, August 26, 8am - 1pm
Eberhard Conference Center
The Fall Conference this year will take a slightly different format than in past years. An outside speaker – yet to be confirmed – will kick off the conference. In lieu of afternoon concurrent sessions, we will hear from faculty experts following the plenary. The conference will conclude with lunch.

Call For Proposals
GVSU Initiatives: Teaching Innovation Workshops
Tuesday, August 18, 2015

Local faculty and staff are invited to lead sessions related to GVSU University Initiatives. Sessions can take one of three formats: (i) demonstration of teaching strategy, (ii) roundtable discussion regarding teaching innovation and initiative (iii) hands on active learning methods for teaching innovation.

We particularly welcome proposals for sessions related to:
• Global GVSU: course integration
• Design Thinking: examples and structure
• Civic Engagement: application of community engagement pedagogy and/or evaluation
• General Education: innovative teaching practices related to new skills goals
• Digital Studies
• Strong Start Initiative: best practices in first-year, introductory
undergraduate courses
• Pew FTLC Grants: approaches and results from Pew FTLC funded projects
• Scholarship of Teaching and Learning: approaches, methods, findings

Session proposals should include:
1. Presenter Name(s)
2. Session Title
3. Abstract (80 words or less)
4. Session Description (500 words or less): rationale, session activities, how session will engage participants, participant outcomes

We welcome your comments and questions. Please submit session proposals to ftlc@gvsu.edu by Wednesday, June 17.

Pew FTLC Grants

*highlight*

**Michael Sciarini, Hospitality and Tourism Management**
Professor Sciarini was awarded a Pew Scholar Teacher Grant to take part in the Sloan-C Certificate program. This program prepares educators to teach and improve online courses using the Sloan-C pillars of quality in online education—learning effectiveness, scale, faculty and student satisfaction, and access. The program consists of a 9-week (on-line) foundation course and a variety of electives that focus on improving overall competency within a specific area of academic focus while working individually with expert mentors.

Faculty Teaching Institute: Focus on Essentials Followed by a Part-time Reception

**Faculty Teaching Institute: Focus on Essentials**
Monday August 17, 1:00 – 4:15pm
L. William Seidman Center
Three sessions focused on syllabus construction, first days of class, active learning strategies and challenging conversations in the classroom.

**Part-time Faculty Reception**
Monday, August 17, 4:30 - 6pm,
University Club, Richard M. Devos Center
Meet and mingle with part-time faculty at GVSU.

Visiting/Part-time Faculty Task
Force to Convene in Fall 2015

On April 17th, the University Academic Senate (UAS) unanimously voted to appoint a task force consisting of part-time, visiting, and tenure-track faculty. Task force membership and further details are still to be determined, but the immediate charges are to examine part-time/visiting faculty best practice models of inclusion in faculty governance and make recommendations; review peer and local institutions’ policies and procedures on hiring, compensation, orientation, professional development, and performance reviews and recommend best practices to be established at GVSU; collect necessary data to inform recommendations; and disseminate reports/recommendations in a transparent manner. Look for more on this in the fall or contact Dana Munk munkd@gvsu.edu with questions.

Adjunct Faculty 5 Minute Feedback Survey

The FTLC and 2014-2015 Adjunct Advisory Council would like to learn more about the current work environment for adjunct faculty. We hope you will take 5 minutes to provide us with your anonymous feedback about your experiences as an adjunct employee at GVSU. The survey will be available until April 27, and all responses are confidential. Thanks for your time! Click here to take the survey now.
Inclusive Excellence Teaching Institute

Attention: Unit Heads

Dear Unit Head,

We seek your assistance in identifying participants for the upcoming Inclusive Excellence Teaching Institute. If you could please review the description below and forward the names of 1 or 2 faculty you think might be interested in and/or benefit from this experience to munkd@gvsu.edu by April 24 it would be greatly appreciated. Nominees will be contacted directly by the Pew FTLC with further information.

Inclusive Excellence Teaching Institute

Inclusive excellence refers to the use of pedagogical strategies that address the needs of students with a variety of backgrounds, learning interests, and abilities. These strategies contribute to an overall inclusive learning environment, in which students feel equally valued. In order to provide faculty with an opportunity to learn more about inclusive excellence in teaching and learning, the Pew FTLC is partnering with the Office of Inclusion and Equity to offer an Inclusive Excellence Teaching Institute which begins with a 3-day intensive workshop, June 17-19, 2015.

WHO: The Institute is designed for tenure-track and affiliate faculty who are ready to make inclusiveness a focus in their teaching and interested in gaining insights on how to accomplish this. The Institute will examine barriers to learning for diverse student groups and introduce principles of active learning and other pedagogical approaches to promote an inclusive classroom environment.

WHAT: Through pre-assigned readings and facilitated discussions, faculty will begin the process of transforming their courses to reflect various aspects of inclusion. Faculty who complete the Institute will also meet monthly throughout the 2015-2016 academic year to reconnect and discuss the progress made in transforming their courses.

10-12 participants will be selected based on the applications submitted. Care will be given to include faculty who represent a broad range of disciplines. Participants will receive $1000.00 in
professional development funds at the conclusion of the academic year for full participation.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, June 17 through Friday, June 19, 2015, 9am-3pm
Lunch, snacks, and beverages will be provided each day.

**WHERE:** 3068 JHZ, Pew FTLC Demonstration Room

**Tentative Framework:**

**Day I: 9-Noon**
- Interactive discussion of foundational reading completed prior to Institute

**1-3pm**
- Faculty self-exploration and identity work
- Reflection on barriers to teaching and learning for diverse groups

**Day II: 9-Noon**
- Creating an inclusive classroom - what do diverse students want/need?
- Discussion of goals for course revision

**1-3pm**
- Building community in the classroom
- Active learning strategies

**Day III: 9-Noon**
- Active learning strategies (continued)
- Inclusive assignments and assessments for deep learning

**1-3pm**
- Individual reflection and presentation

**Follow-up in Academic Year 2015-2016**
- Participation in monthly follow-up discussions, including Inclusive Excellence Teaching Institute Graduation in April, 2016.
- Submit syllabus/course materials to be used as exemplars within one year of completing Institute.
- Submit end-of-year written reflection