Welcome Back!

Another fall semester has arrived, and the CTL is excited to share our plans! Our newsletter and our website have all sorts of programs and trainings to support faculty. And our CTL space at both campuses now feature the winning photos from the faculty photography contest. We’ll have an official reception soon but come check them out and also say hi to our new program coordinator and MSUB alum, Sierra Dolezal.

While my summer was full of CTL planning, I also had a chance to settle into Billings. We bought a house and moved AGAIN. I think I’m close to recovering from two moves in a matter of months, and it feels great to be a house we really enjoy. My son did lots of summer camps, mostly through the Montana Audubon Center. He got a great Montana experience canoeing, fishing, and climbing trees. We also took him whitewater rafting for the first time, which was a huge hit! Now it’s soccer season, so my free time is spent at Amend Park endlessly trying to find the right field.

As for my reading, I am in a terrible slump of reading mediocre books. Give me suggestions! One of the better summer reads was You Could Make This Place Beautiful, a memoir by Maggie Smith. Smith is a brilliant poet, and her memoir captures her sudden success, her sudden divorce, and a sudden pandemic. The writing is lovely.
Faculty Belonging and Wellbeing Discussion Series

The CTL is proud to launch a new program this fall, the Faculty Belonging and Wellbeing Discussion Series. The series aims to start conversations around faculty wellbeing, and the successes and challenges faculty face in academia. The goal is not to necessarily solve these challenges, but instead to create connections and build support while also exploring opportunities for institutional change. For session descriptions, please visit our website.

Session #1 - Culture of Academia  
(September 18th, 4:00-5:00 pm, COE 328 and Webex)

Session #2 - Imposter Syndrome and Burnout  
(October 6th, 10:00-11:00 am, COE 328 and Webex)

Session #3 - Work/Life Balance  
(October 16th, 4:00-5:00 pm, City College B001 and Webex)

Session #4 - Finding Support/Next Steps  
(November 7th, 12:00-1:00 pm, COE 328 and Webex)

RSVP to these events
Artificial Intelligence Reading/Discussion Group

Chat GPT is shaking things up in higher education! So how should we respond? Join the CTL for a reading/discussion series on AI in higher education and how it affects the way we teach.

Session #1
(September 25th, 4:00-5:00 pm, City College B56 and Webex)
Facilitated by John Pannell, Instructor of Computer Systems Technology
For our first session, we’ll read and discuss opportunities with AI and share ways you are incorporating the tool, educating students, and/or reshaping your assignments. It’s an opportunity to ask questions and learn together.

Session #2
(October 9th, 4:00-5:00 pm, COE 328 and Webex)
Facilitated by John Pannell, Instructor of Computer Systems Technology
This session will focus on the challenges of AI—plagiarism, rewriting course material, copyright, etc. It’s an opportunity to ask questions and learn together. Participation in the first session is not required to attend the second session.

RSVP and download suggested readings

New CTL Website
We’ve been hard at work redesigning the CTL website so check it out! You can see our calendar of events, get help with D2L and other technology, and access resources for your courses. You can always email us at ctl@msubillings.edu if you can’t find what you’re looking for.
Are you new to teaching online? Or are you bored with your setup and want to learn new tips and tricks? Our instructional designer, Tyr Hawkaluk, is here to help! You can drop by COE 328 on Mondays and Tuesdays between 9-5 and City College B001 on Thursdays and Fridays from 9-5. You can also book an appointment in-person or online.

Making Fabulous Online Courses

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