



October Newsletter

Welcome to my favorite month in Montana (minus the usual October snowstorm)! Cooler temps and fall colors are my jam. And the CTL has some good stuff happening this month as well, including the call for nominations for Faculty Excellence Awards!

A reminder about our call for peer reviewers - if you would be willing to observe a few classes for colleagues in need of an observation, sign up below. And if you are in need of a peer observation but don't know who to ask - just reach out and we'll get you set up!

HyFlex training will be offered at the end of November, with in-person training on December 12th. Registration will open early November, so watch for our announcement.

My reading got a much-needed jump start thanks to one of my favorite authors, Lily King. Her new book, *Heart the Lover*, was so, so good. If you've read her other books (highly recommend *Writers and Lovers*), you'll immediately recognize her gift for detail and drawing you into the character's relationships. *Heart the Lover* follows the narrator from her college days of friendship and first love through the messiness of relationships and the lasting impacts of decisions. It's highly emotional and addictive – I read it in two days.

Nominations Open for Faculty Excellence Awards

Celebrate your colleagues by nominating them for a Faculty Excellence Award or a Walter and Charlotte Pippenger Award!

Electronic submissions will be accepted for nine faculty excellence award categories:

- Faculty Excellence Award
- City College Leadership Award
- Excellence Award for Non-Tenured Faculty
- Dr. Tasneem Khaleel Award for Mentoring Young Female Professionals
- Promoting International Student Success Award
- Outstanding Service Learning Faculty Award
- Excellence Award for Part-Time Faculty
- Early Achievement Research and Creative Accomplishments Award
- Outstanding Career Achievement Research and Creative Accomplishment Award

Award descriptions and nomination forms are on [the Faculty Excellence web page](#).

Nominations for Faculty Excellence awards are due by October 24th at 5:00 pm.

Nominations are also open for the Walter and Charlotte Pippenger Excellence in Innovation Award. The nomination process for the Pippenger award requires a detailed application. Nominators should read the award description [on the Faculty Excellence web page](#) to determine the criteria that will be evaluated by the committee. **Nominations for Pippenger awards are due by October 31st at 5:00 pm.**



Online Teaching Workshop - Student Engagement

Sometimes it feels challenging to build community in an online course. Or you find yourself wondering if students even care about an online course. Our second session in the online teaching series focuses on student engagement and building connections.

You'll learn more effective strategies for class discussions, assignment design, and student support. Melinda Tilton, Senior Lecturer in Communication, will share the creative ways she boosts engagement in her online courses.

Friday, October 24th at 11:30 am [via Webex only](#)

[An RSVP is appreciated](#)

Call for Faculty Peer Evaluators for 25-26 Academic Year

Last year, the CTL also started a service of matching faculty in need of evaluation with a peer observer. We would like to continue with this, so if you are willing to complete a few teaching observations this academic year, [please sign-up as a peer evaluator!](#) We will limit the number of requests per evaluator, and evaluators can decline when an observation does not fit their schedule. Evaluators will also receive an official CTL letter that documents their efforts.

And a reminder that the CTL created a [Guide to Peer Evaluation of Teaching](#) to help faculty navigate teaching observations. These optional guides are meant to be customized to the subject and modality of the course, so we hope you find them helpful!