

THE BUZZ: Academic Affairs Weekly Newsletter



From the Provost's Office

Faculty Survey: Academic Affairs is collecting feedback about the current approaches to teaching, the use of technology, the hybrid delivery method, and the block schedule structure. This survey will close on **Wednesday, February 24th**. The survey link is:

<https://www.csbsju.edu/forms/H1VQJM7D55> See the email from Academic Affairs sent on 2/10/21 for more information.

Partnership & Pathways Webinar: You are invited to join an interactive webinar with faculty from CSB/SJU, Ridgewater College (Hutchinson and Wilmar campuses) and St. Cloud Technical and Community College to discuss potential transfer pathways into your major. In a grant through the Teagle Foundation, we have an opportunity to work together with these two-year institutions to identify how a transfer student might move through a major at CSB/SJU. Contact Terri Rodriguez (trodriguez@csbsju.edu) with questions. See the email from Academic Affairs sent on 2/10/21 for more information.

Funding for Conferences and Workshops: Although we cannot fund travel at this time, don't forget that [Academic Travel/Conference Funds](#) are still available for faculty presenting and attending virtual conferences or workshops. Please contact Pam Bacon with any questions.

Title IX Education via Zoom: New information about Title IX at CSB/SJU. Even if you attended a program in the past, please plan to attend again. As part of CSB/SJU's commitment to its responsibilities under Title IX, we have scheduled presentations to help you understand what Title IX is, what it means to CSB/SJU, what your responsibilities are, and the resources and process available to assist students when they need help. Please sign up for one of the sessions below. Zoom link and other info will follow sign-up. [More Information](#)

Becoming Community

Chance to win a \$100 Bookstore gift card for completing 15-minute survey: Students, staff, faculty, and monastics have received an email from the Becoming Community team (csbsju@hedsconsortium.org) inviting you to participate in a national survey about the CSB/SJU campus climate around issues of diversity and inclusion. After completing the survey, you will have an opportunity to enter a drawing for one of eight \$100 gift cards to the CSB/SJU Bookstore. The Becoming Community team thanks all who participate in this important survey that will guide future work!

Faculty Development and Research Committee

Call for Nominations: Sister Mary Grell and Robert L. Spaeth Teacher of Distinction Award: The Faculty Development and Research Committee (FDRC) is seeking nominations for the Teacher of Distinction Award. The Sister Mary Grell and Robert L. Spaeth Teacher of Distinction Award is now awarded to a faculty member with EITHER a College of St. Benedict or a St. John's University contract. Nominees will have completed at least three full years of full-time teaching at CSBISJU at the time of application and not have received one of these awards in the last ten years. Please submit your nomination soon! The most recent awardees can be found here: [Award Recipients](#). Any member of the CSB/SJU community may submit nominations to Academic Affairs by **11:59 p.m. on Sunday, February 28, 2021** at the following link: <https://www.csbsju.edu/academicaffairs/faculty/teachnom.aspx>

Please see the email sent by Academic Affairs on February 10 for more information.

Call for Nominations: Linda Mealey Faculty/Student Collaborative Research and Creativity Award: The Linda Mealey Award recognizes teacher/scholars who are excellent teachers and who are especially effective in collaborating with CSB/SJU students on scholarly or creative projects. Nominees will have completed at least three full years of full-time teaching at CSB/SJU at the time of application and not have received this award in the last ten years. Please submit your nomination soon! The most recent awardees can be found here: [Award Recipients](#). Any member of the CSB/SJU community may submit nominations to Academic Affairs by **11:59 p.m. on Sunday, February 28, 2021** at the following link: <https://www.csbsju.edu/academicaffairs/faculty/teachnom.aspx>

Please see the email sent by Academic Affairs on February 10 for more information.

Integrations Curriculum

We are extending the call for the next cohort of Co-Teaching Awards. Information about the requirements for the award, the timeline, selection process, and the actual application can be found [here](#). These awards allow faculty from two different Ways of Thinking to co-teach a Thematic Focus course, which in turn will carry two Ways of Thinking. Applications are due **March 21st** and Award recipients will be notified by the end of April. Please contact Shane Miller for more information.

Some basic information about these co-teaching opportunities includes:

- The two instructors must be from two different Ways of Thinking;
- Co-teaching counts as a 1/6 assignment for both faculty members;
- Each faculty pairing will commit to co-teach twice over two years;
- Section sizes will remain the same as a regular Thematic Focus course.

Instructional Technology

FlipGrid: At Instructional Technology Day 2021 faculty reported great success using FlipGrid in their courses and asked for training resources to share with students who might not be familiar with the

tool. We've developed <https://www.csbsju.edu/instructional-technology/technology-training/flipgrid> with information for faculty and students on using FlipGrid and how to integrate it with Canvas.

Experience and Professional Development (XPD)

Virtual Working with Youth/Education Fair: Please share the details of the Working with Youth | Education Fair 2021 and encourage students to sign up. The fair will be hosted on **February 17 2021, from 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm CST** (Virtual fair via [Handshake!](#)). Recruiting representatives will be available to discuss volunteer, internship and job opportunities with first-year through senior CSB/SJU students. Particularly focused on broad approach to working with youth/education careers. If you have any questions, please reach out to xpdexternalrelations@csbsju.edu

Virtual MN Private Colleges' Job and Internship Fair: For the 45th year, Minnesota's Private Colleges will host the annual Job and Internship Fair. Held virtually in Handshake, this fair allows students to connect with 300+ employers during pre-arranged times from 9am-2pm on February 25th. Open to current sophomores, juniors, seniors and December 2020 graduates, the MN Private Colleges' Fair provides students a chance to find jobs and internships with hundreds of employers in business, non-profit, social service, government, and bioscience industries. Watch for more information from XPD during spring semester about how to prepare for, register for and create your own fair schedule in Handshake! **February 25, 2021 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm**

First Year Experience

FYX Community Engagement Day Dialogue Groups: Reconnect with your peers and lessons about "Becoming Community" in INTG 105 to discuss key takeaways from the CE signature presentations on **February 19**. Contact Kari-Shane Davis Zimmerman for more information.

Faculty Governance

JFA meeting: **Wednesday, February 10 from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.** via zoom

JFA meeting: **Thursday, February 18 from 4:45 – 5:45 p.m.** via zoom

JFS meeting: **Tuesday, March 2 from 4:45 – 6:15 p.m.** via zoom

Watch for emails from Greg Schroeder for information about the meetings and zoom links.

Development Opportunities

New Development Resource: The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University have recently partnered with Academic Impressions, an organization specializing in professional development resources for higher education administrators. This partnership provides all faculty, staff, and students at CSBSJU with membership access to a host of training resources designed specifically for professionals working in our industry. Topic areas range from skills-based trainings for professionals in all areas of higher ed, to leadership trainings on topics such as supervision, personal

effectiveness, and diversity, equity & inclusion, and more. Accessing your member resources is a breeze with SSO (Single sign-on). [Please log in](#) using your existing *CSBSJU Login*, and start learning today!

Student Support and Mentoring Development Opportunity

On March 4 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. the Academic Advising Office will be hosting a development opportunity for anyone interested in incorporating coaching conversation into their advising and mentoring conversations. This is a web presentation put on by NACADA, The Global Community for Academic Advising, but the usefulness will extend beyond simply the Academic Advising realm. It will be especially valuable for faculty advisors, but should extend to others in student support and mentoring roles. The session will be socially distanced in Gorecki B & C and will be limited in space.

To RSVP, please email Jeanne Terres at jterres@csbsju.edu.

Link to NACADA information about the event: <https://nacada.ksu.edu/Events/Web-Events/Web-Events-Coming/Web-Event-March-2021.aspx> **Contact Jason Kelly for more information.**

Featured Academic Impressions Resources

Each issue of The Buzz will highlight a few of the virtual trainings offered on the Academic Impressions site. Note that thousands of training resources are available; these are just a sample! You will need to log in (see above for more information) to access these sessions.

[Get Comfortable Being Uncomfortable: Engaging in Dialogue About Race and Bia \(Live training February 18, 2021 | 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Eastern\)](#) Need to register for this session in advance.

Feelings of defensiveness and discomfort are common when engaging in conversations around race and bias. Even those who have done extensive reading on these emotionally-charged topics can find themselves fumbling if they haven't yet reflected on how their own identities and biases impact the way they show up in the world—and in these difficult conversations.

To get more comfortable engaging in these dialogues, we must first lean into the discomfort of individual reflection and actions that prepare us to enter them in an open and effective way. Join us for a two-hour virtual training where we will explore four key concepts and how they come into play during conversations around race and bias:

- Sources of Bias
- Intersectionality
- Triggers of Bias
- Unpacking Bias

You will be given a workbook of activities, tools, and resources to help you move beyond simply understanding the definitions of these key concepts and begin the hard work of making meaning of how they play out in your life and in any conversation you enter. With the aid of the workbook, you will leave with a plan to continue to strengthen your ability to effectively engage in conversations around race and bias.

Foster Inclusion in the Classroom Through Formative Assessment (recording):

Today's classrooms are more diverse and complex than ever. As faculty, you know you need to prepare a diverse student population – with varying perspectives and backgrounds.

But how do you know if you're making learning inclusive for all? In what ways can you get feedback from your students to ensure that your instruction resonates with them? If you're waiting until the end of the semester to evaluate their performance, you're missing out on so many critical opportunities to engage with your students and include them in observations of their own learning.

Join us online and learn about the power of formative assessment as an inclusive practice that builds reflection, engagement, and self-awareness in the classroom. Our expert speaker will introduce you to a variety of formative assessment tools that you can implement right away, online or in person, including knowledge surveys, exam wrappers, and post-mortem reviews. To help you understand what formative assessment looks and feels like, you will be placed into the role of the student so that you can experience formative assessment directly. You will discover ways you can adjust your teaching practice to become more inclusive as we discuss, reflect on, and dissect what student-centered assessment can look like.

Supporting Neurodiversity in the Classroom

Feeling like you're constantly making adjustments to assignments, assessments, or materials to help only small numbers of students? As the number or size of your classes grows, you'll likely find it increasingly difficult to meet the variability of your learners. Since research says neurodiversity is the rule (not the exception), one-off changes and accommodations will become tedious for both you and your learners. If you're ready for a better way, use these resources to start serving many types of learners simultaneously through Universal Design for Learning (UDL). You will learn simple changes you can make today to both course materials and the overall learning experience.

You Will Learn:

- How to apply UDL principles to digital course materials
- Simple changes to make your classes more supportive of diverse learners

You Will Get:

- Downloadable Resources
- Instructional Videos
- Interactive Activities

The Buzz on Campus

Chanticleer: Love, Always: Love, always and forever. It's the inexhaustible inspiration for music which explores, explains, soothes, exalts, and excites. These songs will remind us that love has always offered the same dilemmas and delights. This program features an eclectic mix of traditional and contemporary selections. This streamed concert is Chanticleer's love letter to the audiences they miss so dearly. **February 12, 2021 at 7:30 PM** [More Information](#)

S WORD by Katayoun Amjadi -SJU Art Exhibition: S WORD is the result of fusing Katayoun Amjadi's SJU artist residency in the winter of 2020 with her admiration for history and the written word. Her thought-provoking installation of found objects and printed scrolls in the majestic Alice R. Rogers is complemented by a ten-minute video Letter to Babba which shares her reflection with her Iranian father on war and these uncertain times. Gallery Hours 11-4pm Tues-Fri. FAEs available on Wed 1-4pm. Capacity:10 masked people at 15 min. intervals. [More Information](#)

Invitation to join Jay Phillips Center webinars on Nicholas Black Elk and Indigenous sources for Christians. Damian Costello, Ph.D., an internationally recognized expert on the life and thought of Nicholas Black Elk, will give two lectures via webinar this month. His Feb. 16 lecture is titled "The Vision and Legacy of Nicholas Black Elk" and his Feb. 23 lecture is titled "Indigenous Sources for Christian Worldviews and Ways of Living." Both begin at 11:45 a.m., and each lasts for one hour. More information and the links to join these webinars are on the [Jay Phillips Center website](#). All are welcome!

Community Engagement Day Schedule: The **February 19th** CE Day offers opportunities to participate in conversations about creating inclusive environments, immigration history in the U.S., PechaKucha passion projects, the power of data and being real online. Participants can also visit the SJU Art Center, explore our granite history or watch a Tourness Film Festival documentary. Some events require pre-registration to participate so please review the schedule carefully. [More Information](#)