

The Joy Shechtman Mankoff  
Center for Teaching & Learning presents ...

# Talking Teaching During the Pandemic Spring 2021



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GREAT CONVERSATIONS . . .**

## **Getting Formative Feedback about Your Teaching this Semester**

Tuesday 9 March 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM; Online (Link will be sent to registrants)

This year much of how we are teaching is new to us, and gathering information early on about how things are going can be very helpful. In this unusual time, what is the most effective way to get in-process (“formative”) feedback about your teaching? What strategies or models are most suited for collecting the information you would like? What information can be most helpful to help improve your students’ learning? Whether you are teaching a module or full-semester, fully remotely or in-person/hybrid, we will talk about various types of formative assessments and which might be most suitable for your needs. As part of the session, we will share resources and options that faculty might find useful.

## **Why Student Safety Nets May Be More Important than Ever**

Tuesday 16 March 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM; Online (Link will be sent to registrants)

The CDC and other national organizations have highlighted the physical, psychological, economic, familial and structural stressors undergraduate students are currently facing. As we know, these stressors often impact our own students’ engagement, learning, and thriving. This workshop will offer faculty a better understanding of how to best support their students and what actions they can take when students need additional help. We will also highlight the various resources students can draw upon here at Conn.

For those interested, we recommend “How the Pandemic Put More Strain on Students Last Fall” Chronicle of Higher Education 1/26/2021 (PDF):  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zLVtRvfVjcS9dt5gPqPDfoq4FAxNXriv/view?usp=sharing>

*Discussants include: CC Curtiss, Noel Garrett, Marina Melendez, Emily Morash, Ann Schenk, Rachel Stewart, Maurice Tiner, and Bryana White.*

## **The Impact of Loneliness and Social Isolation on Teaching and Work Life During the Pandemic**

Tuesday 30 March Noon to 1:15 PM; Online (Link will be sent to registrants)

According to the US Census Bureau, 42% of those interviewed this past December reported symptoms of anxiety or depression, a rise from 11% the previous year. One of the greatest contributors is an increase in feelings of isolation, whether one lives with others or not. And yet, we are still teaching, focusing on our students' well-being while some of us have little to no support of our own. How do we take care of ourselves and not sacrifice our own mental and/or physical health for our job? How has our experience during the pandemic changed the way we view our relationship with our careers? With vaccines becoming more available, reprieve may be on the horizon. In the meantime, how can we develop and maintain a sustainable work-life balance while resisting the shame and shackles of capitalist notions of productivity?

## **What Can We Learn about Connections from Student Surveys?**

Tuesday 20 April Noon to 1:30 PM; Online (Link will be sent to registrants)

As we are about to graduate the second class that has completed all four years of the Connections program, what can we say about students' learning and experiences in this integrative curriculum? Where do we see evidence of Connections' effectiveness, and what kinds of data should the College be gathering as we go forward? Staff from the Office of Institutional Research and Planning will share results from various student surveys—notably, the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and a spring 2021 survey of Pathway completers—for a Connections data-focused discussion with faculty and staff.

*Co-sponsored by the Office of Institutional Research & Planning.*

# Reflecting on What We Have Learned about Teaching & Learning and How It Can Shape the Future

Friday 14 May Noon to 1:30 PM; Online (Link will be sent to registrants)

The nature of teaching and learning at Connecticut College has changed dramatically over the past 15 months. Now that three semesters have passed, this workshop will offer participants a chance to reflect on what teaching during the pandemic has taught us. As we return to a culture of in-person teaching, are there things you have learned that you want to incorporate? Are you thinking differently about class projects, universal design, class materials, technology, and collaborative opportunities for your students? Are there things you never want to do again? This workshop will offer faculty the opportunity to take stock and plan for the future of teaching at Connecticut College.

*Co-sponsored by FSCC.*