

Center for Teaching and Learning section for Report on Spring 2023 term

Fall General Faculty Meeting, October 26, 2023

Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL)

The CTL works across Baruch College to foster engaging and meaningful teaching and learning. Emphasizing student-centered and evidence-based pedagogical practices, the CTL helps faculty navigate the complexities of teaching in all modes of instruction: in-person, hybrid, and online.

Pedagogy

- From January 1, 2023 - August 24, 2023 the CTL developed and offered 51 faculty development workshops
- Developed a white paper on **generative AI**, providing basic AI literacy for faculty as well as suggestions for engaging with AI with students. Ran two CTL Conversation sessions at the beginning of the spring semester to bring faculty members together to discuss the potential impacts of AI.
- The **Open Educational Resources (OER)** Grant-Funded Project supports the conversion of zero- and low-textbook cost courses (ZTC and LTC). In spring 2023, there were 119 individual ZTC/LTC sections, in addition to all sections of COM 2020, COM 3021, and ENV 1004/1003L, representing more than 2,800 seats and \$200,000 in textbook cost savings per semester.
- Supported by OER, Mellon Foundation, and Transformative Learning in the Humanities grants, the **CUNY 1969 Project** is an interactive and OER platform that explores the struggle for open admissions at CUNY. In February 2023 the CTL staff hosted a panel of three faculty who have used the CUNY 1969 Project in their teaching and research, and in June 2023 organized a CUNY 1969 Teach-in and Retreat.
- In spring 2023 the CTL continued to build upon its grant-funded **Open Source Digital Tools** programming, the CTL organized and hosted a summit of CTL leaders across CUNY on Open Source Digital Tools and launching a new resource for faculty, [Teach Open Tools](#).
- Led two cohorts (in-person and online) of **Infusing DEI Pedagogy Community of Practice** with the Provost Innovation Fellow for Inclusive Teaching, Professor Anna D'Souza.
- With the Digital Learning Hub, the CTL helped with the development of online asynchronous courses for **fully online graduate programs**, the Zicklin Online MBA and the Marx Online MPA, working with ~23 faculty on a weekly basis in one-on-one course design sessions.

Research on Student Learning

- Collaborated with the Weissman Dean's office to create a school wide **Student Learning Struggles** survey distributed to all faculty late Fall 2022 and again in Spring 2023.
- Each semester since Spring 2020, the CTL has conducted the COVID-19 **Student Experience Survey** to learn about students taking online courses. Data indicate that students continue to express a desire for online class options (both sync and async), and

that online learning is improved by clear and consistent communication as well as peer-to-peer and instructor-student interaction.

Educational Technology

The CTL supports two, home-grown, open educational technology platforms: Blogs@Baruch and Vocat

- **Blogs@Baruch** is an online publishing and academic networking platform for the Baruch community. Since 2009, over 48,150 users (students, faculty, and staff) have created more than 10,232 sites. Almost seven hundred new sites were created in AY 2022-23, with 2,880 new user accounts.
- **Vocat** is an open-source tool that allows faculty and students to upload videos, images, or audio files and then assess work qualitatively or quantitatively. Vocat was used in 298 sections by 89 faculty in the 2022-23 academic year, a 30% increase over the previous year. Since the current version of Vocat launched in 2014, 33,768 students and 718 faculty and staff members have used the platform.

Leadership Update

Dr. Lisa Blankenship, Associate Professor of English, and former Director of First-Year Writing, assumed the position of Interim Director of the CTL beginning July 1.