

February 24, 2022

Dear colleagues,

We're in the midst of yet more snow storm disruption—but we'll take that over COVID disruption any time! Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to keep our campus safe and functioning, no matter how much snow, ice, and wind Mother Nature has in store for us. Let's give an extra shout out to Physical Plant and Campus Police for their extraordinary efforts.

Even with the winter weather, we've been able to connect via a lively series of "welcome back" events. Our first day was dedicated to ***Students at the Center*** workshops and showcases—you might recollect the speed dating approach to visiting over 20 tables that demonstrated our student success work! Our second day was dedicated to ***Knowledge in Action***, featuring Open Houses at 10 different locations throughout campus—and, again, you might recollect the progressive lunch that enticed you to sample different types of food as you sampled different forms of thinking and learning. Many thanks to everyone who presented and attended!

These events provided interactive sessions that emphasized how we are developing FLC-unique understandings of student success, including concepts of ***Community of Care***, ***Inclusive Excellence***, and being a ***Student-Ready College***. Materials circulated at these events (agendas, PPTs, workshop notes) are available on the CAS-protected ***Academic Affairs Campus Conversations webpage***. An outline of the events, capturing all of this exciting work (plus some photos), is below.

In addition to these fun-filled events, much regular business is underway. I open the newsletter by emphasizing the continued development of our summer programming, along with calls for this upcoming fall's First-Year Launch and LAC Lens courses. I end the newsletter by congratulating our colleagues who have earned well-deserved research sabbaticals. Research, coursework, and service to our students—we are doing it all and doing it well!

Best, Cheryl

INNOVATIVE COURSE PLANNING: Summer and Fall 2023

Maymester

We are re-envisioning our summer curriculum as a space that can both support and inspire students with FLC-unique programming. Building on successful pilot programs from last summer, we will be offering the following Maymester programs:

- **Credit Recovery**
 - This program encourages first-year students to retake Composition, Math, Economics, and Chemistry classes after an unsuccessful first attempt
 - Targeted recruitment is already underway; students are being invited to participate
 - Program structure and faculty/staff participation is already in place
 - Students receive free grant-funded housing, food, social activities, and credit recovery
- **Research Fellows**
 - 3 weeks (May 8 – 26)—providing 2 credits

- Professors will recruit a “pod” of approx 4 students to engage in a compact mentored research or creative activity experience
- We will be seeking approx 10 faculty to lead 10 “pods”
- Emphasis is on attracting first-year students who will be rising sophomores
- Students receive free donor-funded housing, food, social activities, and can apply for a tuition scholarship
- **EXCEL Courses (Experiential and Community-Engaged Learning)**
 - 1, 2, or 3 weeks—providing 1, 2, or 3 credits that match the number of course weeks
 - Structure emphasizes offering unique courses focused on experiential, active learning—Maymester allows out-of-the box teaching that requires the non-traditional extended course times
 - We will advertise classes; professors will help recruit classes of at least 8 students
 - We will be seeking approx 5 new courses, in addition to repeats from last year
 - Emphasis is on attracting first-year students who will be rising sophomores
 - Students receive donor-funded free housing, food, social activities, and can apply for a tuition scholarship

Emails asking for faculty interest in Maymester will be sent shortly. More specific information will be provided and faculty can indicate their interest in offering Research Fellow or EXCEL courses.

August Summer Bridge

Our summer innovation will also feature an August bridge program for incoming First-Year students. Building on last year’s successful pilot, this August’s program will be branded as the “Compass Program,” recruit a larger cohort, and feature year-long follow-up supports (such as success coaching). The summer bridge program allows students to complete a Comp or Math course before the fall semester begins, giving them an advance start on their academic work—an approach which is resulting in high retention rates.

First-Year Launch

Michelle Bonanno has circulated a call for First-Year Launch proposals. Our first-year experience is a signature FLC program, with FY Launch offering eight-week, one-credit fall semester courses that boost our incoming students’ sense of belonging and intellectual curiosity. Launch classes allow faculty and staff to leverage their intellectual passions to connect with first-year students and mentor them in their college success. Please see Michelle’s announcement and submit proposals by March 10.

Liberal Arts Cores (LAC) Lens Courses

Candace Nadon has circulated a call for LAC Lens courses. Supported by a Teagle Foundation grant, the courses offer a new “lens” on learning by emphasizing interdisciplinary thinking, collaborative work, and cohort-based social connection. The program pairs two LAC courses from different content areas, enrolling the same cohort of students in both classes. Students experience a shared unit, materials, and assignments, along with a fun extracurricular activity. Please indicate your interest to Candace by March 3; if you need to locate a partner, Candace will help!

WELCOME BACK EVENTS: Spring 2023

“Students at the Center” Appreciations/Workshops/Showcase (January 26)

- **Our agenda featured:**
 - **1:00-2:15: Socializing over Lunch, followed by Campus Updates**
 - relax over lunch, with appreciations and updates led by colleagues at 1:20

- **2:15-3:45: Learning Design Workshop**
 - connect with colleagues through an interactive and engaging session led by the Center for Teaching & Learning
- **4:00-5:00: Student Success Showcase (in a "Speed Dating" Format!)**
 - over 20 faculty/staff colleagues will welcome you to tables that showcase our "student success" work
 - enjoy a quick rotation through tables—share info and ideas through our lively speed-dating format
- **5:00-6:00: Socializing over Food and Drink continues**
- **Look at this list of the 23 tables at the Showcase, each representing a Student Success Initiative—wow! Thank you to everyone who participated and shared their expertise.**
 - **Academic Hub**
 - **Peer Education Center:** *Sherri Spriggs*
 - **Success Coaching:** *Jaymee Carozza, Maggie Shields*
 - **Circle Back:** *Josh Munson, Larenz Esplain*
 - **Financial Literacy:** *Wilson Warmack, Michelle Bonanno*
 - **Student Employment Mentorship & Career Development Course:** *Missy Stordeur, Larissa Lopez, Brett Polen, Jaityn Gomez*
 - **Accessibility Resource Center**
 - **Accessibility Resource Center:** *Kristin Polens, Ericka Kelly*
 - **Enrollment Management**
 - **High-Touch Advising Model:** *Jess Savage, Ashley Rennhack*
 - **Holds, Past Due Balances, & Registration Period:** *Allison Flores*
 - **Current Student Communications:** *Lauren Moran*
 - **Skyhawk Welcome Team:** *Jenna Gilbert, Mike Wagner*
 - **Faculty Initiatives**
 - **FYRE (First-Year Research Experience) in Chemistry:** *Aimee Morris*
 - **Metacognition in the Classroom:** *Renee Beeton*
 - **HHMI Inclusive Excellence 3 Initiative:** *Keisha Carlson*
 - **Primary Source Projects: CSWS & Anthropology:** *Liz Quinn, Marnie Thompson*
 - **Liberal Arts Core Lens Courses:** *Paul DeBell*
 - **STEM-CORE:** *Cinnamon Hobbs*
 - **Teagle Grant: Transformative Texts:** *Candace Nadon*
 - **NIH U-RISE Program (Undergraduate Research Training Initiative for Student Enhancement):** *Steve Fenster*
 - **Reed Library**
 - **Textbook Affordability: OER & Course Text Purchase Program:** *Tyler Dunn*
 - **Student Engagement**
 - **Basic Needs and the Grub Hub:** *Stella Zhu*
 - **Case Management for Student Success: Academic Care Team (ACT) and Behavior Intervention Team (BIT):** *Taylor Moorhouse*
 - **WellPac and Peer Support:** *Kendra Gallegos Reichle*
 - **TRIO**
 - **TRIO Student Success and TRIO STEM3:** *Jenn Wagnon, Tim Birchard*
- **Our Student Success work is captured on the AA “Student Success Initiative” webpage:**
 - <https://www.fortlewis.edu/administrative-offices/academic-affairs/strategic-initiatives/student-success-initiative>

“Knowledge in Action”: Food Tour/Open Houses (January 27)

- **Our agenda featured:**
 - **12:00-2:00: "Progressive Lunch" Food Tour—go to Open Houses at different locations**
 - Go to different sites on campus to sample different types of food and learn of different forms of "knowledge in action"
 - Enjoy workshops, demos, and conversations at each Open House site
 - We will entice you to visit three locations and sample three types of food!
- **10 different locations held Open Houses, encouraging visitors to learn how they encourage our students to put knowledge into action—thank you to everyone who participated!**
 - **Academic Hub: Peer Education and Writing Studio**
 - **Peer Education/ Writing Studio**, Reed Library's main floor: (room 134): *Food: Salad*
 - **Academic Hub: Success Coaching Conversations**
 - **Dev Space**: Reed Library's Academic Hub corridor: (room 139): *Food: Appetizers*
 - **Academic Hub: Metacognition**
 - **Peer Education Center**: Reed Library's main floor: (room 125): *Food: Dessert*
 - **Undergraduate Research Center**
 - **Undergraduate Research Center**: Reed Library's main floor: (room 133): *Food: Soup*
 - **EXCEL: Experiential & Community-Engaged Learning Center, and FLOW: Fort Lewis on the Water**
 - **EXCEL Center**: Reed Library's Academic Hub corridor (room 140): *Food: Sandwiches*
 - **Honors Program: Transformative Texts and Mattering**
 - **Honors Space** (Jones, room 104): *Food: Tacos from Taco Libre*
 - **CIRCL: Center for Indigenous Research, Culture, and Language**
 - **CIRCL Space** (Jones, room 147/150): *Food: Beans & hominy, Squash & corn, Empanadas, Cornbread*
 - **Center of Southwest Studies: Object-based Learning**
 - **Center of Southwest Studies** (room 138): *Food: Thai from Thai Kitchen*
 - **Center for Teaching & Learning**
 - **Center for Teaching & Learning**: Berndt (room 404): *Food: Pasta from Primi Pasta*
 - **Provost's Office: Meet the Nursing Program Director**
 - **Nursing Program**: Berndt (room 240): *Food: Pizza from Homeslice Pizza*
- **Our innovate work is captured on the AA “Knowledge Action” webpage:**
 - <https://www.fortlewis.edu/administrative-offices/academic-affairs/knowledge-in-action>
 - Note that this page includes links to the different types of “Knowledge in Action” that we have been developing—see out webpages that define these different types of learning and how our Centers are implementing them inside and outside the classroom:
 - **Experiential and Community-Engaged Learning**
 - **Mattering & Transformative Texts**
 - **Metacognition**
 - **Object-Based Learning**
 - **Student-Led Learning**
 - **Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity**

Enjoy a few photos from our Welcome Back Events!



“HIGHER ED SPOTLIGHT”: TRENDS and CONTEXTS IN HIGHER ED

How does the work we engage in at FLC align with trends in higher education?

As we continue to work on student success, we can examine these recent reports and articles:

- **EAB: The Student Success Strategy Playbook**
 - <https://eab.com/research/student-success/custom/student-success-strategy-playbook/>
 - Download this booklet, which overviews retention and enrollment challenges, and provides a series of solutions ranging from eliminating financial barriers to building belonging to embedding experiential learning in the curriculum.
- **WICHE: Supporting the Attainment of Native American Students in Higher Education: Approaches Taken by Five Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions**
 - <https://www.wiche.edu/resources/supporting-the-attainment-of-native-american-students-in-higher-education-approaches-taken-by-five-native-american-serving-nontribal-institutions/>
 - Download the report, which profiles NASTNI institutions that have implemented successful Native American student support strategies, such creating a “home away from home,” mentorship, and culturally-responsive teaching.
- **Chronicle of Higher Education: The Student-Success Challenge: Engineering a better college experience requires more than tinkering around the edges**
 - <https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-student-success-challenge>
 - This article highlights many of the practices we have been putting into place, including creating one-stop shops for student services and early alert systems.
- **Inside Higher Education: Early and Often: Teaching Critical Thinking Skills for Student Success**

- <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2023/02/16/new-book-links-teaching-critical-thinking-student-success>
- This article emphasizes teaching critical thinking as a key element to student success—a combination of our “knowledge in action” and “students at the center”!

“GOOD NEWS” LIST: KUDOS to our COLLEAGUES

What have our colleagues accomplished—what congrats and kudos are in order? What exciting initiatives are faculty and staff engaged in, ranging from presentations to grants to student projects?

I am pleased to announce that the following sabbatical research leaves were approved by the Board of Trustees. This list of projects below hints at the wide-ranging research underway at FLC. Congratulations to our colleagues, who can now look forward to well-deserved sabbaticals!

School of Arts & Sciences

- Christie Chatterley, Associate Professor of Physics and Engineering
 - *Spanish immersion and analysis of global WASH data*
- Veronika Furst, Professor of Mathematics
 - *Questions related to the Inverse Eigenvalue Problem for Graphs*
- Jennifer Gehrman, Professor of English
 - *Article Revision and Teaching Upgrades*
- Susumu Iwasaki, Associate Professor of Health and Human Performance
 - *Examination of sport injury sequence from a view of achievement goal perspective theory towards the reduction/prevention*
- Jennifer Lowell, Associate Professor of Public Health
 - *The epidemiology of infectious diseases and antibiotic resistance in the Four-Corners region using a computational approach*
- Michele Malach, Professor of English
 - *(The) Sandman: Fan Culture and Adaptation*
- Erich McAlister, Professor of Mathematics
 - *Math OER Creation and Refinement*
- Chuck Riggs, Professor of Anthropology
 - *Understanding the Neolithic Period in the Southwestern United States through Legacy Data*
- Heidi Steltzer, Professor of Environment and Sustainability
 - *Reinvesting in Global Change Science and Growing Local Actions*

School of Business Administration

- Eric Huggins, Professor of Business Administration
 - *Completion of Articles on an Improved Program Evaluation and Review Technique (PERT) Model*
- Tomasz Miaskiewicz, Associate Professor or Marketing
 - *Empowering “citizen developers” through no-code development*
- Michael Valdez, Professor of Business Administration
 - *FLC Entrepreneurship Program Analysis/Refinement & Indigenous Entrepreneurship*

School of Education

- Jill Choate, Associate Professor of Teacher Education
 - *Recruiting and Retaining Rural Educators: The articles behind the research*