

Faculty Workshop

August 7th, 2025

Thursday August 7th

8:00am - Breakfast is served – Gibbs Lobby

8:30am - General Session – Gibbs Auditorium

- Opening Remarks (President & Provost)
- New Faculty Introductions (Deans)

8:50am - Break

9:00am - Morning Concurrent Sessions (75 min)

"Research Reimagined: Your Comprehensive Library Toolkit" - Ellis 103

Facilitator: Susan Myers

"In line with IX and other civil rights laws: A discussion, case law review, and case study"

- Ellis 104

Facilitators: Callie Cable and Kevin Rhodes

"Applying Active Learning Strategies Across Multiple Disciplines" - Ellis 202

Facilitators: Dr. Melissa L'Heureux and Kaleigh Laird

10:15am - Break

10:30am - Morning Concurrent Sessions (50 min)

"One of the Best Things I Do in My Class Is . . ." - Ellis 103

Facilitators: Michael Burriss, Mark Gibbs, Lanny Lanford, Kris Neely, Kris Pratt, Kate Roark, Lisa Unterseher

"Assessment 101" – Ellis 104

Facilitator: Jessica Bragg

"Helping Students Get the Most from Their Learning with ReadSpeaker" – Ellis 202

Facilitator: Ginger Dewey, ReadSpeaker Representative

11:30am - Lunch and Faculty Trivia

1:00pm - Afternoon Concurrent Sessions (50 min)

"The Transformational Leader's Role in Conflict Prevention and Resolution - Culture, Communication, and Collaboration" - Ellis 103

Facilitator: Crystal Brown

"Laws that Govern the Work of Colleges & Universities with Students with Disabilities: Why Accommodate?" - Ellis 104

Facilitator: Gina Parris

"Capstone: Mythbusters Edition" – Ellis 202

Facilitator: Clara Jane Hallar

1:50pm - Break

2:00pm - Afternoon Concurrent Sessions (50 min)

"Food and the Classroom: Spicing Things Up!" - Ellis 103

Facilitators: Kirk Hansen and Maria Kithcart

"Thinking Outside the Textbook: Achieving Learning Goals Through Creative Work" - Ellis 104

Facilitator: Kristen Welch

"Critical Issues, Creative Solutions: Collaborative Initiatives to Increase Student Success and Retention" - Ellis 202

Facilitator: Michelle Brown

2:00pm - Session for New Faculty and Adjunct Instructors * (50 min)

"Brightspace Overview for Course Set-Up" - Ellis 138 (New Faculty and Adjuncts are encouraged to attend this session)

Facilitator: Ali Stones, Instructional Technologist

3:00pm - Session for New Faculty and Adjunct Instructors * (Returning Faculty are welcome to attend) (50 min)

"Brightspace Lab" - Ellis 138 (New Faculty and Adjuncts are encouraged to attend this session) ***Bring your laptop**

Facilitators: Ali Stones, Instructional Technologist and Alexandra Seay, Instructional Designer

3:00pm - FSC Committee Assignment Meeting- Ellis 103 (FSC Committee Members only)

4:00pm - Meet & Greet - coffee with Departmental Chairs and Deans - Gibbs Lobby (For Adjunct Instructors only)

Workshop Sessions

9am Sessions:

"Research Reimagined: Your Comprehensive Library Toolkit"

In this 50-minute workshop, faculty will discover how to leverage library resources to enhance teaching and student learning. Participants will gain hands-on experience exploring the library catalog's AI-powered search interface, navigating key academic databases, and understanding the range of library services available to support their courses. The workshop will help faculty develop practical skills in finding research materials, accessing topic guides, and collaborating with librarians to improve student research capabilities.

“In line with IX and other civil rights laws: A discussion, case law review, and case study”

Disclaimer- We will be discussing sensitive topics in this workshop. Those topics include harassment, discrimination, sexual misconduct, and interpersonal violence related to a person's sex, gender, race, religion, or other federally protected classification.

In this workshop we will be discussing and analyzing relevant civil rights issues related to college campuses, to include the Department of Education's findings as well as court rulings and decisions. Further, we will review SMC's civil rights grievance processes and conclude by collectively working through a mock case.

“Applying Active Learning Strategies Across Multiple Disciplines”

In this workshop, we will discuss different classroom activities that have shown to increase student engagement at SMC. These activities are cross-disciplinary and are not too time-consuming to implement. We will have an opportunity for active participation so you can see how the learning modalities work in real time. We will also have a chance to brainstorm ways in which you can use these tools in your learning environment. We hope you join us for an engaging demonstration and discussion about ways to encourage students to take ownership over their own education!

10:30am Sessions:

“One of the Best Things I Do in My Class Is . . .”

Members of the Humanities faculty will provide a brief description of one of the best things we do to help students engage with the material in our classes. We will share a variety of ideas including critical thinking strategies, interactive classroom activities, instructional technology, and discussion starters. Bring a notepad and ~~steal ideas from your colleagues~~ write down your thoughts about how you can adapt these ideas in your own classroom. We hope to have time at the end of the workshop to hear some of the best things that you do in your class as well.

“Assessment 101”

New to assessment or looking for a refresher? This session will allow you to learn about assessment practices, how assessment is conducted, and why it is important. Through hands-on activities, you will become proficient at recognizing well-designed Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) and well-crafted improvement plans based on assessment. You will also get the chance to design your own assessment activities based on hypothetical and existing SMC general education SLO's.

“Helping Students Get the Most from Their Learning with ReadSpeaker”

Description: This hands-on workshop will teach faculty how to use ReadSpeaker's Suite of Learning Tools to aid their students in learning by their preferred methodology. Tips and tricks will be given, and faculty will use ReadSpeaker while in the workshop. Faculty will leave with:

- A better understanding of what ReadSpeaker can do for their students.
- Customizing ReadSpeaker to your individual preferences (dark mode, highlighting colors, voices, etc.)
- Which tools are best for specific challenges (difficult course - use enlarged text with a slower reading speed)
- How to incorporate parts of ReadSpeaker into the specific tasks (such as gathering research for a paper and organizing their notes on the research)

1pm Sessions:

"The Transformational Leader's Role in Conflict Prevention and Resolution - Culture, Communication, and Collaboration"

Participants will explore the role of a Transformational Leader in preventing conflict and effectively resolving it when it occurs.

“Laws that Govern the Work of Colleges & Universities with Students with Disabilities: Why Accommodate?”

This workshop will be the first in a series about disability awareness and working with students with disabilities. In this session, the foundation will be laid for why accommodations are provided for students with disabilities. We will cover Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the amended ADA (2008), the human factor of why we accommodate, the retention of students with disabilities, and the importance of inclusion for students with disabilities.

“Capstone: Mythbusters Edition”

Participants will learn about the Camak Core course PDEV: 430 Capstone to explore what exactly a capstone project is and what it is not. Participants will also engage in one activity “The Capstone Mythbusters Gameshow” to compete for a fun prize! The workshop will conclude with handouts on Capstone, Key Partners, and how to best support students throughout their Capstone journey.

2pm Sessions:

“Food and the Classroom: Spicing Things Up!

This workshop would feature a 10-minute demo lecture which would use food (edible samples included) to connect ideas across various disciplines. Following the demo, the facilitators would further explore and explain how food can be a creative tool for student learning while also providing an overview (logistics, planning, interdisciplinary aspects) of the special class which explored the history and marketing of Coca-Cola, taught in Spring 2025. The attending faculty would then be asked to discuss their experiences in pairs or small groups, sharing with these groups any ideas that they might have using food in their classroom as well as in an

interdisciplinary setting. The workshop would conclude with the sharing of ideas across the room as well as some examples provided by the facilitators.

"Thinking Outside the Textbook: Achieving Learning Goals Through Creative Work"

In the spring 2025 semester, I took an old set of learning objectives for technical writing and shaped them into a creative project that challenged and engaged students in active learning. By focusing on UX writing, students designed a user-friendly archives, used AI tools, and shaped both text and design to meet the stylistic standards of technical writing. In this workshop, I will share how I structured the project, present some student examples, and then offer some heuristics for taking your learning objectives and moving beyond the textbook to inspire students, while still achieving your learning goals.

"Critical Issues, Creative Solutions: Collaborative Initiatives to Increase Student Success and Retention"

This workshop will discuss the critical issues identified through ongoing interviews with SMC Department Chairs as barriers to student success. It will review student risk and retention data. It will explore the types of free academic support and tutoring services available to all students including new collaborations between Student Success and faculty. Additionally, the workshop will review the referral system to Student Success and the availability of early warning systems for students with the risk of failure. The structure of the workshop will be lecture, group discussions, and interactive components.

The expected outcome is that faculty will gain insight into the academic supports available to all SMC students through Student Success. Faculty will learn about new Student Success initiatives for FA25 to stimulate ideas for SP26 collaborations.

2pm & 3pm Sessions for New Faculty and Adjunct Instructors:

"Brightspace Overview for Course Set-Up"

Description: This interactive training session provides a comprehensive overview of the key features within Brightspace. Whether you're new to the platform or just need a refresher, this workshop will cover the fundamentals of setting up your course, such as navigation, gradebook set-up, and creating assignments. This training is designed for instructors of all experience levels and will include hands-on demonstrations, and time for Q & A.

"Brightspace Lab"

Description: Brightspace Lab will provide the opportunity for faculty to set up their courses with the assistance from the team of Instructional Technologist and Instructional Designer. Bring your laptop and we will provide individualized support, ensuring your courses are student-ready. (afternoon – following "Brightspace Overview for Course Set-Up")