The 2018 QM Connect Conference in St. Louis was inspiring! Featured sessions included the following:

- Focus on Student Success
- Using the LMS and Designing with QM
- Faculty Support and Building Community
- Universal Design
- Data Analytics and Policy Creation
- Emerging Technologies

Current data confirm that higher education students are using mobile devices more than ever to access materials and content. Therefore, it will be important to move toward more responsive design and universal design in order to help students be successful in their endeavors both in face-to-face classrooms and in the online environment.

Student success is extremely important and data analytics can play a big role in helping designers decide if their programs are effectively helping students meet goals. I am excited to see how great our QM Program is here at ECU!

I was encouraged to hear that QM is dedicated to supporting our faculty. We must take the time to build a culture of community and support in order for those we serve to thrive. I look forward to serving ECU faculty in 2019.

CETL HAPPENINGS

By Haley Vickers

CETL has some exciting happenings coming spring semester!

First, we are launching our own Facebook page so that you can stay in touch with us day or night! Be on the lookout for more information in January.
Secondly, there will be a SaaS Continuous Update on December 6th. While this should not affect usage, details can be found on the CETL Faculty Pages: https://ecok.libguides.com/faculty.

Additionally, we are starting a book club next semester! We will be reading texts that focus on our passion and mission: teaching. There are so many wonderful books out there that we couldn’t pick just one, so we narrowed it down to three:

- *Drive: The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us* by Dan Pink,
- *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success* by Carol Dweck, and
- *The Spark of Learning: Energizing the College Classroom with the Science of Emotion* by Sarah Rose Cavanagh.

Vote for your pick at https://doodle.com/poll/n8qd9cpgv7gsaaza.

Furthermore, we want everyone who is interested to join us, so you can vote for the time that best fits your schedule here: https://doodle.com/poll/v6v8q9ymr8mfg39h.

Finally, I am excited to announce that CETL will buy the chosen book for the first four people who sign up for our book club! We are looking forward to reading, learning, and sharing with you!

Voting for both polls will end December 14th at 5:00 pm so that we have time to announce the chosen book, and anyone who wants to get a head-start on reading can over the Christmas holiday!

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SERVING STUDENTS THROUGH THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES: PART II

By Haley Vickers

Last month, we (re)introduced you to Chickering and Gamson’s 1987 article, “Seven Principles for Good Practice in Undergraduate Education” and to Principle #1: Encourage Contact Between Students and Faculty.” This month, we will be looking at Principle #2 and how to encourage team work.

**Principle #2 of Good Practice: Develops Reciprocity and Cooperation Among Students.**

For an individualistic country like the United States, it seems that our students would do best by working alone and beating all the others by having the highest grade in the class, but research suggests that learning is more effective when students work together. Let’s look at some ways to develop collaboration in the classroom.

1. **Pair work.** Even in a lecture hall filled with hundreds of students, you can plan 3 minute mini-discussions for students during the lecture. Students might discuss an answer to a question that you have posed for them. They might also be more apt to ask their neighbor about a concept that they did not understand than they are to ask you in front of the entire class.

2. **Group work.** “But my students hate it!” Be strategic about how you create groups. No two classes are the same. Sometimes I do it alphabetically if I want to see what will happen, and at other times (with smaller classes), I intentionally pair certain people together because they bring out different strengths in each other. Remember that group work is for their own good. At ECU, we all have to work in groups
(committees) at some point or another, and that’s true of most jobs. Help students see the benefit of working with someone who might think differently than they do.

3. **Games.** This might sound counter-productive to collaboration amongst students, but have students, in groups, compete against students in other groups. A team that does not like each other will actually start to come together because they all want to win the Kahoot! Game or the Jeopardy board over content you’ve been trying to instill in them for weeks.

Overall, don’t be afraid to try new things. You will know what works and what doesn’t work immediately, and you will have a new trick in your classroom toolbox.

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**BLACKBOARD TIP OF THE MONTH:**

By Wendy McKibben

**Responsive Design for Bb Mobile Users**

According to Mark Milliron of Civitas Learning:

- 75% of students believe using personal devices in the classroom has improved their ability to learn
- 58% use their phones to take pictures of the lecture slides
- 39% use mobile devices to access a digital textbook

From these statistics, we can safely assume that students are using mobile devices to access content. Here are some tips to help students (and faculty!) navigate Blackboard on hand-held mobile devices:

1. **Use descriptive headings to organize content.** Keep it simple and use the heading styles provided by the tool you are writing in.
2. **Don’t use font styles alone to indicate importance.** For example, use an exclamation mark at the end of your sentence if it is important.
3. **Add alternative (alt) text to your images.** For example, alt="photograph of a Cell Dividing". If the image is a diagram that conveys more complicated information a long description or textual format of the material is required.
4. **Make your links descriptive.** Every link should describe what the user can expect to find when they click it. Tell your users when links are going to a new window as new windows can be disorientating.
5. **Use lists over tables when you can.** This gives the user context for each cell content. Consider how each cell will read when naming the columns and adding information to the cell.
6. **Include descriptive captions to your videos.** For more information, see [Caption Video Content](#).
7. **Format your files to be accessible.** Use the "Formatting and Style" options available in Microsoft Office, Adobe or other word processing tools when creating your documents to define appropriate headings and lists. For more information, see [Format Accessible Documents](#).
8. **Tag PDF files.** For details about making accessible PDF documents, see [Meet PDF Accessibility Standards](#) on Adobe Acrobat website.
9. **Provide students with clear expectations, instructions, and directions for all assignments and tests.** Clear directions and
understandable expectations can help them focus, making them much more likely to succeed.

**SMARTTHINKING**

By Merrianne Biles

Smarthinking is an online tutoring service from Pearson. It provides students with on-demand, individual instruction in a variety of subjects. Tutors for most subjects are available 24/7. Subjects include the following:

- Business
- Career Writing
- Computers & Technology
- Math
- Statistics
- Nursing
- Science
- Spanish

Each student has up to 2 free hours of tutoring available to them. After that, they should contact the Academic Success Center to be allotted more time. Students access Smarthinking through Blackboard. The link is on the homepage. Encourage your students to take advantage of this free service today!

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

By Haley Vickers

UCO is hosting the Educators' Leadership Academy on Developing Integrative and Generative Learning Environments on Friday, February 8th. The last day to register is December 13, 2018! For more information, visit [http://sites.uco.edu/academic-affairs/cettl/ela/index.asp](http://sites.uco.edu/academic-affairs/cettl/ela/index.asp).

UCO is also hosting the Transformative Learning Conference. This event will take place on March 13th and 14th and will be held at the Embassy Suites OKC Downtown. For more information about registration, visit [http://sites.uco.edu/central/tl/conference/index.asp](http://sites.uco.edu/central/tl/conference/index.asp).