

THE SAVVY SCHOLAR

GREAT **TEACHING** | **STRONG** SUPPORT

"All progress takes place outside of your comfort zone."

- Michael John Bobak

Volume 4, Issue 4



December Updates from CTL

The December issue of the Center for Teaching and Learning newsletter is packed with helpful tips and resources for faculty members. This edition covers a variety of topics, including:

1. New AI Resource page information
2. Disability Services information and updates
3. December Blackboard Releases
4. Adjunct Faculty Needs Survey
5. Enhancing your Watermark Skills Workshops with Pam Madden
6. The importance of Bulk Delete in Blackboard Ultra.

Save the Date

Ultra Upskill

12/1/2023
Ware 205V
[Zoom Link](#)

ACES 2024

1/10/2024
Amarillo College
Washington
Campus
8:00 AM-3:30 PM

7. Success Coach Spotlight with Claudine Crume and Amber Richardson.

The screenshot shows the 'Center for Teaching & Learning' website. The header includes a navigation menu with links: Home, About CTL, The Savvy Scholar, Professional Learning, Blackboard Instructor Help, Faculty Resources, and Blackboard Student Help. Below the header is a blue banner with the text 'AI Resources' and an icon of a brain with circuitry. To the left of the banner is an icon of three hands holding a globe. Below the banner is a white box with the title 'AI Resources' and a welcome message: 'Welcome to the exciting realm of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education at Amarillo College! Large Language Models (LLMs) such as ChatGPT, Bing AI, and Claude 2, are transforming the way we teach and learn. This page contains curated resources for faculty who are interested in learning more about the basics of AI use such as prompt engineering, and ways to incorporate AI tools into the classroom.' Below the message is a blue button that says 'START HERE'. To the right of the main content area is a 'Contact Us' section with the following information: 'Washington Street Campus, Ware Student Commons, Suite 205, 2201 S. Washington St, Amarillo, TX 79109, Phone: (806) 371-5920, Email: ctl@actx.edu'. Below this is a 'Student Help/Underground Contact information' section with the following information: 'Phone: (806) 371-5429, Email: ctistudenthelp@actx.edu'. At the bottom of the contact section is a small note: 'Please report problems with this site or content errors to Aniana Tiroff'.

New AI Resources and Tools Page Now Available

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming the world of education with innovative tools and resources that can enhance learning for both educators and students.

To help you explore the possibilities of AI in your teaching, we have created a webpage within the CTL site under faculty resources that provides you with the latest news and resources on AI.

Whether you want to create engaging lessons, design effective assessments, or just learn more about what AI is and how it can benefit you and your students, you can find helpful resources on this page. I encourage you to explore the tools and resources for AI offered on our new [AI resources](#) webpage.



Disability Services - New Location, New Hours, Added Support

We in the [Disability Services Department](#) are so grateful to be able to work with the best faculty in the nation!

We know you are passionate about serving all our Amarillo College students, and it is our mission to provide support to you as you navigate accommodating the needs of our students with disabilities.

Whether it be understanding the [referral and application process](#), [accommodations and equipment](#), or adjusting your instruction to meet these needs, we are here to support you.

December Blackboard Releases

Blackboard is constantly improving their LMS for both instructors and students through monthly releases, which will be featured in the CTL Newsletter.

- [AI generated Discussion and Journal prompts](#)
- [Rubric criteria and levels of performance restrictions removed](#)
- [Group assessment due date exceptions](#)
- [Goal alignment to questions in bank](#)
- [Sorting controls in Students and Questions tab](#)



Section 1 of 17

Adjunct faculty needs survey



The purpose of this survey is to gather information about adjunct faculty needs to create a prescriptive course of professional development. If you choose to add your name to this survey and submit it, you will receive 15 stipend points.

Adjunct Faculty Needs Survey

The adjunct faculty survey is now live. If you have not received this survey link, I have included it below. Your input is important and will help drive the creation of professional learning specifically catered for adjunct faculty. The professional learning will be available in spring of 2024.



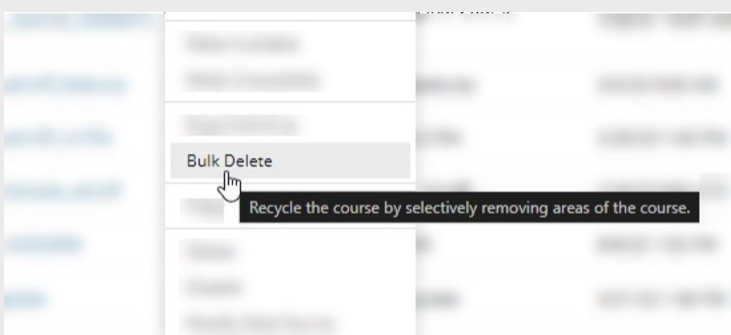
Enhancing your Watermark Skills

Join Pam Madden, Director of Retention, for a Watermark Workshop.

Location: Washington Street Campus, The Underground 121 and 122

Dates: December 7, 8:00am - 11:00am

December 8, 9:00am - 12:00pm



Importance of a Course Bulk Delete

1. **Content Management** - Bulk delete in Blackboard LMS assists instructors in efficiently managing and decluttering course content.
2. **User Experience** - Removing unnecessary content enhances the user experience by providing a well-organized and streamlined course space, facilitating easier navigation.
3. **Storage Optimization** - Bulk delete is essential for optimizing storage space in the LMS, ensuring efficient operation and making room for new and relevant content.
4. **Course Refresh** - Instructors use bulk delete to quickly clear out outdated content, enabling them to refresh courses with updated and improved materials.
5. **Performance Improvement** - Streamlining the course through bulk delete contributes to improved system performance, reducing loading times for both instructors and students.

Email ctlhelp@actx.edu if you need to request for a Bulk Delete.

Success Coach Spotlight



Claudine Crume

Serving Student in the following Academic Communities:

Academic Advisor and Success Coach at Moore County Campus

Best success tip that is shared with students is:

Communication! Communicate with your advisors, success coaches, and instructors so we are able to help you the best we can.

Most rewarding part of my coaching role is:

Getting to speak with students everyday and try to help everyone reach their personal goals. I love to learn about each student I come in contact with and try to overcome problems, realize future goals, and help them figure out the best path for their own needs so they can achieve those goals.

Goals for the academic year are:

Try to increase communication with students and make meaningful connections with as many students as I can.

Fun or "who knew/unknown" fact about yourself:

I love watching documentaries and real crime shows, and riding my motorcycle whenever I get a chance.



Amber Richardson

Serving Student in the following Academic Communities:

Business and Computer Information Systems

Best success tip that is shared with students is:

Stay organized and set a plan to manage your time effectively.

Goals for the academic year are:

To find ways to aid in retention and build relationships with our target students and help them create the plan that works toward their success and completion.

Fun or "who knew/unknown" fact about yourself:

In the past three years, I have visited 12 different countries.

GREAT TEACHING | STRONG SUPPORT



**Asanga Ranasinghe
and Lisa Soper at ICL
Madrid.**



Inside Track Coaching Training at AC

Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL)

Center for Teaching and Learning (WARE) Room 205

Website: www.actx.edu/ctl | Email: ctl@actx.edu

Phone: 806-371-5920

CTL Mission Statement:

The Center for Teaching and Learning promotes transformative, evidence-based, and engaging professional learning for the enrichment of faculty and administrators to ensure the academic success of all students at Amarillo College.

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