

THE SAVVY SCHOLAR

GREAT TEACHING | STRONG SUPPORT

"Teaching is more than imparting knowlege; it is inspiring change. Learning is more than absorbing facts; it is acquiring understanding."

- William Arthur Ward

Volume 4, Issue 5



February Updates from CTL

The February 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. Padlet Update Information](#)
- [2. Spring 2024 Professional Learning Tracks](#)
- [3. February Blackboard Releases](#)
- [4. Adjunct Faculty Cohort](#)
- [5. Spring 2024 Faculty Led Cohorts](#)
- [6. Thank You ACES Presenters](#)
- [7. ReadSpeaker Took in Blackboard](#)

Save the Date

Ultra Upskill

2/9/2024
Underground
[Zoom Link](#)

ACES 2025

1/8/2025
Amarillo College
Washington
Campus
8:00 AM-3:30 PM



Padlet Update

Calling all Padlet fans - have you checked out the platform lately? Get ready for some exciting upgrades! Even if you're a Padlet newbie, now is the perfect time to hop on the Padlet bandwagon. There are new features to make your boards pop, along with step-by-step tutorials and templates to get you started.

The best part? You can experience all the magic of Padlet with a free account. Make up to 3-4 boards before you max out. Pro tip: delete old boards to make room for new ones.

Ready to take your boards to the next level? Check out the links below and be sure to try out the live board to experience Padlet as your students would.

[Signing up for Padlet](#)

[Updates overview](#)

[Break out room how-to](#)

[Submission request link](#)

[Content moderation](#)

[Padlet template walkthrough](#)

[Live Padlet \(student/participant perspective\)](#)



Spring 2024 Professional Learning Tracks Listing

The Center for Teaching & Learning has added some new modules to the Professional Learning Tracks.

You can [click on this link](#) to see the new offerings.

You can register for the Spring 2024 [Professional Learning Tracks here](#).

Faculty will receive \$30 stipend points for each module completed. The PLT will close on May 10, 2024.

February Blackboard Releases

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

- [Creating Forms](#)
- [Audio/Video Recording in Feedback Improvements](#)
- [Feedback on Override and Automatic Zeros Grades for Tests and Assignments](#)
- [Rubric Performance Level Descriptions](#)

Adjunct Faculty Cohort

Registration is open for the Spring 2024 cohort for adjunct faculty. This 6-week hybrid cohort provides strategies and best practices for creating engaging online and in person learning experiences. Topics include Blackboard Ultra basics, establishing online classroom culture, providing meaningful feedback, fostering student engagement, formative assessments, and connecting students with support resources.

You will add to your toolkit for designing impactful, interactive, and learner-centered courses. Click on the link below to register.



Faculty Led Cohorts

Interested in professional development? Great! We have new Professional Learning Cohorts being offered by Amarillo College faculty and staff.

Learn about the Spring 2024 offerings below:

[Day 0: Preparing for a successful semester \(and actually implementing it\)](#)

[AI in Higher Education](#)

[Teaching Neurodivergent Learners](#)

You can register for [Faculty Led Cohorts here](#).

Thank You Presenters

The Faculty Development Committee annually calls for presentation proposals for the ACES conference and is consistently met with enthusiastic response from Amarillo College faculty. Thank you to all who shared insightful and informative presentations. our heartfelt appreciation goes out to everyone who contributed to the success of this event!

Dr. Simone Buys

Cathy Frazer

Skip Chisum

Christy Robinson

Robert Dillon

Luci Creery

Dr. Tanner Hargrove

Debby Hall

Dr. Van Herd

Pam Ortega

Jonathan Jenkins

Carol Summers

Dr. Asanga Ranasinghe

Sara Welshimer

Lisa Soper
Pascoe

Benjamin

Dr. Jennifer Rabson

Greg Rohloff

Dr. Edie Carter

Amy Pifer

Anna Rodriguez

Pam Madden

Aaron Witt

Chris George

Kara Wray

Sadie Newsome

Dr. Rene'e Stovall

Emily Gilbert

Ariana Tiroff

Ashley Coffman

Dr. Robert Fulton
Gresham

Taylor

Dr. Teresa Gaus-Bowling

Crystal Moss

Verena Johnson

Maria Johnson

Paige Rosprim
Herrington

Chelsea

Vanessa Miles
Davies

Penelope

Dr. Jacob Price

Jay Sawyer

Stephen Malley

Jackie Llewellyn

Joe Cannon

Becky Easton

David Hall

Ryan Francis

Courtney Milleson

Michelle Lamons

Victoria Hughes

Keegan Ried

Camille Nies

Adam Aguayo

Reem Witherspoon

Angela McNabb

Micah Prock

Jodi Lindseth

Dr. Adrine Harrell-Carter
Gonzales

Christina

Jennifer Mathews

The screenshot shows a web interface for an assignment. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the text "Open documents with docReader". Below this, the main content area displays the title "Digital Marketing Mastery: Strategies for Success in the Digital Age" followed by "Assignment 1" in a large, bold font. A navigation menu is visible, with "Content and Settings" selected and underlined. Other menu items include "Submissions (0)", "Student Activity", and "Question Ar". Below the menu, the text "Assignment Content" is displayed. At the bottom of the screenshot, there is a "Listen" button with a speaker icon and a play button icon. The bottom of the page is partially cut off, showing the beginning of a paragraph: "Imagine you are a digital marketing consultant for a startup company in the f:".

ReadSpeaker Tool in Blackboard

ReadSpeaker is a tool that is integrated in your Blackboard courses that offers text-to-speech solutions for all users.

This tool is automatic for:

- Accessible documents (PDF, Word, PowerPoint, etc.)
- Assignments
- Quizzes and Exams

[Take a look at this video](#) to see how the ReadSpeaker tool works within your Blackboard course.

If you have any questions email CTLhelp@actx.edu.

Success Coach Spotlight



Tania Fuentes

Serving Student in the following Academic Communities:

Best success tip that is shared with students is:

Communication is key! Especially with instructors. If you do not communicate with them especially when life happens, they won't be able to work with you. Remember, if they don't know what's going on, how can they help support you in the classroom?

Most rewarding part of my coaching role is:

When I see students achieve their goals and start growing and thriving in their college career.

Goals for the academic year are:

I've only been part of AC for a few months, my goal for the academic year is to establish relationships with faculty and students in order to nurture a supportive environment.

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

A fun fact about me is that I enjoy diving into crime podcasts, murder mysteries, finding intricacies of criminal investigations and mysteries quite fascinating.



Adam Aguayo

Serving Student in the following Academic

Communities:

Liberal Arts, Creative Arts, Public Service

Best success tip that is shared with students is:

Stay organized with a planner or digital calendar to manage your time effectively. Don't know where to begin? Highlight or change the color of what is a major priority on your calendar. I like to use red because red, to me, means something URGENT or important. Things that are school related, mark those in a different color than your priority color. I like to use blue for this because it reflects AC's Blue. You can pick the colors as you want and how they relate to you. Being able to see your calendar in this colorful way will show you the open times you have to incorporate self-care, rest, or study time!

Most rewarding part of my role:

The most rewarding part of being a success coach is seeing students thrive and achieve their goals. No matter the goal, seeing someone accomplish success is so inspiring!

Goals for the academic year are:

Some goals for the academic year include creating a supportive and collaborative learning environment, implementing effective study strategies, and helping students develop valuable life skills beyond the classroom.

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

A fun fact about me is that I recently delved into the world of video gaming, and I don't plan to turn back!

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Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL)

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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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