

THE SAVVY SCHOLAR

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

"I am not a teacher, but an awakener."

- Robert Frost

Volume 4, Issue 6



March Updates from CTL

The March 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:

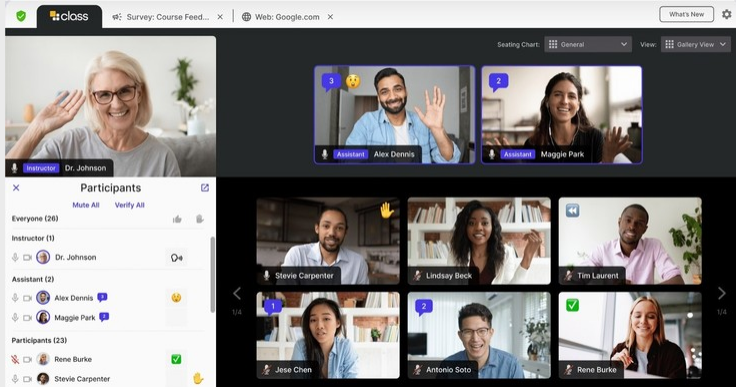
1. [Class 2.0: The Next Generation Virtual Classroom](#)
2. [Spring 2024 Professional Learning Tracks](#)
3. [March Blackboard Releases](#)
4. [AI in Higher Education Cohort Update](#)
5. [Unlock the Potential of AI with Dr. Jason Gulya](#)
6. [HSI STEM Updates](#)
7. [Spring 2024 Adjunct Faculty Cohort Update](#)
8. [Success Coach Spotlight on Robyn Combs](#)

Save the
Date

**Ultra
Upskill**
4/5/2024
Underground
[Zoom Link](#)

**ACES
2025**

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



Class 2.0: The Next Generation Virtual Classroom

Do you teach a tech-supported course? Are you interested in improving your virtual classroom?

Check out Class 2.0, the newest video platform integrated in Blackboard.

Below are Demo Videos to demonstrate the features available for Class 2.0

- [Class 2.0 Features, Part 1](#)
- [Class 2.0 Features, Part 2](#)

If you are interested in using Class 2.0, reach out to ctlehelp@actx.edu for more resources.



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.

March 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 Design Assistant - Context picker for test question generation](#)
- [No Due Date Assessment Setting](#)
- [Gradebook Item Statistics](#)
- [Flexible Grading Side Panels Preserved](#)

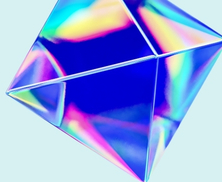
AI in Higher Education Cohort

We are currently in the third week of the AI for Higher Education cohort, and the response thus far has been exceedingly positive.

The participants have demonstrated a keen interest and active engagement with the material, contributing to a vibrant and dynamic learning environment. Their enthusiasm and dedication are indicative of the value they see in implementing technology into their courses and we are thrilled to witness their progress as they delve deeper into the intricacies of artificial intelligence within the context of higher education.

Stay tuned for more AI learning opportunities.

Unlock the Potential of AI in Education and Research



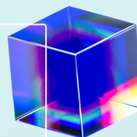
Discover tailored AI applications that resonate with your **specific academic discipline.**

Hosted By



Dr. Jason Gulya
ACES Keynote Speaker &
English Professor
Berkeley College

With a rich 14-year history in teaching writing and literature, Dr. Gulya is now at the forefront of integrating Artificial Intelligence, particularly Generative AI, into education.



His work focuses on transforming the college classroom into a more personalized, dynamic, and inclusive space. Collaborating with educators and students worldwide, Dr. Gulya is pioneering the journey of learning in the Age of AI.

Join us for a series of engaging sessions where we delve into the transformative power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in enhancing our teaching and research, held at 1:00pm - 2:00pm on selected dates below:

8th March, 2024

Business & CIS Faculty
Byrd 215 "Think Tank"

5th April, 2024

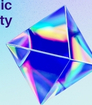
Science Faculty
Badger Corner

22nd March, 2024

Math, Engineering and
Drafting Faculty
Engineering 104

Our goal?

To harness AI to streamline our academic endeavors and ignite a spark of creativity and innovation in our work.



30 stipend points for attending

Watch your email for more information COMING SOON!

Unlock the Potential of AI in Education and Research

Our ACES keynote speaker, Dr. Jason Gulya, will be hosting a series of engaging sessions on the transformative power of AI. His workshops are specifically focused for STEM fields, and will be specific to each department.

Participants will receive 30 stipend points for attending.

If you have question, contact Lisa Soper at l0136758@actx.edu.

HSI STEM Updates

Last Friday marked the first Employability Forum in which selected STEM majors had the opportunity to connect with various local employers to enhance their prospects for summer internships. Held on March 1st at AC's Innovation Outpost, the event was part of the College's Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) STEM Grant initiative.

STEM majors who applied to participate engaged in activities such as mock interviews and resume critiques with representatives from approximately two dozen local employers. Following the forum, an employer luncheon was held to share information about work-based learning initiatives at AC. The luncheon included a panel

discussion featuring employers, students, and faculty involved in successful work-based learning initiatives at the college.

Denese Skinner, interim president of AC, opened the luncheon, while Dr. Linda Munoz, dean of employer engagement and experiential learning, provided closing remarks. Participating employers included a diverse range of organizations such as Provenance Consulting, Brushwood Acre Farms, Phillips 66, and many more.

At HSI STEM, we're actively engaged in numerous technology updates and redesigns. Enhancements for the Anatomage room are underway, including the addition of two large-screen monitors, remote access capability, and access to online curriculum resources.

We're also developing in-person training sessions to assist faculty in integrating the Anatomage table into their curriculum, with full release and training scheduled for the start of the Fall semester.

The pilot for Cybersecurity internships has concluded, receiving positive feedback from faculty, students, and industry partners.

We're currently collaborating with Agronomy, Advanced Web Development, and Mobile App Development to incorporate work-based projects into their courses. Additionally, Horticulture will be implementing internships into their curriculum starting in August.

Spring 2024 Adjunct Faculty Cohort Update

The adjunct faculty cohort has begun, but registration is still open!

Don't miss out on this 6-week hybrid cohort that will provide 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.

[Spring 2024 Adjunct Faculty Cohort Registration](#)

Success Coach Spotlight



Tania Fuentes

Serving Student in the following Academic Communities:

Health Science's

Best success tip that is shared with students is:

Even with a good plan, obstacles will happen. Stay in constant communication with your instructors and utilize tutoring! We are all here to ensure your success, you got this!

Most rewarding part of my coaching role is:

Helping our students remove barriers that they are facing so they can stay on track with their educational journey. Life happens to all of us at times. Being able to support our students to success with strategic thinking, connecting them to endless resources, helping them understand their full potential, and cheering them on is everything. The best reward is seeing our students crush their goals after the barriers that were holding them back are removed!

Goals for the academic year are:

1. Continuing to grow in my role as a Success Coach and an FYS Instructor.
2. Complete my Master's Degree in Higher Education with an emphasis in Life Coaching.
3. Recreate my work - life balance, spend more time with my family making memories.

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

I grew up on a farm raising show animals. I have four boys who were and some still are all extremely active in sports and I'm SO not a sports person... Everyone jokes with me because I have no idea what's going on, on the football field or basketball court when they are playing.

My family just didn't watch sports when I was growing up, guess I was too busy with my show animals. Showing animals is an intense and very time-consuming, year-round sport in itself.

GREAT TEACHING | STRONG SUPPORT

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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