

THE SAVVY SCHOLAR

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

"The illiterate of the future will not be the person who cannot read. It will be the person who does not know how to learn."

- Alvin Toffler

Volume 4, Issue 8



May Updates from CTL

The May 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. How to request a Blackboard Shell](#)
- [2. Badger Beginnings is right around the corner](#)
- [3. Smart Start to Finish](#)
- [4. Teaching for Transformation V Participants](#)
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Save the Date


ACES 2024


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

CTL would like to wish faculty a great summer break. Our offices will be open through the summer to assist you with anything Blackboard or course related.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Blackboard Shell Request

v0262896@amarillocollege.com [Switch account](#) 

 Not shared

* Indicates required question

First Name *

Last Name *

AC Username *

(ex. jcsmith, jcsmith21, a01233456)

Requesting Development Shells and Sandboxes

Did you know that you can plan your courses out in a developmental shell, or even experiment with lessons in a sandbox? Several types of shells can be built for you in Blackboard Ultra. Below is the link for requesting shells through the CTL web page. If you are not sure what type of shell you need, please see the definitions below.

<https://www.actx.edu/ctl/request>

Definition of Shell Types:

[Bb Ultra Learn Developmental Shell -](#)

This is a shell designed in our upcoming version of Blackboard that will go campus wide in Fall of 2023. It is suggested to begin building your current courses in this shell for an easy transition to the migration to ULTRA. Designing courses in a developmental shell rather than a live course helps to keep from having issues with gradebook and quota later down the road. Continual course copying from live course to live course has shown to

cause various issues that cannot be fixed and result in possible course rebuild.

[Bb Ultra Learn Sandbox -](#)

This shell is designed in our upcoming version of Blackboard that will go campus wide in Fall of 2023. It is used to allow you to begin exploring and testing out the various features of what Blackboard has to offer. If something happens in this course.... no worries. Contact ctlhelp@actx.edu and request that the course be bulk deleted and restored to it's original form. If you are trying something new and are not sure what it will do on Blackboard this is the place to test it out.

[Organizational Ultra Shell -](#)

This shell is designed in our current version of Blackboard. This shell behaves just like a course in Blackboard with content, discussions, messages, and so on. You can post information, have discussions, and share documents. It's primary purpose is to connect users with other users who share a common interest or extra-curricular activities.



Badger Beginnings, New Student Orientation

Looking for some opportunities for service in the summer? Badger Beginnings is a great way to engage with AC's new students who are transitioning from high school to college. This service counts for rank and tenure, and more importantly, it gives you a chance to meet with new students and help them get a great start here at the college.

If you missed the email from Miranda McHugh, orientation coordinator, then go to [this link](#) to sign for the dates and times that will work for you.

If you have any questions, connect with Miranda at m0260958@actx.edu or Amy Pifer at adpifer@actx.edu.



The Quality Enhancement Plan: Smart Start to Finish continues until after the fall of 2025. The focus is on our First Time in College Students (FTICS) retention from fall to fall.

In order to meet the 75% retention goal, it is imperative that we get our current students to pre-register and return in the fall. Here's a brief recap of the data that shows promise but not statistically significant improvement without retaining this academic year's students.

If you want more information on Success 360, Springboards, EDUC 1100, then visit the Dair dashboard.

If you haven't visited the QEP: Smart Start to Finish dashboard lately, then please check it out. You can find the link to the Dair dashboard on the AC Connect portal, or by clicking [this link](#).

If you would like to share your thoughts or any ideas for our retention efforts, please connect with Amy Pifer at adpifer@actx.edu or Becky Burton at bkburton@actx.edu.

FTIC Retention	2021 - base year	2022	2023
Fall-to-Spring	74.79%	76.01%	78.2%
Fall-to-Fall	55.56%	57.34%	TBD (Oct. 29, 2024)



Teaching for Transformation V

Teaching for Transformation V has come to an end. We would like to take a minute to recognize the participants in the 2023-2024 cohort.

Joe Cannon	Timothy Vo	Adrine Harrell-Carter	John Brixen
Tasha Todd	John Stell	Deonna Spies	Mugisha Aime
Paige Rosprim	Elizabeth Copley	Julie Beyer	Kelly Mathiasmeier
Brian Frank	Ashley Coffman	Maddisun Fowler	Chris Seth
Cynthia Brudnage	Carrie Stangl	Javier Herrera	Adam Aguayo
Keesha Russell	Darci Thompson	Holly Hofmann	Holly Graham
Tammy Bjork	John Smoot		

HSI STEM Speakers Recap

This semester, the halls of Amarillo College resonated with the insightful voices of two distinguished guests: Dr. Jason Gulya and Abhijit Bhaduri, author of Career 3.0. Their presence sparked dynamic discussions among faculty, staff, and students, delving deep into the future of work and the transformative impact of AI on the professional landscape. Dr. Gulya and Mr. Bhaduri illuminated pathways

forward in navigating the evolving realm of work, offering invaluable advice on how to adapt and thrive amidst technological advancements.

Jason Gulya led discussions with faculty on integrating AI into education and surgical business, touching on engineers transitioning to biological sciences and AI's impact in classrooms for enhancing teaching effectiveness. He emphasized utilizing AI tools like Chat GPT, Magic School AI, and Microsoft Math Solver for lesson planning and collaborative projects. Gulya also championed a collaborative initiative to develop a technologically advanced platform tailored to individual preferences, showcasing AI's potential in personalized learning. Acknowledging AI's current limitations, discussions also explored innovative applications in avatars and legal research, signaling AI's expanding role beyond traditional educational boundaries.

Mr. Bhaduri engaged faculty and students in a discussion centered on his book "Career 3.0," which outlines evolving career archetypes in the face of changing work dynamics. He delineated Career 3.0 as characterized by possessing multiple skills and proficiencies that generate diverse income streams, contrasting it with Career 1.0's linear progression of learning, earning, and retiring, and Career 2.0's pivotal decision-making points. Preparing for Career 3.0, according to Bhaduri, entails embracing ambiguity, constant reinvention, and adaptability, with an outlook toward a career spanning several decades. This preparation involves developing financial resilience, embracing failure, and cultivating ecosystems supportive of such dynamic careers. Bhaduri emphasized the importance of fostering flexibility and adaptability among students to thrive in this evolving landscape.

Reminders for Submitting Grades

As the end of the semester gets closer, we wanted to share some resources with you as you begin final preparations for submitting grades. The table below includes links to each resource. If you need further assistance, please contact CTLhelp@actx.edu.

Overall Grade	Setting up overall grade PDF	Setting up overall grade VIDEO
Submitting Grades (Self Service)	Grade Submission through Self Service (Doc)	
Submitting	Grade Submission	Grade

Grades
(Blackboard)

[in Blackboard
\(Doc\)_](#)

[Submission in
Blackboard
VIDEO](#)

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Teaching for Transformation V

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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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