Spring 2015 IDEA Center Workshops

**TITLE: Managing Your Student Loan Debt**
Leader: Travis York and Luke Fowler
Date and Time: Tuesday January 27, 2-3:15 PM
Location: IDEA Center Living Room

Did you know that some of your federal loans could be forgiven? That’s right, under Obama’s 2012 reaffirmation of the Higher Education Act (1965) persons working for non-profit entities (like VSU) are able to have some of their federal loans forgiven. Managing your student loans can be confusing and overwhelming, but we’re here to help. As new faculty, we have recently traversed the tricky terrain of the PSLF (Public Servant Loan Forgiveness) program and we’d like to share what we’ve learned with you. This workshop will include an overview of the PSLF, the documentation needed to enroll in the program, and a few common mistakes that you can avoid. We will also share other useful tips about ways that you can manage your student loans and increase your financial stability.


**Title: Using Timely Feedback to Enhance Student Learning**
Leader: Ray Elson
Date and Time: Wednesday in January 28, 2-3:15 PM
Location: IDEA Center Living Room

Students are assigned various projects such as case analysis, research and simulation, throughout the semester as part of a course requirement. Students are expected to spend a significant amount of time outside of the classroom working on such projects. However, the feedback provided to students once projects are completed may not be timely or constructive and may not help them to improve performance on future projects (in the same or future courses). Therefore, an opportunity to enhance learning is lost. This workshop will discuss approaches that could be used to provide continuous constructive and timely feedback to students without sacrificing course rigor.


**Title: Workshop: Statistically Speaking: Don’t let the Numbers Get You Down**
Leader: Peggy Moch
Date and Time: Friday, January 30, 12-12:50 PM
Location: IDEA Center Living Room

Data, data, everywhere and needing a way to make it all work? A general overview from coming up with a plan to talking about coding missing data. Should you use quantitative, qualitative, or both methods? How do you decide? Come get statistically refreshed so the numbers will stop getting you down.

Title: Teaching A Large Class? Tips for Success  
Leader: Kathleen Lowney  
Date and Time: Friday, February 6, 1-2 PM  
Location: IDEA Center Living Room  

New to teaching large sections? Been teaching them for a while? Have questions about how to manage this size of a class? Do you have ideas to share? Let’s get together, swap techniques, and support each other.  
Register at: https://apex.valdosta.edu/apex/f?p=238:6:2255214527128867

Title: Reflecting on Reflection: Metacognition in the Classroom  
Leader: Darrell Fike  
Date and Time: Monday, February 16, 2-3:15  
Location: IDEA Center Living Room  

Including metacognitive activities in the classroom can enhance student learning by providing them with a deeper understanding of their own learning processes. Having students engage in some kind of reflective activity also provides teachers with feedback about how students perceived an assignment or processed the material. This workshop will offer guidance and strategies for developing metacognitive activities.  
Register at: https://apex.valdosta.edu/apex/f?p=238:6:2255214527128867

Title: Pedagogical Implications of Gamifying the Classroom  
Leader: Larry Hilgert  
Date and Time: Tuesday, February 24th 1:00-2:00 PM  
Location: IDEA Center Living Room  

Come learn some techniques for using games as learning opportunities for students. We’ll talk about differing types of games, traditional and recent applications, and some of the benefits of games in the classroom and a few of the downsides as well.  
Register at: https://apex.valdosta.edu/apex/f?p=238:6:2255214527128867

Title: Working with International Students: Challenges and Strategies  
Leader: Li-Mei Chen  
Date and Time: Monday, March 16, 1-1:50 PM  
Location: IDEA Center Living Room  

When entering the educational system of the United States, most international students bring with them the beliefs and expectations about schooling they have experienced in their native cultures. Hence, they are distinct compared to their native peers. This workshop aims to help participants understand how to work with international students. Challenges instructors may encounter and strategies that can be used to tackle with potential challenges will be discussed.
TITLE: Diverse Teachers, Teaching, and Students  
Leader: Ellen Friedrich  
Date and Time: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 2-3 PM  
Location: IDEA Center Living Room  

We, as teachers, may be very different from each other and from our students, as well as our students from each other. Moreover, our teaching styles may reflect our personalities in ways that don't always seem to fit the way our students learn. Come learn more about how our own personality traits and types and those of our students affect classroom dynamics. We will identify types of assignments, activities, and assessments that address learning preferences of diverse learners, young and old. And you have some homework: before you attend the workshop, please do this 10 minute online exercise at [http://www.keirsey.com/sorter/register.aspx](http://www.keirsey.com/sorter/register.aspx). Please bring a print out of the results with you.


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Title: Creative Commons, Academic Research, and You  
Leader: Michael Holt  
Date and Time: Friday, April 10 at 1 – 2 PM  
Location: IDEA Center Living Room  

Description: There's a lot of information about Creative Commons and other copyleft licenses out there, but what does it mean for you, the classes you teach, and your research process? This workshop will cover the roles copyleft and open access materials can play in the classes you teach and in your research and publication process as well.