

Collins, Marina Avery

From: Bortree, Denise Sevick
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 10:53 AM
To: Collins, Marina Avery
Subject: FW: Teaching Tuesday - Creating an Inclusive Course

Denise Sevick Bortree, Ph.D.
Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Director of Arthur W. Page Center for Integrity in Public Communication
Bellisario College of Communications
Penn State University
201 Carnegie Building
University Park, Pa. 16802
www.thepagecenter.org

From: Bortree, Denise Sevick
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 2:50 PM
To: L-COMM-FACSTAFF@LISTS.PSU.EDU
Subject: Teaching Tuesday - Creating an Inclusive Course



Term: Fall 2022 | [Issue 52](#) | Date: November 22, 2022

BELLISARIO BULLETIN

- By [Denise Bortree](#)

It's Teaching Tuesdays, and it's nearly the end of the semester. Just two more weeks of classes to go. I hope your classes are wrapping up well. Some of us are starting to think about Spring 2023 courses, and today's topic is an important one to consider. Our guest author Jessica Sumney, Student Affairs Assistant Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, shares about [Student Affairs Community & Belonging Initiative](#). And, the amazing Danielle Harris offers tips for creating an inclusive course. If you have updated a course to be more inclusive, we would love to hear about it! Have a great week.

Important Items of Note

- **BUILD @ Penn State: Broadening Understanding and Inclusion through Learning and Dialogue** | Curriculum has been designed to provide the information necessary to create welcoming and inclusive spaces at Penn State. It is divided into three (3) separate tracks with unique learning objectives that build on each other. For each track you complete, you will receive a digital badge which can be included in your email signature, LinkedIn profile, resume, vita, portfolio, etc. Visit the [BUILD website](#) for more information.
- **The Lion's Pantry** | As the holiday season approaches, remind students of [Open Pantry Hours & Facility Information](#) | [The Lion's Pantry](#) serves as the official on-campus student food pantry at Penn State's University Park campus.

Upcoming Events

- **November 30** | 6:15 – 7:15 pm | Info Session: Philadelphia Career Exploration Experience | Carnegie Cinema (113 Carnegie Building)
- **December 16** | 1:30 – 3:00 pm | Bellisario College Commencement Reception | Bellisario Media Center
- **December 17** | 12:30 – 2:00 pm | Fall Semester Undergraduate Commencement | Bryce Jordan Center
- **December 17** | 4:30 – 7:00 pm | Fall Semester Graduate Commencement | Bryce Jordan Center

TEACHING TIP

PennState Student Affairs: Community & Belonging

- By [Jessica Sumney](#)



Led by the [Assistant Vice President of DEI](#), Student Affairs Community & Belonging houses five student-serving, identity-based offices as well as staff who provide broad DEI education and internal consulting. Our unit seeks to create a sense of belonging for a wide variety of student populations as well as educate campus members on upholding an equitable and inclusive community.

The offices housed under the AVP include:

- [Adult Learner Programs & Services](#)
- [Center for Spiritual & Ethical Development](#)
- [Center for Sexual & Gender Diversity](#)
- [Gender Equity](#)
- [Paul Robeson Cultural Center](#)

Our offices host events and programs to celebrate, support, and advocate for their given student populations. Additionally, we provide educational opportunities to raise awareness of and support for common issues in our student communities. More information on how to get involved can be found on the [Community & Belonging website](#).

The DEI for Student Affairs staff provide tailored, by-request workshops that educate students, faculty, and staff on topics such as implicit bias, microaggressions, workplace DEI initiatives, inclusive leadership and communication, and

applying DEI principles to practice. Staff are also available to review office or organizational policies, practices, and projects and provide feedback to make them more inclusive of all students. To request a workshop or consultation, please contact [Jessica Sumney](#), Assistant Director of DEI for Student Affairs.

CANVAS CUE

Creating an Inclusive Course

- By [Danielle Harris](#)

An inclusive classroom aims to create an environment where all students feel supported academically, and are extended a sense of belonging in the classroom regardless of identity or learning preferences. At times, this can feel overwhelming, as it is challenging to accommodate the many unique learners enrolled in our courses. However, there are tips and tricks to creating an inclusive course by means of personalizing instruction with the Canvas tools you have on hand.

Personalized learning is a hot topic and great alternative to the one-size-fits-all approach to education. This model is built around personalized learning paths which ensure students' interests, strengths, and weaknesses are accounted for and that instructors have ample opportunity to provide redirection or resources. Personalized learning encourages educators to take more targeted action to support and foster students when needed, and below are some Canvas tools that may help make this a feasible and relatively stress-free task.



Mix of Media

- Use a mix of videos, images, infographics, and outside resources that supplement your course content. A mix of media, offering visual or audio elements in addition to text, will help accommodate the various ways that students in your course will best retain information.
- A mix of media in your course will also provide learning materials in several formats, accessible on various devices, and use different delivery methods to ensure students can tap into their own learning styles.

Student Choice

- Offer a choice board or some flexibility regarding research and project selection.
- When designing or updating a course, try to incorporate student choice as it will help prioritize the needs of students as individuals.
- Student choice encourages students to be active learners and take initiative.

Formative Assessment

- Include ongoing assessments (even self-assessments) to reinforce learning, provide consistent feedback, and identify learning gaps.
- Formative assessment will offer instructors real-time data on student progress, empowering you to intervene if necessary.
- Data resulting from formative assessment can also be used by instructors to make course improvements before the next offering.

Resources

- [Disability Accommodations](#)
- [Learning Tool Integrations](#)
- [University Resources](#)

Please [reach out](#) if you would like to discuss personalized learning. As always, I am happy to collaborate and answer any questions you may have about Canvas tools!

SHARE A TEACHING STRATEGY

Share something fabulous that you have been doing in your classroom! Do you have a teaching technology or strategy that you've seen succeed and would like to share it in the *Teaching Tuesdays* newsletter? If so, please [share your idea](#) for an upcoming issue.