CTE | CONFERENCE ON TEACHING EXCELLENCE

2026 Best Practices, Research, and Sharing Conference

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY | CENTER *for* TEACHING EXCELLENCE

AGENDA

2026 Conference on Teaching Excellence

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

8-8:15 A.M. EST

In the "2026 Conference on Teaching Excellence" Canvas course

- **Welcome**
- **Conference Program**
- **Virtual Prayer Room**

Attendance is expected for all full-time residential faculty. You will verify your attendance by completing the "Verification Quiz for Attendance/CEUs" located in the Canvas Course, "2026 Conference on Teaching Excellence."

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS

8:15 A.M.- 12:25 P.M. EST

In the "2026 Conference on Teaching Excellence" Canvas course

- **Breakout Session I** – 8:15-8:45 a.m.
- **Breakout Session II** – 8:50-9:20 a.m.
- **Breakout Session III** – 9:25-9:55 a.m.
- **BREAK** – 9:55-10:10 a.m.
- **Breakout Session IV** – 10:10-10:40 a.m.
- **Breakout Session V** – 10:45-11:15 a.m.
- **Breakout Session VI** – 11:20-11:50 a.m.
- **Breakout Session VII** – 11:55 a.m. – 12:25 p.m.
- **On-Demand Sessions** (May be viewed during Breakout Sessions I-VII)
- **Academic Posters/Papers and Discussion**

BREAKOUT SESSION I

8:15–8:45 a.m.

See Canvas Course, "2026 Conference on Teaching Excellence" for Microsoft Teams Links

Featured Presentation: Oh, the Humanity! Guiding Students in Ethical AI Use
Presenter(s): Travis Holt, *College of Arts and Sciences*
Presentation Description: The concern about AI use should not focus on its potential to increase productivity and efficiency, but rather on its pairing with a convenience-driven generation accustomed to immediate access to information. This session will discuss ways to demystify AI and guide students toward ethical use in the classroom.

Featured Presentation: IRB 101
Presenter(s): Grace Baker, *Liberty University Institutional Review Board (IRB)*
Presentation Description: IRB 101 will inform faculty researchers and those overseeing student research about when data will be collected from or about individuals. The session will include guidance on which research projects must be reviewed by the IRB, how studies are submitted, and what the IRB review process entails.

Biblical Self-Confrontation
Presenter(s): Philip Muller, *Liberty University Police Department* and Elda Muller, *Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine*
Presentation Description: Engaging in self-reflection to identify and address personal shortcomings in light of biblical standards is essential for equipping oneself to lead and support others effectively while remaining faithful to scriptural principles. This session will guide participants through practical steps for self-assessment and growth, helping them develop leadership rooted in God's Word.

Can You Pray for... Me?
Presenter(s): Song (Joseph) Cho, *College of Arts and Sciences*
Presentation Description: This presentation emphasizes the importance of sharing prayer requests. Rather than only asking, "How can I pray for you?" professors are encouraged to share their own prayer requests with their students.

Case Study: A Description of Qualitative Research Methods
Presenter(s): Thomas Seckler, *Rawlings School of Divinity*
Presentation Description: The mission organization New Generations is completing a five-year qualitative research project on disciple-making movements (DMMs). Over 300 interviews were conducted across 15 church movements in Africa and South Asia. This presentation describes the process used to design and conduct the research, as well as analyze its findings.

Copilot Chronicles: My Faculty Journey into AI-Enhanced Teaching
Presenter(s): Leon Neto, *School of Music*
Presentation Description: This session presents a reflective account of one faculty member's experience integrating Copilot into classroom instruction. Designed for non-computer science professors, it explores pedagogical challenges, adaptation strategies, and the evolving role of AI in higher education, offering insights for educators navigating the use of emerging technologies in teaching and learning.

BREAKOUT SESSION I

8:15–8:45 a.m.

See Canvas Course, "2026 Conference on Teaching Excellence" for Microsoft Teams Links

Cultivating Fruit in Academic Mentorship and Collegial Support
Presenter(s): Deborah Simmons, *College of Arts and Sciences*
Presentation Description: This workshop explores the Fruit of the Spirit as a guide for building connections in the college classroom and beyond. These spiritual virtues provide a framework for academic mentoring and collegial support and cultivate a community rooted in care, integrity, and encouragement.

Emerging Scholars: Serving & Shaping the Next Generation
Presenter(s): Chavonne Stewart, *School of Business*
Presentation Description: This session explores how emerging scholars can view scholarship as a form of service, grounded in the Fruit of the Spirit. Participants will consider how virtues such as patience, faithfulness, and goodness prepare doctoral students to mentor the next generation, shaping both academic excellence and spiritual formation.

Establishing and Growing a Qualitative Research Team
Presenter(s): John King and Randall Rush, *School of Behavioral Sciences*
Presentation Description: The Conceptual Mapping Task (CMT) is a qualitative research tool for counseling. The presenters will discuss CMT and explain how they recruited and chaired a dissertation student group using this research methodology. This presentation is intended for educators who want to expand their research agenda through mentoring doctoral researchers.

Graduate Coursework: How the Literature Supports an Emphasis on Research in Course Curricula
Presenter(s): Robert Doan and Alisha Castañeda, *School of Education*
Presentation Description: This presentation offers an opportunity to learn about and discuss research related to graduate program curricula. The presenters will examine trends identified in the research and share examples and best practices from doctoral education programs across the state of Virginia.

Incorporating AI into Instruction and Performance-Based Assessment
Presenter(s): Lisa Foster, *School of Education*
Presentation Description: Get students engaged and motivated by learning how to design and incorporate authentic performance-based assignments/assessments into courses and having students use AI effectively, authentically, and ethically. Information will be given on how to design lessons, assignments, and rubrics.

New London Projects: Opportunities Across Disciplines
Presenter(s): Donna Donald, *College of Arts and Sciences*
Presentation Description: This session introduces historic New London as a student laboratory for a wide range of disciplines, including event planning, engineering, graphic arts, photography, interior design, documentary film, digital content development, professional writing, and more.

BREAKOUT SESSION II

8:50–9:20 a.m.

See Canvas Course, "2026 Conference on Teaching Excellence" for Microsoft Teams Links

Featured Presentation: Connecting Christ & Curriculum: Biblical Worldview Integration in the Classroom
Presenter(s): Alexander Mason, *College of Arts and Sciences*
Presentation Description: This session helps faculty integrate a biblical worldview into their teaching in clear and meaningful ways. We will look at the core foundations of Biblical Worldview Integration and explore practical strategies that work across all disciplines. Participants will leave with usable tools for shaping courses under the lordship of Christ.

Featured Presentation: Discovering AI: A Faculty Skills Workshop
Presenter(s): Benjamin Carlisle and Russell Monroe, *Office of Academic Integrity*
Presentation Description: This session explores how to identify potential AI-generated student work in prose-based submissions by examining key markers of AI usage. It outlines confidence levels for these markers, patterns in large language model (LLM) writing, and strategies for framing faculty mindset around academic integrity evaluations. Ultimately, the session promotes a principled, puzzle-piece approach to reviewing potential misconduct.

Featured Presentation: How to Be Overloaded and Overwhelmed
Presenter(s): Sean Beavers, *School of Music*
Presentation Description: To combat overwhelm, this session will highlight key Bible verses on work and rest, introduce strategies for prioritizing essential activities, and offer practical methods for eliminating nonessentials. Participants will also learn effective ways to organize inboxes, calendars, tasks, and workflows.

AI and the Research Process
Presenter(s): Amanda Hahn and Joshua Marsh, *Jerry Falwell Library*
Presentation Description: In this session, librarians will share AI tools integrated into several research databases to help make your research time more effective. The presenters will also discuss how prompt generation can assist with brainstorming and research strategies and explore methods for identifying AI-generated "hallucinated" citations to support the evaluation of student work.

"Beating the System": Identifying Students' AI Detection Evasion
Presenter(s): Toni Perry, Shawn Cashman, Roger Rome, and Richard Previte, *School of Communication and the Arts*
Presentation Description: Today's attempts by students to bypass generative AI detectors have created an integrity crisis. This workshop examines the growing "cat-and-mouse game" between students and AI detection systems, as well as the methods used to avoid detection. The presenter will offer practical solutions, including redesigning assignments and embracing AI literacy. This session serves as a call to action to adapt, thrive, and restore authenticity in student work.

Chaplains Museum: Opportunities Across Disciplines
Presenter(s): Donna Donald, *College of Arts and Sciences*
Presentation Description: In this session, the Chaplains Museum at Liberty University is introduced as a student laboratory supporting a wide range of disciplines, including graphic arts, photography, interior design, music production, documentary film, digital content development, professional writing, and more.

BREAKOUT SESSION II

8:50–9:20 a.m.

See Canvas Course, "2026 Conference on Teaching Excellence" for Microsoft Teams Links

Course Rigor and Learning Outcomes
Presenter(s): Nary Kitson, Alicia Slate, Sheila Ruyack, and Amanda Alford, *Center for Academic Development*
Presentation Description: What does "rigor" mean in a course? How can we enhance it? This session explores the definition of academic rigor, course-level expectations, and strategies for aligning with learning outcomes. Participants will learn how to apply Bloom's Taxonomy with precision and avoid common pitfalls in writing learning outcomes.

Creating Dynamic Videos Students Will Watch and Love
Presenter(s): Jillian Ross, *Rawlings School of Divinity* and Brett Hartley, *Center for Academic Development*
Presentation Description: Videos play a significant role in courses and deserve the attention, artistry, and academic depth of a classroom experience. Rooted in a theology and pedagogy of videography, this workshop will help faculty design and produce dynamic course videos.

Responding to Antisemitism in College Settings
Presenter(s): Christopher L. Jones, *College of Arts and Sciences*
Presentation Description: Through this session, participants will explore perspectives and key themes from the 3rd Annual Summer Institute on Antisemitism and Jewish Identity in Educational Settings, held at George Washington University in June 2025. The presentation will highlight important discussions from the institute, focusing on how educational environments can thoughtfully address antisemitism and support a deeper understanding of Jewish identity.

The "Self-Awareness Tree": An Experiential Technique and Assessment
Presenter(s): Jennifer Park, *School of Behavioral Sciences*
Presentation Description: Creative techniques prompt counselors-in-training (CITs) to reflect more deeply in alternative formats that encourage self-discovery and growth while fostering curiosity and connection with self and others. The "Self-Awareness Tree" (Park, 2018) is an experiential activity that helps CITs explore identity, self-care, and wellness in light of Christian values.

The Trust and Curiosity Leadership Model (Roundtable)
Presenter(s): Candace McLain and Wendy Robinson, *School of Behavioral Sciences*
Presentation Description: This workshop session introduces the Trust and Curiosity Leadership Model, a framework that integrates David Horsager's *8 Pillars of Trust* (2012), Diane Hamilton's *Curiosity Code Index* (2019), and the Fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22–23. Designed for doctoral-level leaders and faculty across disciplines, the model emphasizes ethical leadership, relational intelligence, and spiritual maturity. By aligning trust-building behaviors, curiosity-driven inquiry, and biblical virtues, this model offers a holistic approach to leadership development, imploring us to lead with courage. The inclusion of James 3:1 underscores the heightened responsibility of those who teach and lead, reminding us that leadership is both a privilege and a sacred duty.

BREAKOUT SESSION II

8:50–9:20 a.m.

See Canvas Course, "2026 Conference on Teaching Excellence" for Microsoft Teams Links

Why Counselors Need to Be Unshockable: Integrating Clinical Competence, Faith, and Counselor Education
Presenter(s): Terri Lucas, *School of Behavioral Sciences*
Presentation Description: This presentation explores why counselors must remain unshockable when hearing clients' most difficult disclosures. Participants will examine trauma-informed and faith-informed strategies to stay grounded, empathetic, and nonjudgmental. Practical applications for counselor education and supervision will demonstrate how to prepare future counselors to cultivate resilience, authenticity, and a safe therapeutic presence.

BREAKOUT SESSION III

9:25–9:55 a.m.

See Canvas Course, "2026 Conference on Teaching Excellence" for Microsoft Teams Links

Featured Presentation: Faculty Strategies for Addressing and Reporting Academic Misconduct
Presenter(s): Russell Monroe and Benjamin Carlisle, *Office of Academic Integrity*
Presentation Description: This session equips faculty with strategies for addressing suspected academic misconduct and navigating the reporting process. Additionally, faculty will discuss how to frame questions for students, particularly those related to AI use. Participants will build confidence in approaching students about integrity concerns and receive guidance on what to include for effective Beacon reporting.

Featured Presentation: Joelle's Journey: An Autistic Student's First 3 Years at Liberty
Presenter(s): Ester Warren, *Office of Disability Accommodation Support (ODAS)*, and Joelle Frazee, *Liberty University Student*
Presentation Description: This session features a live discussion with Joelle Frazee, a junior at Liberty University, who will share how faculty, staff, and support services have contributed to her growth and development as an autistic student. Faculty will gain a deeper understanding of one autistic student's educational journey at Liberty University.

A Counseling Framework for Clients Experiencing DID Symptoms
Presenter(s): Nils Juarez Palma, *School of Behavioral Sciences*
Presentation Description: Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID) remains a controversial diagnosis. Regardless of a counselor's perspective on its etiology, it is essential to respect the client's presentation. This session explores how the Fruit of the Spirit can serve as a guiding framework for integrating assessment and treatment skills in a way that truly hears and honors the client.

A Fiasco or a Fiesta? Engaging and Teaching Hispanic/Latino Students
Presenter(s): Elias Moitinho and Denise Moitinho, *School of Behavioral Sciences*
Presentation Description: Liberty University's ethnically diverse student body includes Hispanic/Latino students from both the U.S. and Latin American countries. To effectively *Train Champions for Christ*, faculty must develop cultural competence to engage and teach students from varied backgrounds. This session explores research-based best practices that support retention and academic success for Hispanic/Latino students.

Autonomy Support: How to Support Students to be Independent Learners
Presenter(s): Karen Berkenkemper, *School of Education*
Presentation Description: Promoting student success requires balancing support with encouraging students to take ownership of their learning—even when that means experiencing failure. This session introduces research-based strategies to help faculty foster independent learning behaviors while still providing appropriate guidance and support.

Beyond Attendance: Top Hat's 6 Best Features
Presenter(s): Sam Wood and Sunjana Kapoor, *Top Hat*
Presentation Description: See Top Hat in action and learn how some of our capabilities can increase faculty impact in preparing lectures, assessing, and grading students.

BREAKOUT SESSION III

9:25-9:55 a.m.

See Canvas Course, "2026 Conference on Teaching Excellence" for Microsoft Teams Links

Bridging Theory and Practice: The Power of the Case Method
Presenter(s): Andy Flaherty and Karen Reid, *School of Behavioral Sciences*
Presentation Description: As educators across disciplines seek student-centered approaches to teaching, the case method offers a powerful yet often underutilized tool. This session demonstrates how the case method aligns with the goals of liberal arts education and supports essential outcomes such as critical thinking, ethical reasoning, and real-world application.

Foundations of Student Thriving at Liberty University
Presenter(s): Scott Busby, Alexa Parrish, and Leanne Gifford, *Center for Student Thriving*
Presentation Description: Discover the research behind student thriving and learn how Liberty University's Center for Student Thriving equips faculty to foster holistic student success. This session introduces the Thriving Quotient™, explores key dimensions of thriving, and provides practical strategies for connecting students with resources that enhance engagement, well-being, and academic achievement.

Logos, AI, and Christian Integration in a Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program (Roundtable)
Presenter(s): David Jones and Jerry Vuncannon, *School of Behavioral Sciences*
Presentation Description: Explore how Logos and generative AI tools can enhance Christian integration, content creation, and instructional design within clinical mental health counseling programs. This session demonstrates how these technologies empower faculty and Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to deliver effective instruction in both classroom and online settings—across synchronous and asynchronous formats.

Promote, Partner, & Mentor: Research at Liberty University
Presenter(s): Mark Hamilton, *Jerry Falwell Library*
Presentation Description: Discover how you can actively engage in faculty and student research at Liberty University. This session highlights opportunities to promote your own work through LU Faculty SHARE, the university's research platform, and to partner with Liberty University Journals by encouraging student submissions. Additionally, learn strategies for mentoring students throughout the research process to foster academic growth and collaboration.

The Fruit of the Spirit Guiding Faculty/Student Interaction
Presenter(s): Tommy Spotts, *Rawlings School of Divinity*
Presentation Description: This workshop examines how the Fruit of the Spirit can guide faculty interactions with students. Participants will explore principles rooted in the Fruit of the Spirit as a foundation for Spirit-led decision-making, particularly in challenging situations with students who may test boundaries.

Organizational Impact: Tracking Course Changes, Textbooks, and Assessments
Presenter(s): Brenda Widger, *School of Music*
Presentation Description: Discover a practical, time-saving approach to managing curriculum updates, textbook changes, and assessment planning. This session introduces a visual, Excel-based tool designed to streamline academic organization for faculty and administrators. Attendees will explore implementation strategies, review real-world examples, and participate in a Q&A to support efficient and effective academic planning.

BREAKOUT SESSION IV

10:10–10:40 a.m.

See Canvas Course, "2026 Conference on Teaching Excellence" for Microsoft Teams Links

Featured Presentation: Navigating Challenging Student Conversations - The PAUSE Method
Presenter(s): Sherri Walker and Folashade Odedina, *School of Nursing*
Presentation Description: This presentation explores the key factors that contribute to challenging student conversations and introduces the **PAUSE Method**, a structured framework for navigating these interactions effectively. Using a biopsychosociospiritual approach to conflict resolution, attendees will learn how to apply the PAUSE Method while incorporating active listening and therapeutic communication techniques.

Featured Presentation: Remember, You Will Die: Thanatology Across the Disciplines
Presenter(s): Mark Eckel, *Center for Biblical Integration*
Presentation Description: The biblical doctrine of death is a vital component of Liberty's liberal arts instruction. This session weaves scriptural teaching on thanatology through multiple examples, demonstrating opportunities for biblical integration across disciplines and activities. Participants will examine how the consequences of sin permeate every aspect of finite, fallen human life and consider how these truths necessitate intentional responses in the classroom.

Biblical Worldview Integration: Fieldwork Strategies and Considerations (Roundtable)
Presenter(s): Benjamin Robertson, Jose Maldonado, and Kevin Van Wynsberg, *School of Behavioral Sciences*
Presentation Description: This session offers practical strategies for integrating a biblical worldview into fieldwork courses within the helping professions. Participants will learn how to apply a biblical perspective in pragmatic ways while addressing ethical considerations. Audience engagement through video or chat will be encouraged to foster interactive discussion.

Building Belonging: Understanding and Enhancing Social Connection at LU
Presenter(s): Blake Fraser, Anessa Wells, and Brian Kelly, *School of Behavioral Sciences*
Presentation Description: This presentation examines the prevalence and key contributing factors of loneliness and social connectedness among Liberty University students. Based on this data, the session will propose practical strategies to reduce loneliness and strengthen social connections within the classroom setting.

Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit in Higher Education through Logos Bible Software
Presenter(s): Thomas Hudgins, *Rawlings School of Divinity*
Presentation Description: This workshop demonstrates how Logos Bible Software can enrich higher education by integrating biblical study with spiritual formation. Participants will explore practical tools and assignments that promote academic excellence while cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit—equipping students for lifelong engagement with Scripture and faithful Christian scholarship.

Effective Stress Management for Busy Faculty
Presenter(s): Elias Moitinho, *School of Behavioral Sciences*
Description: Faculty face demanding schedules that extend beyond teaching, grading, advising, and supervising students. Ongoing chronic stress can lead to burnout, a reality for many in higher education. This session emphasizes the importance of stress management strategies, including multidimensional self-care, to help faculty maintain balance, regain control, and thrive in their professional roles.

BREAKOUT SESSION IV

10:10–10:40 a.m.

See Canvas Course, "2026 Conference on Teaching Excellence" for Microsoft Teams Links

Engaging College Students Through Meaningful Collaboration
Presenter(s): Shawn Ruiz, *School of Education*
Presentation Description: This session explores practical strategies for fostering authentic collaboration in the college classroom. Participants will learn how structured peer interaction, shared responsibility, and reflective dialogue can deepen learning, boost engagement, and strengthen communication skills. Attendees will leave with ready-to-use approaches for creating a more connected and collaborative learning environment.

How to Help Students with Executive Function Issues (Roundtable)
Presenter(s): Arrin Brummett, Kathy Keafer, and Susan Stanley, *School of Education*
Presentation Description: Join three Educational Therapists trained by the National Institute for Learning Development as they discuss essential executive functions. This session will define each function, highlight how related challenges may appear in your students, and provide practical strategies to help those students overcome obstacles and succeed academically.

Integrating Self-Control When Interacting with Students
Presenter(s): Tommy Spotts, *Rawlings School of Divinity*
Presentation Description: This workshop explores how the Fruit of the Spirit, specifically self-control, can guide faculty interactions with students. Participants will examine how cultivating self-control provides a healthy balance between frustration and grace when engaging with students who challenge boundaries.

Making the Most of Mentorship
Presenter(s): Hope Dornfeld, *College of Arts and Sciences*
Presentation Description: This workshop engages faculty in discussions and activities focused on student mentorship. Drawing on current research in leadership, spiritual development, and pastoral counseling, the session promotes a holistic approach to faculty-student mentorship. Participants will also explore a historical, biblically integrated framework for mentorship and growth.

Service Learning
Presenter(s): Seth Hartsfield and Tim Yonts, *Office of Spiritual Development*
Presentation Description: This workshop introduces the basics of service learning at Liberty University and explains how faculty can take advantage of this valuable resource. Participants will explore the benefits of service learning and learn practical strategies for integrating it into existing courses.

The Pedagogy of the Oppressed and the Biblical Worldview
Presenter(s): Andrew Flaherty, *School of Behavioral Sciences*
Presentation Description: Christian educators often navigate the tension between faith commitments and progressive educational theories that may seem ideologically distant. Rather than dismissing Freire's insights outright or uncritically baptizing his work, this session offers a thoughtful theological engagement with Freire's ideas, framed by core biblical convictions and narrative.

BREAKOUT SESSION V

10:45–11:15 a.m.

See Canvas Course, "2026 Conference on Teaching Excellence" for Microsoft Teams Links

Featured Presentation: Integrating Biblical Worldview: Logos in Education
Presenter(s): Connie Allison, *Center for Academic Development*, and Chris McMaster, *Logos*
Presentation Description: *Integrating Biblical Worldview: Logos in Education* examines how Logos Bible Software enables educators to incorporate a biblical perspective into curriculum design, enriching students' learning experiences and promoting faith-informed academic growth across disciplines. Participants will discover practical strategies and explore the transformative impact of integrating the Bible into today's classroom.

Featured Presentation: Fruit of the Spirit: Process and Product (Roundtable)
Presenter(s): Rachel Joseph and Cindy Goodrich, *School of Nursing*
Presentation Description: The Fruit of the Spirit includes love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. This presentation focuses on the fruit that begins as a small bud and grows over time into a sweet-smelling, ripe fruit that others can enjoy.

Build Up! Constructing Spiritual Growth Using Legos
Presenter(s): Clint Limoges and Charity Ann Kurz, *School of Behavioral Sciences*
Presentation Description: This workshop introduces a creative, faith-based counseling approach that integrates brick play with biblical teaching on the Fruit of the Spirit. Counselors, educators, and ministry leaders will learn hands-on activities that help children build emotional health, relationships, and spiritual maturity—literally and metaphorically—brick by brick.

Designing Transformative Learning on a Biblical Foundation
Presenter(s): Peggy Flynt and Mandira Gerrels, *School of Education*
Presentation Description: Join us as we explore how to (1) **N**ourish the Fruit of the Spirit, (2) **O**ptimize curriculum design, and (3) **W**elcome others into a journey of transformative learning. This session demonstrates how to build classroom experiences on a solid foundation of biblical principles, precepts, and promises—fostering Christlike qualities such as compassion, humility, and servanthood.

Integrating Grief Education into Existing CACREP Counseling Curriculum (Roundtable)
Presenter(s): Emily Smith, *School of Behavioral Sciences*
Presentation Description: Counselors in diverse settings should be prepared to provide grief counseling. The current CACREP (2024) standards include grief education under lifespan development, but these concepts can be integrated across all eight domains of the foundational counseling curriculum. In this roundtable, participants will review key grief counseling principles and discuss practical ways to weave them into existing coursework.

Keeping a Healthy Voice in the Classroom
Presenter(s): Leon Neto, *School of Music*
Presentation Description: Professors are professional voice users who experience heavy vocal demands. Recent studies show that schoolteachers and professors report a high incidence of voice disorders. This workshop will help faculty identify vocal risk behaviors in the classroom and develop strategies for maintaining vocal health while avoiding detrimental habits.

BREAKOUT SESSION V

10:45–11:15 a.m.

See Canvas Course, "2026 Conference on Teaching Excellence" for Microsoft Teams Links

Principle Practices at Work: Fruitful Intervention, Prevention, and Proaction to Mitigate the Risk of Workplace Violence (Roundtable)
Presenter(s): Cheryl Washington, *School of Business*
Presentation Description: This live, interactive roundtable discussion with a diverse panel of business professionals, education leaders, health and wellness experts, and community advocates affected by workplace violence will engage participants in an active discussion of mitigation strategies to prevent, avoid, and manage workplace crises. Participants will explore proactive approaches to de-escalate volatile situations, recognize signs and patterns that may lead to violent acts, and learn practical tools to prevent and build resilience after a crisis.

Producing Fruit in a Fallen World
Presenter(s): Katherine Pang, *Rawlings School of Divinity*
Presentation Description: What fruit are you producing? Paul exhorts us in 1 Corinthians 11:1 to "be imitators of me, as I am of Christ"—not because Paul was perfect, but because we are called to imitate Christ and display Him through our attitudes and actions. Our manner, demeanor, and temperament reveal His transforming power, and the fruit we bear becomes a testimony of His work in us. We do not do this alone; God gives us the Holy Spirit—His active love and presence—so we can reflect His attributes and character. In this workshop, we will explore practical ways to produce fruit in a fallen world.

Relationships First: A Framework for Classroom Management
Presenter(s): Bilan Joseph, *School of Education*
Presentation Description: Great classroom management begins with strong relationships. In this practical session, educators will explore how relational pedagogy fosters trust, reduces conflict, and strengthens classroom community, making teaching more effective and enjoyable.

Teaching Math Using Lua+Mathly for Computing and Animation
Presenter(s): David Wang, *College of Arts and Sciences*
Presentation Description: Mathly transforms Lua into a tiny, portable, and free yet powerful alternative to MATLAB and more. Designed for teaching and learning on lower-end devices, it supports programming and animations with ease. This session will demonstrate how Mathly simplifies coding for algorithms and animations, making it an accessible and practical tool for educators and learners alike.

Teaching Students to Tackle Textbooks
Presenter(s): Virginia Shank, *School of Education*
Presentation Description: Many college students struggle to read and critically understand information from their textbooks, often choosing not to complete assigned readings. This session will equip residential and online instructors with practical comprehension strategies to motivate students and help them engage with textbook content for academic success.

BREAKOUT SESSION VI

11:20–11:50 a.m.

See Canvas Course, "2026 Conference on Teaching Excellence" for Microsoft Teams Links

Featured Presentation: Critical Thinking in the Modern Age
Presenter(s): Dan Berkenkemper, *CASAS*
Presentation Description: This presentation addresses modern obstacles to critical thinking and offers Biblical strategies for identifying and avoiding common biases.

Featured Presentation: Faculty, Faith, and Flourishing: From the Garden to the Garden City
Presenter(s): Suzanne Caruso, *School of Law*
Presentation Description: God calls His people to settle, build, and bless the city—even in exile. Drawing from Jeremiah 29, this presentation invites faculty to consider how they, too, can "seek the peace and prosperity of the city" by recognizing that their teaching is a divine appointment and part of God's intentional restoration plan.

Bearing Fruit in Practice: Implicit and Explicit Integration (Roundtable)
Presenter(s): Vivian France and Lakisha Mearidy-Bell, *School of Behavioral Sciences*
Presentation Description: This roundtable invites counselors-in-training to explore how their biblical worldview informs both the implicit and explicit expression of the Fruit of the Spirit in counseling relationships. P/I students will share experiences, creative strategies, and challenges related to faith integration while maintaining professional boundaries and ethical standards.

Coaching Students to Present Confidently and Competently
Presenter(s): Abigail Karl, *School of Communications and the Arts*
Presentation Description: As communication skills remain among the most sought after by employers and as we navigate the age of AI, there is no better time to coach students toward confident and competent presentation skills. This session will share practical ideas for incorporating presentations into existing courses and guiding students to presentation success.

Creating and Using AI Agents in Education
Presenter(s): Mark Granger, *School of Education*
Presentation Description: Learn what AI agents are, how to design them, and how they can enrich teaching and learning in higher education. This session highlights practical applications and classroom examples to help faculty integrate intelligent agents into instructional strategies.

Hook 'Em, Danno! Keeping Students' Interest in Class
Presenter(s): Greg McGann, *School of Education*
Presentation Description: This presentation, designed for in-person classes, will provide participants with practical ideas, resources, and strategies to engage students and increase interest in class.

Inclusive Teaching: Bridging Cultures in Higher Education
Presenter(s): Nancy DeJarnette, *School of Education*
Presentation Description: Explore strategies for creating inclusive classrooms that honor cultural diversity in higher education. This session highlights practical approaches to bridge cultural gaps, foster equity, and empower all learners through responsive teaching practices.

BREAKOUT SESSION VI

11:20–11:50 a.m.

See Canvas Course, "2026 Conference on Teaching Excellence" for Microsoft Teams Links

Knowing Your Identity in the Marketplace
Presenter(s): Phillip Shields, *School of Business*
Presentation Description: Grounded in Jamie Winship's Identity Method, this session explores identity alignment as a driver of organizational performance. Participants will learn evidence-based approaches for integrating identity work into business strategy, leadership development, and cultural transformational initiatives.

Patience in Practice: Strategies for Supporting Neurodiverse Learners
Presenter(s): Arrin Brummett, *School of Education*
Presentation Description: Are you frustrated trying to support neurodiverse learners in your classroom? Have you wondered, "What more can I do?" This session takes a brief journey through everyday learning struggles and offers practical strategies that educators, both online and in person, can use to demonstrate patience and support learner growth.

Qualitative Research Within the Scientific Paradigm
Presenter(s): Kurt Michael and Rebecca Munson, *School of Education*
Presentation Description: This session invites participants to explore how qualitative research aligns with the scientific paradigm. The discussion examines how both qualitative and quantitative projects can share a unified logic of inference and considers how qualitative research should reflect the systematic, transparent, and truth-seeking principles of science.

Secondary Traumatic Stress in Baccalaureate Nursing Students: A Multi-Method Study
Presenter(s): Kristen Oakley, *School of Nursing*
Presentation Description: This session examines the prevalence, severity, and experience of secondary traumatic stress in baccalaureate nursing students in the United States. While focused on nursing, the discussion will highlight implications for any program where students work directly with the public, as this phenomenon extends beyond the nursing field.

BREAKOUT SESSION VII

11:55 a.m.–12:25 p.m.

See Canvas Course, "2026 Conference on Teaching Excellence" for Microsoft Teams Links

Featured Presentation: Fruit of the Spirit School of Nursing (SoN) Curricular Integration
Presenter(s): Tracy Turner, Elizabeth Whorley, and Jodi Duncan, *School of Nursing*
Presentation Description: This workshop highlights how the School of Nursing fully integrates the virtues of the Fruit of the Spirit into every aspect of its curriculum. Participants will explore how faculty weave these principles into weekly course content and devotions across all nursing topics—online and residential—creating a holistic, faith-centered learning experience.

Featured Presentation: Dichotomy Clashes: Educational Purpose in a Postmodern World
Presenter(s): Harvey Klamm, *School of Education*
Presentation Description: This session examines the intensifying dichotomies shaping educational purpose in the postmodern era. As educators grapple with competing priorities — delivering rigorous academic content versus honoring student-centered learning and preparing students for adult roles versus empowering them to reimagine society — this session explores how these tensions reflect deeper philosophical divides between traditional and postmodernist paradigms.

Efficient Grading = More Time for Students
Presenter(s): Walter Williams, *School of Business*
Presentation Description: This session demonstrates how transitioning from manual grade recording to a dynamic Excel-based system can save time and improve efficiency. Building on last year's feedback, the enhanced spreadsheet incorporates automated due dates and late-submission dates based on the course start date. The presentation highlights how linked worksheets simplify grading, consolidate data, and free up valuable time for direct student engagement.

Love in Action: College Teaching as Caring Work
Presenter(s): Tess Martinus, *College of Arts and Sciences*
Presentation Description: "The fruit of the spirit is love…," but what does love look like in academia? Guided by Andi Ashworth's book *Real Love for Real Life: The Art and Work of Caring*, this presentation will consider college-level teaching as a caring profession, applying different definitions of the verb and noun "care."

Milk Maids and Masks: Helping Students Find Dignity and Purpose in Their (Future) Work
Presenter(s): William Coberly, *Jerry Falwell Library*
Description: An investigation into Luther's view that one does not have to go into full-time ministry to have a gospel-shaped vocation. Seemingly mundane or secular tasks are reinterpreted through a biblical worldview as acts of service to our neighbors and as God's hand of blessing on others. This session is focused on helping students identify how the new creation in Christ can transform their career fields.

Optimizing Educational Outcomes Through Integrated Assignments
Presenter(s): Timothy Schauer, *School of Business*
Presentation Description: This workshop explores a strategy to enhance simulations with integrated, lifelike assignments throughout the experience. The approach creates a continuous feedback loop, guiding students to reflect on and refine their decisions in real time. By transforming simulations from a game into a structured, analytical learning journey, this method promotes deeper engagement and skill mastery.

BREAKOUT SESSION VII

11:55 a.m.–12:25 p.m.

See Canvas Course, "2026 Conference on Teaching Excellence" for Microsoft Teams Links

Rising Beyond Victimhood: Integrating Positive Psychology, Biblical Virtues, and Counseling Education
Presenter(s): Margo Rice, *School of Behavioral Sciences*
Presentation Description: Practical, research-based strategies to overcome victim mentality and foster resilience and spiritual growth. This presentation draws on research and applications of positive psychology in counseling, as well as on the biblical Fruit of the Spirit. Participants will learn cognitive-emotional reframing, gratitude practices, emotional regulation strategies, and the cultivation of biblical virtues within a holistic framework.

Teaching for Transfer: Connecting Academic Learning to Professional Practice
Presenter(s): Alyssa Grey, *School of Music*
Presentation Description: Explore how authentic context experiences empower students to transfer academic learning into professional practice. This session highlights mentoring strategies in which teachers model instructional techniques, guide reflective practice, and embed real-world applications into classroom experiences—bridging theory and practice to cultivate adaptable, practice-ready learners across disciplines.

Trauma-informed Practices in Higher Education
Presenter(s): Maria Spaulding Carr, *School of Education*
Presentation Description: In this session, we will examine trauma-informed practices in higher education. Faculty will understand the impact of trauma and the needs of students who have had adverse childhood experiences. A key part of facilitating trauma-informed practices is building relationships. Faculty will examine and implement strategies to enhance their learners' socio-emotional development.

Through the Looking Glass – Building Immersive Educational Games
Presenter(s): Alex Boggs, *School of Nursing*
Presentation Description: Learn how to create immersive simulations, branching scenarios, and interactive lessons for nursing or history courses. This session demonstrates how to leverage AI to strengthen instructional design and overcome common challenges, expanding your toolkit with engaging, game-based learning experiences that elevate student engagement and outcomes.

Using AI in the Classroom for Good & Not for Evil
Presenter(s): Jamaica Conner and Ruth Ronk, *College of Arts and Sciences*
Presentation Description: When students use AI to cheat on assignments, it's infuriating! What would happen if faculty turned that frustration on its head and used AI for good instead of evil in the classroom? In this session, we'll explore opportunities to design assignments, provide feedback, and create videos that incorporate AI to help students achieve academic success.

ON-DEMAND SESSIONS

(May be viewed during breakout sessions I-VII)
See Canvas Course, "2026 Conference on Teaching Excellence"

Featured Presentation: Removing Barriers That Hinder Fruitfulness
Presenter(s): Gabriel Etzel and Claudia Dempsey, *Rawlings School of Divinity*
Description: This presentation explores the barriers that hinder fruitfulness in life and learning. Drawing from biblical principles, participants will uncover practical ways to prepare the soil of their hearts, partner with the Spirit, and cultivate lasting growth marked by the Fruit of the Spirit.

Featured Presentation: The Pedagogical Takeover: Applying Design Thinking to Teaching!
Presenter(s): Chelsea Milks, *College of Arts and Sciences*
Description: Reimagine your teaching strategies by applying the principles of design thinking—empathy, define, ideate, prototype, and test—to create dynamic, student-centered learning experiences that inspire innovation. This presentation demonstrates how these principles can transform instructional design, helping educators foster creativity and adaptability in the classroom.

Collaborating Online in Christian Course Design
Presenter(s): Christine Saba, *School of Education*
Description: How can we work together fruitfully in an online environment? What matters most when colleagues collaborate virtually on shared projects? Drawing on Ephesians 4:16 and a recent study, this presentation presents three key areas for consideration: planning and process, faith at work, and investing in relationship building.

Cultivating Biblical Hospitality in Higher Education
Presenter(s): Michelle Worley, *School of Education*
Description: This presentation examines how biblical hospitality can serve as a pedagogical framework within higher education. Drawing on theological and educational theory, this session argues that hospitality fosters inclusive learning communities, enhances student engagement, and promotes holistic formation aligned with Christian educational philosophy.

Cultivating Faithfulness: Equipping Students for Ethical AI Engagement
Presenter(s): Holly Walker, *School of Behavioral Sciences*
Description: This presentation explores practical strategies for guiding students in the ethical use of AI. Attendees will discover what ethical AI looks like in the classroom and learn methods for helping students apply academic integrity to their AI practices. Rather than focusing on restriction, this session demonstrates how AI can serve as an assistive tool that enhances understanding and creativity while maintaining students' authentic voice and advancing their skills. Practical examples and ready-to-implement resources provide educators with concrete tools to navigate the ethical use of AI in the classroom.

AI and Copyright: Best Practices for Artists
Presenter(s): Lorene Wales, *School of Communication and the Arts*
Description: This presentation examines copyright law's impact on AI and artists—including filmmakers, musicians, illustrators, and digital creators. As legal battles continue between AI firms and artists, this session emphasizes the importance of protecting creators' rights to work with integrity and creativity while remaining within the boundaries of the law.

ON-DEMAND SESSIONS

(May be viewed during breakout sessions I-VII)
See Canvas Course, "2026 Conference on Teaching Excellence"

Alpha Gal Awareness and the Lone Star Tick
Presenter(s): Alan Gillen, *School of Health Sciences*
Description: Alpha-gal syndrome (AGS) is a serious allergic condition that can develop after a tick bite and cause a meat allergy. This session examines the nature of AGS, its prevalence in regions such as Virginia, and its diagnosis through antibody testing. It also explores practical strategies for managing the condition, including dietary modifications and preventive measures to reduce tick exposure.

Blown Calls and Hard Lessons: Building Resilience Through Refereeing and Teaching
Presenter(s): Roark Enters, *Center for Teaching Excellence*
Description: This presentation explores how refereeing experiences can strengthen teaching resilience. Through Scripture, practical strategies, and real scenarios, participants will learn to respond to criticism with grace, maintain composure under pressure, and model Christlike leadership in educational contexts. Interactive reflections equip faculty to turn critique into growth.

Conflict Resolution: Reflective Practices for Improved Performance
Presenter(s): Sandy Battige, *School of Education*
Description: This professional development presentation equips preservice teachers, student teachers, and early-career educators with practical strategies for navigating conflict through reflective communication. Participants will examine how unmet expectations, reactive patterns, and unaddressed concerns contribute to escalating tensions—and learn how intentional listening, tone awareness, and simple "micro-skills" can strengthen relationships and professionalism within school settings.

Custom AI Prompts for Online Instructors
Presenter(s): Marcia Bennett, *Helms School of Government*
Description: Discover how tailored AI prompts can transform virtual teaching. This presentation equips online instructors with strategies to boost student engagement, streamline tasks, and personalize learning experiences. You will also learn how to craft effective prompts that elevate your digital classroom with creativity, clarity, and connection, while providing practical takeaways you can experiment with and implement immediately.

Created for Connection: A Spiritually Integrated Counseling Model
Presenter(s): Becki Welsh, *School of Behavioral Sciences*
Description: The Needs Connection Model™ equips ministry leaders, educators, and therapists with a practical, spiritually integrated framework for recognizing unmet needs as barriers to connection. Rooted in biblical truth and developmental science, this session offers a pathway to healing, identity, and purpose through intentional, relational connection with God and others.

Discipleship's Role in the Lives of Faith Integrators
Presenter(s): Melissa Clemmons, *Center for Teaching Excellence*
Description: How do professors develop a biblical worldview lens through which to see their disciplines? This presentation explores the formative role of personal and professional discipleship in the lives of faith integrators. The findings can inform our own biblical worldview development through discipleship's social learning instruments - atmosphere, discipline, and life.

ON-DEMAND SESSIONS

(May be viewed during breakout sessions I-VII)
See Canvas Course, "2026 Conference on Teaching Excellence"

Discipline in Your Classroom
Presenter(s): Barry Gibson, *School of Education*
Description: This presentation frames classroom discipline as a formative journey toward wisdom and growth. By emphasizing responsibility, order, and perseverance, educators are encouraged to see discipline not merely as correction but as cultivation. Such practices nurture habits that shape both character and learning, preparing students for lives of purpose and integrity.

Conflict Resolution: Reflective Practices for Improved Performance
Presenter(s): Sandy Battige, *School of Education*
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Empowering Practicum Students: Tackling Perfectionism and the Imposter
Presenter(s): Cassandra Johnson, *School of Behavioral Sciences*
Description: This presentation is designed to support counselor educators helping practicum students overcome perfectionism and imposter feelings.

Faithfulness at a Distance: Building Trust Through Instructor Presence in Asynchronous Courses
Presenter(s): Cathryn Warren, *School of Education*
Description: Discover practical ways to embody the Fruit of the Spirit, focusing on faithfulness by building a consistent and caring instructor presence in asynchronous courses. Learn strategies for timely feedback, predictable communication, and multimedia announcements that foster trust, engagement, and spiritual growth while helping online students feel supported and connected.

Forming Peace and Belonging in Digital Learning
Presenter(s): Dawn Sutherland, *Rawlings School of Divinity*
Description: This presentation explores peace as a fruit of the Spirit that restores relational wholeness in an age of immediacy and efficiency. Integrating Philippians 4:6–7 and Galatians 5:22 with research on belonging, this video offers biblically grounded strategies for cultivating authentic connection and spiritual formation in digital learning communities.

Gamification in the Classroom
Presenter: Hope Graham, *Center for Teaching Excellence*
Description: This session will highlight ways to make your classroom more engaging through interactive programs such as Top Hat and Kahoot. With Top Hat, you can launch quiz questions to review course material before an exam. With Kahoot, students can compete against one another to answer questions correctly and as quickly as possible.

ON-DEMAND SESSIONS

(May be viewed during breakout sessions I-VII)
See Canvas Course, "2026 Conference on Teaching Excellence"

Growing Grit to Produce Persistence
Presenter(s): Melanie Hudson, *School of Education*
Description: How does one develop personal grit? The Grit Growth Model reveals themes such as expectations, engagement, service, loss, faith, passion, flexibility, growth mindset, and shame resilience. This presentation examines how the central theme of personal and social responsibility carries practical implications for developing grit in others and for individuals seeking to cultivate the trait themselves.

Happy Employees Make Cents
Presenter(s): Chris Huseman, *School of Business*
Description: This presentation draws on nationwide research to show how employee happiness fuels productivity and profitability. It highlights survey data, research findings, and biblical principles to demonstrate that leadership plays a key role in workplace well-being and joy. Attendees will learn why happiness matters, who drives it, and how to apply practical strategies for organizational success.

Implementing AI in the College Classroom
Presenter: Jake Byrd, *Center for Teaching Excellence*
Description: This presentation will cover strategies for utilizing and implementing AI into courses and important principle for using AI in courses.

Rural Telemental Health: Ethical, Effective, Culturally Competent Care
Presenter(s): Jeff McCarthy, *School of Behavioral Sciences*
Description: This presentation explores how rural telemental health services provide critical access to mental health and substance abuse care in underserved communities. The ACA (2014) Code of Ethics includes guidance on distance counseling and the use of technology, reflecting the growing role of technology-based care. Attendees will examine ethical considerations, best practices, and culturally responsive strategies for delivering effective telemental health services in rural settings.

Scaffolding the Dissertation Journey with Writing Milestones
Presenter(s): Heidi Sweetman, *School of Education*
Description: This presentation outlines strategies for guiding doctoral students through the dissertation process using writing milestones. It emphasizes easy-to-use strategies and resources to foster scholarly confidence and align feedback with program benchmarks. Chairs and mentors will gain valuable resources to mentor, model academic rigor, and support students from proposal to defense.

Student Motivation: Creating Supportive Learning Environments for Engagement
Presenter(s): Kjell Fenn, *Center for Teaching Excellence*
Description: Motivation in the classroom involves promoting engagement through strategies that support students' competence, autonomy, and relatedness. This presentation explores practical methods, lesson examples, and contrasts traditional instruction with engagement-supporting approaches to enhance learning. Participants will gain tools to create inclusive, motivating environments that promote deeper student investment.

Supporting Students - Part One: Success and Retention Strategies for Military and Non-Traditional Students
Presenter(s): Mona Fazzina, Ersilia Mirabelli, *School of Health Sciences*, and Emily Foutz, *Office of Military Affairs*

Description: Many classrooms now include a growing number of military and non-traditional students, each bringing unique strengths, needs, and complexities. This presentation raises awareness of how to support these learners effectively and offers practical strategies to boost engagement, retention, and overall success. Participants will gain skills to create inclusive, positive learning experiences that help military and non-traditional students thrive.

ON-DEMAND SESSIONS

(May be viewed during breakout sessions I-VII)
See Canvas Course, "2026 Conference on Teaching Excellence"

Supporting Students - Part Two: Strategies for Engagement and Persistence
Presenter(s): Mona Fazzina, Ersilia Mirabelli, *School of Health Sciences*, and Emily Foutz, *Office of Military Affairs*
Description: This presentation focuses on recognizing and addressing academic challenges to facilitate student success. It outlines research-informed approaches for promoting sustained engagement and offers adaptable instructional and support strategies. Emphasizing practical problem-solving, early intervention, and faculty collaboration, this presentation highlights ways to create learning environments where students with complex needs can persist and succeed.

Therapist Influence: Exploring the Impact of Presence, Charisma, and Belief
Presenter(s): Christina Emrich, *School of Behavioral Sciences*
Description: This presentation explores the therapist's influence in counseling, emphasizing presence, charisma, and spiritual maturity as key factors shaping client outcomes. Drawing on research and biblical principles, this session highlights the benefits and risks of counselor authority, emphasizing ethical responsibility, authenticity, and faith integration to foster healing, motivation, and lasting change.

Tips for Managing Grades in Canvas
Presenter(s): Justin Bamba, *Center for Teaching Excellence*
Description: This presentation provides practical tips for managing grades efficiently in Canvas. Topics include moving the "total grade" column, customizing status colors, retrieving a list of student email addresses, hiding assignment group totals, and using private gradebook notes. These features can help streamline the grading process and enhance workflow.

When the Fruit Goes Bad
Presenter(s): Ralph Smiley, Robin Jenkins, Michael Maunder, and Joseph Scheultzberg, *Office of Legal Affairs*
Description: In higher education, many legal and ethical challenges arise when spiritual virtues are overlooked. This presentation highlights how neglecting qualities such as patience, kindness, and self-control can lead to significant legal problems, while practicing the Fruit of the Spirit promotes wisdom, grace, and effective, faith-driven leadership. These principles not only strengthen our witness but also safeguard our workplace relationships and reputation.

ACADEMIC PAPERS/POSTERS

(May be viewed during breakout sessions I-VII)
See Canvas Course, "2026 Conference on Teaching Excellence"

Papers

Answering the CALL: Using Computer Assisted Language Learning & Social Media for Ministry
Presenter(s): Anna Cates, *School of Education*
Presentation Description: This paper documents the experiences and perceptions of Russian L1 English L2 learners using two forms of Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL): Skype and the pen pal website interpals.net, as well as the experience and motivation of one Christian English L1 tutor/pen pal. The study's emergent design features conversation analysis.

Considering Your Audience as Jesus Did
Presenter(s): Lovely Koshy, *College of Arts and Sciences*
Presentation Description: For composition students, considering their audience creates a great impact on their approach to writing essays in any field. Jesus considered His audience. This lesson emphasizes what the Good Teacher taught.

Deciduous Writing
Presenter(s): Frances Sanford, *School of Behavioral Sciences*
Presentation Description: Reiteration in dissertation writing is like the process whereby deciduous trees (e.g. oaks, maples, and, birch) lose their leaves. However, fall ushers in winter -- the season required for the germination of seeds and, likewise, the emergence of new thoughts.

Electromagnetic Biomarkers of Muscle Myopathy, Health, and Adaptation
Presenter(s): S. Kyle Travis, *School of Health Sciences*
Presentation Description: Permittivity and conductivity of skeletal muscle were analyzed in dystrophic-mdx and wild-type mice across 9–862 kHz. Significant group × frequency interactions ($F \approx 22.7$, $p < 0.001$) revealed flatter dispersion slopes and reduced anisotropy in dystrophic tissue. These dielectric biomarkers may quantify muscle quality and training-induced adaptation non-invasively.

Faith and Politics: Wil Lou Gray and the Science of Social Change
Presenter(s): Mary Mac Ogden, *College of Arts and Sciences*
Presentation Description: Wil Lou Gray (1883–1984) fused faith, pedagogy, and social science to advance southern education. Guided by the fruits of the Spirit—patience, kindness, and faithfulness—she leveraged churches, civic organizations, and policy to create systemic change. Her work illuminates enduring lessons for national debates on equality, community-driven reform, and educational progress.

Patience as Pedagogy in a Digital Age
Presenter(s): Dawn Sutherland, *Rawlings School of Divinity*
Presentation Description: This paper explores patience as a fruit of the Spirit essential to digital pedagogy. Drawing from Galatians 5 and the Tower of Babel, it examines how AI's instant algorithms reshape learning and proposes biblical, virtue-centered strategies for cultivating deep, transformative education in online and adaptive environments.

ACADEMIC PAPERS/POSTERS

(May be viewed during breakout sessions I-VII)
See Canvas Course, "2026 Conference on Teaching Excellence"

Papers

Persistence in Online Doctoral Programs for Students with Learning Disabilities
Presenter(s): Jerry Pitts, *Center for Teaching Excellence*
Presentation Description: This study examines how online doctoral students with LD or ADHD persist academically. Through phenomenological analysis, six themes emerged—motivation, self-efficacy, support, and more—highlighting the impact of technology, routines, and community. Findings inform inclusive design strategies for faculty and administrators supporting neurodiverse learners in virtual environments.

The Impact of Worship Within the Online Classroom
Presenter(s): Hanna Byrd, Brenda Widger, Zach Jones, Jerry Newman, Ryan Loche, *School of Music*
Presentation Description: Christian worship goes beyond Sunday and singing—it's a way of living. This truth extends to online higher education, where professors may embody worship through teaching, encouraging, and challenging their students. This study explores how Christian online professors understand worship and its influence on their classrooms and interactions.

The Online Classroom as God's Orchard
Presenter(s): Reggie Weems, *Rawlings School of Divinity*
Presentation Description: Online education, often viewed as transactional, can instead be God's orchard where knowledge and virtue grow together. Grounded in Galatians 5:22–23, this paper shows how Christian educators can embody the fruit of the Spirit through pedagogy, fostering holistic formation so students flourish in Christ and bear fruit worldwide.

ACADEMIC PAPERS/POSTERS

(May be viewed during breakout sessions I-VII)
See Canvas Course, "2026 Conference on Teaching Excellence"

Posters

Analysis of Financial Health among Christian Postsecondary Institutions
Presenter(s): Eric Lovik, *School of Education*
Presentation Description: In recent years numerous faith-based institutions in the United States have closed or merged because of enrollment declines and financial strain. This presentation examines institutional data to identify strengths and areas of risk across the Christian higher education sector with emphasis on financial health.

Beyond Lecturing: A Qualitative Exploration of the Impact of Active Learning on Faculty Job Satisfaction in Christian Higher Education
Presenter(s): Alisha Castaneda, *School of Education*, Grace Baker, Marsha Baker, Hannah Byrd, Kahlib Fischer, and Folashade Odedina
Presentation Description: The research aims to examine the lived experiences of university professors at a Christian university regarding active learning (AL) and job satisfaction. Using Herzberg's two-factor model as a guiding framework, researchers employed a qualitative transcendental phenomenological study to gauge the perceptions of six faculty members who teach using residential or online delivery formats. Data were collected through individual interviews, reflection journals, and discussion groups. Thematic analysis was employed to identify initial codes and emerging themes, giving voice to the participants' first-hand knowledge and perspectives. The research identified four dominant themes related to AL and professor job satisfaction: positive student outcomes, implementation challenges, positive job satisfaction, and a comprehensive theme of spiritual calling. The implications support Herzberg's theory of motivational and hygiene factors about a professor's job satisfaction, yet also indicate an additional outside factor, spiritual calling, as an encompassing source of purpose for Christian educators. Limitations include a small sample size and a purposive sampling method. Furthermore, participants may have qualified their answers, as they were reporting on their own institution and career position. Yet the results serve as a beginning to bridge the literature related to job satisfaction and the role of AL. This work enhances the understanding of spirituality in Herzberg's two-factor model. Future studies are needed to replicate the findings with a larger sample size and in other academic institutions. Moreover, further research should investigate a potential third factor of spiritual calling, as connected to Herzberg's theory.

Beyond Lecturing: A Qualitative Exploration of the Impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Academic Integrity on Faculty Job Satisfaction in Christian Higher Education
Presenter(s): Jacob Byrd, *College of Applied Studies and Academic Success*, Jamaica Conner, Charlene Geisler, Jonathan Giles, Mark Granger, Sheila Ruyack, and Andrew Volk
Presentation Description: Artificial intelligence (AI) use in academia has posed significant challenges for faculty, particularly in addressing academic integrity issues related to student use of AI in their courses. This study explores the relationship between faculty perceptions of student AI use in light of academic integrity expectations in Christian higher education and faculty job satisfaction. The evolving state of artificial intelligence (AI) has posed significant challenges for faculty in dealing with academic integrity issues related to student use of AI in their courses. This has contributed to a variety of factors related to faculty perceptions of expectations for AI use in the classroom and how they approach issues pertaining to academic integrity. While research has been conducted on the relationship between the job satisfaction of higher education faculty and expectations regarding technology and AI use in the classroom, research is limited on how AI and academic

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integrity impacts perceptions of expectations of higher education Christian faculty and their job satisfaction. Data in this study were collected from seven faculty from a southeastern Christian institution of higher education. Each faculty participated in interviews, journal entries, and written group discussion threads. Researchers categorized data into three major emerging themes that contributed to faculty perceptions of AI and academic integrity: 1) responsibility, 2) policy, and 3) Christian worldview.

Beyond Lecturing: A Qualitative Exploration of the Impact of Lesson Planning on Faculty Job Satisfaction in Christian Higher Education
Presenter(s): Andrea Smith, *School of Aeronautics* Randy Baker, David Hahn, Cheryl Hemric, Karen Hubbard, Annik Miller, and Brenda Widger
Presentation Description: This phenomenological study examined how lesson planning influences job satisfaction among Christian higher education faculty. Through interviews, focus groups, and journals from six participants, five themes emerged: faith integration, autonomy, accreditation alignment, lack of training, and workload stress. Lesson planning was both intrinsically and extrinsically motivating but could also lead to dissatisfaction when constrained. Findings, viewed through Herzberg's two-factor theory, underscore the tension between personal calling and institutional demands.

Beyond Teaching: the Ripple Effect of Mentoring and Advising on Job Satisfaction
Presenter(s): Brad Burgess, *College of Applied Studies and Academic Success*, Justin Bamba, Laura Beiler, Patricia Meulmans, Catherine Roberts, Alicia Slate
Presentation Description: Higher Education (CHE) institute located in the Southeastern region of the United States. Mentoring and advising were defined within the research as they pertain to CHE. Herzberg's et al. (1959) two-factor model was the theoretical framework of this qualitative phenomenological study. The study examined how perceptions of mentoring and advising related to job satisfaction. Six participants completed interviews, asynchronous written discussions, and individual journal entries. Using Moustakas' (1994) transcendental phenomenological approach, five themes were revealed: Student Impact, Relationship Development, Life Experience Mentorship, Christian Identity, and Fulfillment. Christian Identity was found to encompass and influence the other themes that pertain to job satisfaction in CHE. Job satisfaction was not bound by intrinsic and extrinsic factors alone, but Christian Identity was the foundation for satisfaction in mentoring and advising relationships. Fulfillment was articulated as a core benefit of these relationships and stemmed from the Christian Identity of discipleship. Specifically, the long-term success of students supported previous research on the ripple effect of job satisfaction. Future research is recommended to compare current job satisfaction theories and the changing landscape of the workplace. Communication expectations, along with formal training in advising and mentoring relationships, warrant further study. Specific emphasis on Christian Identity as an enhancer of job satisfaction is recommended.

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Can You Hear Me Now? The Impact of Communication with Students on Faculty Job Satisfaction in Christian Higher Education: A Qualitative Research Study
Presenter(s): Bruce Bell, *College of Arts and Sciences*, Alexander Lagos Choquecahua, Collin Lyons, Kimberly Cashman, Robert Doan, and Virginia Cashion
Presentation Description: The goal of Christian higher education is to effectively integrate faith and learning to equip students to make an impact for Christ in the world. Consequently, faculty at faith-based institutions face challenges when attempting to navigate the everchanging academic landscape while simultaneously satisfying students' expectations. This study seeks to explore faculty-student communication and how this affects faculty job satisfaction within Christian higher education. The methodological approach to address this gap included a phenomenological design, which involved interviewing six faculty members from a large Christian university located in the Southeastern United States. These interviews produced useful lived experiences, and the purposeful sampling of this specific population proved relevant. According to the research findings, faculty-student communication was a significant factor in job satisfaction. More specifically, elements such as personal mentoring and faith-based encouragement had a positive impact. Factors such as low student engagement, generic institutional communication requirements, and the various challenges of online communication had an overall negative impact on faculty job satisfaction. Despite these communication challenges, the researched participants consistently expressed that overall job satisfaction was ultimately found in their calling to be Christian educators. This qualitative study is limited in its sample size, its narrow geographic locale, and its circumscribed definition of communication.

Delivering and Assessing Mid-Semester Teaching Analysis Polls for Online Faculty
Presenter(s): Shawn M. Bielicki, *School of Education* and Alexandra Barnett, *Center for Teaching Excellence*
Presentation Description: Mid-Semester Online Teaching Analysis Polls are designed to gauge what is helping and/or hindering learning in an online course. Seventy-seven faculty requested 135 O-TAPs during 2023-24. Faculty participants were surveyed. Notable findings include positive impact on faculty motivation, willingness to make changes, faculty communication, and faculty support and encouragement.

Faith-based Community-service-learning in Chinese Language Instruction
Presenter(s): Yan Xie, *College of Arts and Sciences*
Presentation Description: This presentation shares a real-class experience of integrating community-service-learning into a Chinese language course. Community-service learning has proven to be a valuable approach, allowing students to apply knowledge in real-world contexts. In this presentation, I will demonstrate how I implement a virtual community service assignment centered on biblical worldview. This assignment develops students' understanding of how to navigate cultural differences when sharing the gospel. The service experience encourages students to express God's love and communicate the gospel to people across language and cultural boundaries.

Integrating Love when Interacting with Students
Presenter(s): Tommy Spotts, *Rawlings School of Divinity*
Presentation Description: This poster explores how love can help faculty interact with students. This fruit of the Spirit can supersede emotional response and help faculty demonstrate compassion when responding to sometimes difficult students in challenging situations

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elements such as personal mentoring and faith-based encouragement had a positive impact. Factors such as low student engagement, generic institutional communication requirements, and the various challenges of online communication had an overall negative impact on faculty job satisfaction. Despite these communication challenges, the researched participants consistently expressed that overall job satisfaction was ultimately found in their calling to be Christian educators. This qualitative study is limited in its sample size, its narrow geographic locale, and its circumscribed definition of communication

Into the Unknown: AI Adoption and Job Satisfaction of Christian Faculty
Presenter(s): Hailey Manicone, *College of Applied Studies and Academic Success*, Roger Binghman, Iremena FelixOtuorimuo, Linnaya Graf, Rachel Joseph, Erica Moore, and Joshua Wilson
Presentation Description: The purpose of this phenomenological study was to explore the lived experiences of faculty members at Christian higher education regarding the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) use on faculty job satisfaction. A transcendental phenomenological approach was used to gather data from six faculty members from a faith-based institution in the Southeast US through individual interviews, a focus group, and journal prompts. Analysis using Moustakas' four-step phenomenological process derived seven themes, which include Journey from Fear and Resistance to Cautious Optimism, Navigating the Ethical Dilemma, Utilizing AI as a Tool, Human Authenticity vs. Dehumanization, lack of Institutional Compass, Christian Lens and Job Expectations, and Disparate Experiences—highlighted how these perceptions influenced job satisfaction. Despite a positive experience, clear institutional guidelines and professional development are essential for successful integration of AI.

Online Faculty's Spiritual Impact on Virtual Learners
Presenter(s): Eric Lovik, *School of Education*
Presentation Description: In order to effectively promote a biblical worldview in online courses, it is important for faculty to understand the nature and variety of needs that virtual students face. Learners come from a diversity of personal backgrounds, each with their own challenges. This presentation examines some of the common needs and illustrates how to integrate biblical solutions for spiritual impact

Overcoming Barriers Through Servant Leadership in Higher Education
Presenter(s): Deloris Easley and Deborah Johnson-Blake, *School of Business*
Presentation Description: This poster highlights how the Fruit of the Spirit informs servant leadership among women working in higher education. Drawing on research into barriers to voluntary leadership engagement, the study's findings indicated how faith-based virtues, such as humility, service, stewardship, and empathy, can impact decisions to volunteer, enhance leadership skills, lead with purpose, overcome challenges, and build supportive academic communities that could benefit all higher education professionals.

Supplemental Instruction
Presenter(s): Sarah Camper, *College of Applied Studies and Academic Success*
Presentation Description: Supplemental Instruction (SI) offers a research-based approach to online tutoring services. Students can get their content-related questions answered during live SI sessions by a peer tutor or faculty member. Research shows this approach to online tutoring benefits students in numerous ways.

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(May be viewed during breakout sessions I-VII)
See Canvas Course, "2026 Conference on Teaching Excellence"

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Tasked yet Transformed: Faculty Perceptions of Expected Recordkeeping and Reporting and Their Impact on Job Satisfaction
Presenter(s): Amber Wilson, *School of Aeronautics*, Sarah Boettger, Janet Brown, Kjell Fenn, Jessica Kuehne, David Ream
Presentation Description: The purpose of this study is to explore how faculty in Christian higher education perceive the expectations of recordkeeping and reporting in connection with job satisfaction. Herzberg's et al. (1959) model provides an understanding of both intrinsic and extrinsic motivators related to job satisfaction. Faculty participants discussed the need for recordkeeping and reporting in their work. However, uncertainty regarding perceived expectations in sub-themes of stewardship, protection, and optimization both positively and negatively impacted job satisfaction.

Tension and Grace: Perceptions of Assessment and Grading Among Christian Higher Education Faculty and Impact on Job Satisfaction
Presenter(s): Jerry Pitts, *College of Applied Studies and Academic Success*, Nary Kitson, Lori Roach, Ashley Tharpe, Sherri Walker, and Daniel Yerrington
Presentation Description: This research investigated Christian higher education faculty's perceived job satisfaction regarding assessment and grading. Six participants completed semi-structured interviews, discussion boards, and journal entries with specific questions related to assessment and grading. A phenomenological methodology using rich textual data generated four themes: pedagogical support, job satisfaction, time management, and emotional investment. Results indicated that faculty believed assessment and grading were integral to their role. Job satisfaction was highest when student growth was evident, and feedback was appreciated. The study offered five recommendations: Future research should involve more diverse participants, examine online or residential faculty separately, and include larger samples and other institutions.

The Fruitful Social Worker
Presenter(s): DeNika VanCleave, School of Behavioral Sciences
Presentation Description: This poster presentation shows how each Fruit of the Spirit connects to the core values and principles in the NASW Code of Ethics. By viewing social work through a biblical worldview, we see how Spirit-filled living empowers social workers to embody resilience, compassion, and a Christ-like presence in our service to others. Each fruit, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, is a guide to ethical decision making and client centered care.

The Pedagogical Takeover: Applying Design Thinking to Teaching!
Presenter(s): Chelsea Milks, *College of Arts and Sciences*
Presentation Description: Reimagine your teaching strategies using the principles of design thinking (empathy, define, ideate, prototype, and test) to create dynamic, student-centered learning experiences that inspire innovation.

ACADEMIC PAPERS/POSTERS

(May be viewed during breakout sessions I-VII)

See Canvas Course, "2026 Conference on Teaching Excellence"

Posters

The Professor as the Architect
Presenter(s): Gay Citty, *School of Education*
Presentation Description: This presentation explores ten practical steps for building strong professor–student relationships in the online learning environment. Drawing on research and faith-based principles, it highlights strategies such as presence, feedback, support, flexibility, and prayer to foster engagement, retention, and student success in virtual academic environments.