



# The CFD Monthly

Workshops, Events, Resources, and More

January 2024

## New Year, New Faces

Associate Director,  
Center for Faculty Development



Please join us in welcoming Dr. Ashley Allen as the Center for Faculty Development's new Associate Director. Dr. Allen is an Associate Professor in the School of Music, starting at USM in 2019 after leaving Central Michigan University. Dr. Allen teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in music education and brings a wealth of experience in training and mentoring teachers. In her new role, Dr. Allen will oversee the Learning Assistants program, assist with developing and implementing CFD programs, and assist with facilitating ACUE courses. We are excited to add Dr. Allen to our CFD team!

Academic Integrity Director



Dr. James Thomas has been appointed as the new Academic Integrity Director. Dr. Thomas has been an Assistant Professor in the School of Education since 2018. He brings to this position several prior staff experiences in higher education that include dealing with conflict and student facilitations. Additionally, Dr. Thomas has been a key contributor to the artificial intelligence taskforce, as well as presenting on these topics during Faculty First Week and in CFD programs.

If you have questions regarding the academic integrity policy and procedures and/or questions on how to deter and detect academic integrity violations in your course, please email [integrity@usm.edu](mailto:integrity@usm.edu).

## Tiny Teaching Tip

### Have a Great First Day of Class

James Lang, professor and author of several books on teaching, encourages instructors to make the most of the first day of class to shape first impressions of you and the course. In his article, [How to Teach a Good First Day of Class](#), Lang provides four key principles for helping plan a great first day of class.

- **Principle 1: Curiosity-** Spark students' curiosity in the content of your course and how it matters to them inside and outside your classroom
- **Principle 2: Community-** Create a sense of community in the classroom by humanizing yourself, getting them to talk to each other, and greeting and starting to learn student names.
- **Principle 3: Learning-** Jump start getting students to learn without getting too deep into the content just yet. This can be done using several strategies such as completing a related task or challenge they don't have the skills to complete yet to preview what skills and knowledge will be developed in the course. Alternatively, you can facilitate students to think about the course from a metacognitive perspective by discussing how do they have learned best in previous courses, what strategies have helped or not, and what strategies they can apply to your course.
- **Principle 4: Expectations-** Students do need to know the practical issues of your course such as needed materials, expected prior knowledge or coursework as well as the key policies, assessments, and deadlines.

To learn more about applying these principles on the first day and examples of these in practice, check out [Lang's article](#). Have a great start to your spring semester!

## January Workshops

### Pulling Back the Curtain: Create Clear AI Policies for the Higher Ed Classroom

Thursday, January 11 | 2 – 3:15 pm | Virtual  
[Register](#)

### Show Up and Write!

Thurs., January 18 & 25 | 11 am - 1 pm | Virtual  
[Remind Me](#)

### Grant Writing Series: Working Meeting

Show up to work on an application and get feedback from peers  
Friday, January 19 | 9 - 11 am  
[Register](#)

### First Year Foundations: Meet and Eat

January 19th | 12:00 - 1:30 pm  
[RSVP](#)

### Graduate Mentorship Training and Workshop Series: Reflecting on Diversity and Addressing Inclusion

Tuesday, January 30 | 12 - 1:30 pm  
[Register](#)

## Upcoming Conference



Join us for the Southern Regional Faculty and Instructional Development Consortium 2024 annual conference, "**Changing Tides: Equity-Minded Teaching in Higher Education**". The CFD will be hosting the conference at The University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast campus in March. There will be an in-person and virtual conference with sessions that explore concepts, programs, and research to engage our stakeholders (students, faculty, leaders, and community partners) in improving instructional effectiveness.

**Where:** University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Park Campus, Long Beach, MS

**Virtual:** Monday, March 11

**In-Person:** Wednesday, March 13 - Friday March 15



More Info

Register

**COCKTAILS & CONVERSATIONS**

**Eat, sip, and mingle with fellow USM employees**

Appetizers provided by: **aaup**  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS

**Friday, February 2nd at: SOPRO 4 - 6 pm**

### CFD Website updates!

We are working on adding more content and resources to our [CFD website](#). Now find more resources related to leadership, research, and university offices. We are also adding our past newsletters in case you missed something.

Let us know if you have other suggested resources or content at [cfid@usm.edu](mailto:cfid@usm.edu).



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