



# The CFD Monthly

Workshops, Events, Resources, and More

August 2025

## Looking Back, Leaping Forward: Our Year in Review & Gearing up for What's Ahead



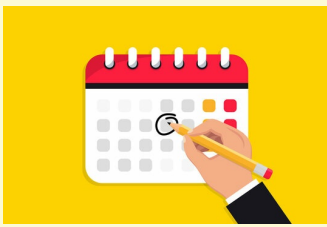
Preparing for new beginnings means celebrating past achievements. The CFD has just completed our [year-end review](#), reflecting on the progress made during the 2024–2025 academic year. We're proud of the strides we've taken—advancing our signature programs, boosting event attendance by approximately 50%, and increasing website traffic by 32%, reaching nearly 20,000 views. Interest in artificial intelligence remained strong, with three of our five most-attended programs focused on AI and its impact on higher education. As we close out the academic year, we're energized by what's ahead and excited to share what we have planned for the coming year.

As we transition to the next academic year, we are excited to host our Plan, Prepare, and Engage series starting on

August 5th. Across 13 sessions led by faculty and staff, we are sure to have something that peaks your interests and provides information to help you prepare for fall. [Check out our full line-up of Plan, Prepare, and Engage sessions on our website.](#)

Looking ahead, [Fall First Week](#) is just around the corner! Join us August 11–15 as we come together across campus to launch a vibrant new academic year. On Wednesday, August 13 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, we'll host the [Educators' Retreat](#)—an opportunity to explore resources that support teaching, research, campus engagement, and student success. While August will be a busy month for the CFD, we're energized by the opportunity to champion our campus community and thrilled to help spark the momentum and possibilities that a new year brings. We hope you have a great start to your fall semester!

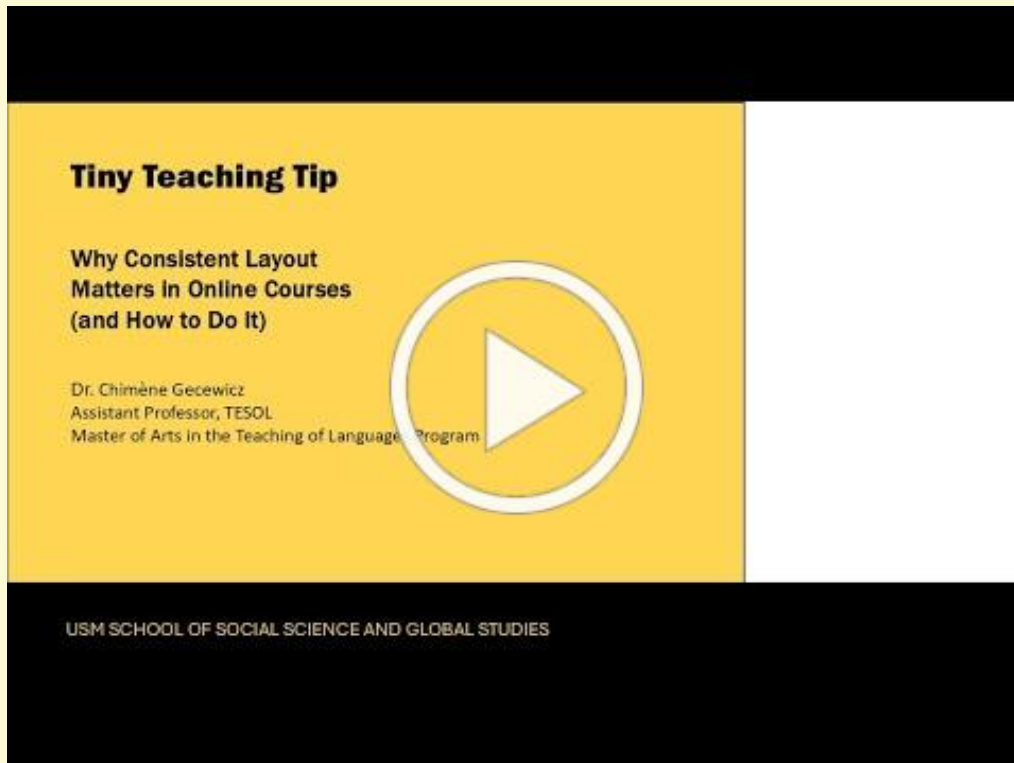
## Upcoming Events



August 1-14 | **New Faculty Orientation** | [View Schedule](#)  
August 5-8 | **Plan, Prepare, and Engage** | [Register Here](#)  
August 11-15 | **Fall First Week** | [View Schedule Here](#)  
August 13 | **Educators' Retreat** | [View Schedule Here](#)  
August 28 | **Show up and Write!** | 1-3 pm | Teams | [Register Here!](#)

### *Tiny* Teaching Tip

For this month's tip, Dr. Chimène Gecewicz shares ways to create a consistent layout in Canvas for your online course to facilitate students' success. If you want more tips on improving your online course, join us for her session, [Blueprints for Better Learning: Strategic Online Course Planning](#), August 5th at 2 pm, during our Plan, Prepare, and Engage series.



### **New Life Skills Workshop Series for Students**

Consider sharing the Ready for Life Workshop series with your students this fall. This workshop series is designed to help student's master life skills learned outside of the classroom - from building financial literacy and effective communication skills to leveraging AI tools for their personal life and prioritizing self-care. Sessions are held most Friday afternoons during the fall semester and are open to any Southern Miss student. For more information, visit here: <https://www.usm.edu/student-affairs/ready->

**READY FOR LIFE  
WORKSHOP  
SERIES**



Join Dr. Ashley Allen, Associate Director of the Center for Faculty Development, as she demonstrates some AI prompts that you can use to assist you with designing or developing your fall course. Want to skip ahead? Go straight to the video of [AI Demo of using ChatGPT to generate your course schedule table with dates](#).

For more information, check out the [CFD's resource page for teaching with AI](#) or other helpful prompts to get your AI "wheels" turning from [Teaching with AI](#).



## Looking for Success Coaches

The Center for Student Success invites faculty, staff, and graduate assistants to join our success coaching team for the Fall 2025 semester! Our office is seeking coaches dedicated to improving the student experience through their guidance and mentorship. While all undergraduate students on the Hattiesburg campus may apply to be a part of the coaching

program, our primary focus is on students who may be struggling with their transition to college. We aid students on the Gulf Park campus and online if coaches are available.

Those interested in becoming a coach can anticipate:

- Conducting four 1:1 meetings throughout the semester with your mentee(s) to help maximize their potential at USM.
- Using facilitation guides to discuss topics like goal setting, time management, study strategies, executive functioning skills, social development, and campus resources.
- Personalizing your meetings and conversations to meet students' individual needs.
- Helping students establish their own definition of success and motivate them to do their personal best.

If you are interested in becoming a coach, please submit your information via the [faculty and staff interest form](#). The interest form is set to expire on **Friday, August 22nd at 11:59pm CST**. A short, asynchronous virtual training session that goes over the fundamentals of coaching must be completed in Canvas by late August to participate and facilitate timely student-coach pairings.

Should you have additional questions, feel free to reach out to [Ashley.Burnside@usm.edu](mailto:Ashley.Burnside@usm.edu).



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