



# The CFD Monthly

Workshops, Events, Resources, and More

May / June 2025

## Year in Review



As we wind down this spring semester, we are thrilled to reflect on the incredible work we've accomplished this academic year! 🎉 We hosted 30 dynamic workshop sessions, engaging 785 attendees across the fall and spring semesters. Additionally, we enrolled 56 faculty and graduate students in our ACUE Faculty Development Institute, celebrated one cohort finishing and another starting the Faculty Leadership Institute, and kicked off another cohort of our Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Faculty Fellows. Our support for new faculty continued through our First-Year Foundations series. Finally, we have had fun socializing with colleagues at Cocktails & Conversations and other celebrations throughout the year.

Most importantly, through all these events and programs, we had an absolute blast building connections and supporting our wonderful USM faculty, staff, and students! ☀️ As summer brings a slower pace to our office, feel free to stop by IC 319 or [email us](#) if

you need anything. Be on the lookout for our next newsletter in July as we gear up for an exciting fall semester!

-The CFD Team

## Upcoming Events and Announcements



### 2025 - 2026 Effective Teaching Practices Series

#### Watermark Faculty Success: Putting it together for Promotion or Tenure

May 12, 2025

12 - 1:00 p.m. | Teams &

June 13, 2025

10 - 11 a.m. | Teams

[Register](#)

#### Program Coordinator Session

May 12, 2025

2:00 - 3:00 p.m. | Zoom

[Register](#)

#### Mental Health First Aid Training

June 13, 2025

9 - 4 p.m. | IC 319

[Register](#)

Join the over 200 faculty who have completed our ACUE program!

In the next academic year, the CFD will be offering the opportunity to be part of the ACUE Faculty Development Institute by completing the Effective Teaching Practices Series. This three-semester program focuses on evidence-based teaching practices in face-to-face courses, with strategies that can be translated to online and hybrid courses. This series covers content on:

- Creating a productive learning environment
- Promoting active learning
- Inspiring inquiring and preparing lifelong learners
- Designing learner-centered courses

Each week, program fellows will complete online asynchronous content, apply a teaching strategy to their course, and meet in for a facilitated group discussion on that week's topic, for 10 weeks each semester. Weekly meetings, lasting 90 minutes, take place on Fridays in the CFD, with accommodations for those needing to attend virtually.

While this program targets faculty, staff and graduate students with teaching responsibilities are welcome to apply.

**Applications are due**

**May 30th, 2025**

[Apply Here!](#)



The Seventh Annual Fall First Week provides time for colleges and schools to meet, engage with campus resources, and learn from one another's expertise as we prepare for the academic year ahead. Fall First Week will house all professional development sessions in a half-day **Educators' Retreat** on Wednesday, August 13th during Fall First Week.

We are looking for proposals for our Educator's Retreat that address topics applicable to faculty and staff across campus. For example, information on specific services and resources, easy to implement teaching strategies, or sharing research or productivity tips.

Find more details and the brief proposal application linked below.

**Proposals are due May 19th, 2025**

[Submit Proposals Here!](#)

## Seeking Applications for the SoTL Faculty Fellows Program



The **Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Faculty Fellows Program** is a great opportunity to investigate issues and best practices that affect our courses, curriculum, and/or our students. This year, we are forming two collaborative research teams that will study either **Reading Across the Curriculum** or **Thoughtful Integration or Prohibition of Artificial Intelligence in the Curriculum**. Applications are still being accepted for the fall cohort. You can apply by completing the application [here](#). Contact **Dr. Ashley Allen** ([a.d.allen@usm.edu](mailto:a.d.allen@usm.edu)) for more information.

[Click to apply here by May 12th, 2025](#)

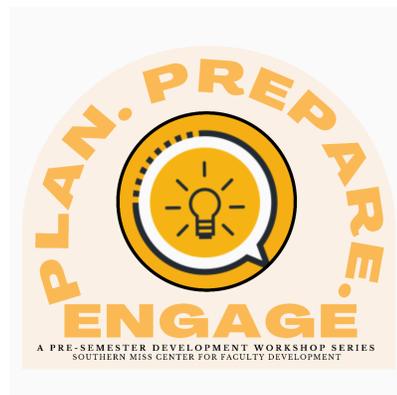
### *Tiny Teaching Tip*

#### **We want *your* teaching tips!**

We are soliciting proposals for our Prepare, Plan, and Engage series this Aug. 5- 8th. Consider submitting a proposal that addresses topics in the broad categories of pedagogy, classroom technology, and/or other innovative teaching strategies to share with your peers.

Proposals should include:

- Presenter(s) name
- Brief 1-3 sentence description that can be included in the series program. The description should include the focus of the presentation and what attendees can expect to learn or gain from the session.
- Abstract on the details of proposed session and how it will benefit attendees (300 words).



**Submit your proposals here by May 19th, 2025**



This spring, the Center for Faculty Development (CFD) at USM expanded its focus on Artificial Intelligence through the AI Conversations series, hosting four panel events. These sessions featured insights from faculty and students on the opportunities and challenges AI brings to higher education, particularly in deciding when AI should and should not be used in coursework.

Associate Deans discussed the complexities of regulating AI use, the importance of information literacy, and the responsibility of higher education institutions to educate faculty, staff, and students on proper AI usage. In the final panel, local employers shared how they are embracing AI for hiring and other tasks, emphasizing that new graduates should develop core skills like critical thinking and interpersonal skills to use AI effectively without losing their own voice.

Dr. Mustafa Akben from Elon University addressed ethical considerations of AI, sharing his experience using AI chatbots to answer common student questions. Additionally, the Office of the Provost introduced the [USM Artificial Intelligence website](#), a hub for all AI-related resources offered at the university.

Looking ahead, the CFD is planning more hands-on workshops to further our understanding of AI. In the meantime, explore the [Mississippi Artificial Intelligence Network \(MAIN\) at USM](#), which offers free, self-paced courses using curriculum provided by Intel. More details and sign-up information can be found [here](#). Those completing a course will earn a digital badge.



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