



The CFD Monthly

Workshops, Events, Resources, and More

October 2025



Exciting News for USM Faculty and Staff!

While the ACUE Commons was initially launched in Spring 2024 for USM ACUE Fellows, we're thrilled to announce that it's now open to all USM faculty and staff! The ACUE Commons is a dynamic online space designed to support and inspire your teaching journey. Whether you're looking to connect with colleagues, revisit ACUE course materials, or explore new strategies, the Commons has something for everyone. Plus, stay informed and inspired with discussions on the latest trends in higher education, exclusive content, and special events—all designed to help you grow as an educator.

What You'll Find in the ACUE Commons:

- A vibrant community of educators sharing ideas and best practices.
- Access to past ACUE course materials—perfect for refreshing your skills if you've completed an ACUE course at USM.
- The ACUE Learning Lab, featuring 20 Quick Study courses on timely, high-impact topics to elevate your teaching.

Recent Quick Study Courses:

- *Integrating Deliberative Dialogue in Your Course*
- *The Wellness Lens: Supporting Students' Mental Well-being*
- *Designing with Purpose: Authentic Tasks and Assessments*
- *Transforming Assignments in the Age of AI*

Ready to Join?

[Click here](#) to access the ACUE Commons. If you've taken an ACUE course before, you may already have an account—just click “Forgot Password” to reset and log in. Need help getting started? [Watch our quick video](#) from last spring that provides details on how to set up your account and a walkthrough of the Commons.

Upcoming Events and Announcements

October 2,9, 16, 23, 30 | **Show up and Write!** | 1-3 p.m. | Teams | [Register](#)

October 3 | **Program Coordination 101: Navigating the Year Ahead** | 2:30-3:30 p.m. | IC 101 | [Register](#)

October 8 | **Teaching with AI: Build Your Own GPT for the Classroom** | 11- 12 p.m. | IC 319 & Teams | [Register](#)

October 8 | **Navigating the New Turnitin** | 12:30- 1:30 p.m. | Teams | [Register](#)

October 14 | **Ctrl+Alt+Succeed: The Ultimate Teams Playbook** | 11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. | IC 319 and Teams | [Register](#)

October 22 | **Graduate Mentorship Series: Promoting Professional Development** | 12-1:30 p.m. | IC 319 & Zoom | [Register](#)

October 31 | **CIP Codes and Faculty Qualifications** | 9:30 - 10:30 | IC 101 & Teams | [Register](#)



Ever wondered how you can create your own chatbot to help students engage in course material and projects? Check out how Hillary Scales-Lewis in the School of Performing and Visual Arts created her own GPT to be a partner in learning for her courses in the video.

Want more? Attend the workshop lead by Hillary to learn how to make your own GPT.

Teaching with AI: Build Your Own GPT for the Classroom

October 8, 2025

11- 12 p.m. | IC 319 & Teams | [Register](#)



Tiny Teaching Tip

Join Dr. Thomas Deus, Associate Dean of Students, as he explains the [CARES Report Form](#) and [Academic Concerns Reporting form](#) process. Learn how these reports work, why they matter, and the ways they help support students both academically and personally especially as we get deeper into the semester.

THE PROCESS:
**CARES +
ACADEMIC
CONCERN**

WITH
DR. THOMAS DEUS
ASSOCIATE DEAN OF STUDENTS



Would you like to join the CFD Team?



Apply to be our next CFD Associate Director

The CFD leadership is transitioning in January, when Dr. Ashley Allen will become the new director. We are seeking a new Associate Director to complete our leadership team. Find more details on this administrative position and apply at the link. Email search chair, [Melanie Leuty](#) with questions.

[Apply Here!](#)



Watch as Gayle Sollfrank walks you through *Ctrl+Alt+Succeed: The Ultimate Teams Playbook*. In just a few minutes, you'll see how to set up a recurring meeting in Teams, add notes and an agenda, and apply quick pro tips that make your meetings smoother and your follow-up effortless. Find out more great tips on Teams at her upcoming

Ctrl+Alt+Succeed:

The Ultimate Teams Playbook



*Photo credit: Microsoft Teams Homepage (<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/group-chat-software>)

Using Turnitin.com in Canvas

Turnitin.com, the plagiarism and AI detection application in Canvas, has updated some of its features to include the new Feedback Studio. If you are a faculty member who has used Turnitin.com in the past or if you are new to wanting to apply this tool to a Canvas-submitted assignment, [this info sheet](#) has been created to help you navigate the latest changes.

Join us for a live demo:

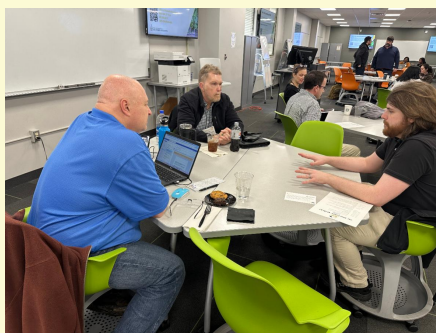
October 8 | **Navigating the New Turnitin** | 12:30- 1:30 p.m. | Teams | [Register](#)

NEED HELP WITH 
TURNITIN IN CANVAS?



Seeking the next cohort of Faculty Leadership Institute Fellows

We are recruiting members for our



Do you have a

seventh cohort of the **Faculty Leadership Institute (FLI)**. Enrolling both junior and senior faculty, the FLI is focused on developing the leadership skills of our faculty. Across three semesters, faculty learn about their own leadership style and personality, theories of leadership, communications skills, and several other topics to enhance their roles as current or aspiring leaders.

Find more details on our [website](#) as well as a [link to apply](#).

**FLI applications are due
November 15th, 2025**

great teaching idea but need \$\$ to make it happen?

Every semester the CFD funds three to four **Teaching Innovation Mini-Grants**. These small grants of up to \$400 can help kickstart a project to help ignite engagement and learning in your class.

[Find more information about the program and application here.](#)

**Applications are due
November 15, 2025**

**Apply for a
Grant**



Cocktails and Conversations will be held on **December 5th** from **4 – 6 p.m.** at **Mahogany Bar** with appetizers sponsored by AOP. Join us!



October Leadership Webinar

***Leadership Practices that
Support Equitable Learning
Environments***

October 20 | 12:15-1:00 | Online

Sponsored by:
The Center for Women & Leadership

Join **Dr. Mariela Rodríguez**, professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at The University of Texas at San Antonio, for a conversation on leadership practices that foster equitable learning for culturally and linguistically diverse students. Dr. Rodríguez has served as Vice President of AERA's Division A (2021–2024) and was named Co-Editor of the American Educational Research Journal in 2024.



Register



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