



CENTER FOR TEACHING
& LEARNING *EXCELLENCE*

The FSW 3rd Annual Conference


Navigating Change: Innovation, Impact, and
the Future of Teaching in a Shifting World

Virtual Sessions

For More Information Contact:

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June 3rd, 2025


9:00AM-9:45AM

The Future of Work & Lifelong Learning: Addressing How Educators Can Equip Students with the Skills to Adapt to the Changing Job Market, Including the integration of Soft Skills, Adaptability, and Critical Thinking in Response to Automation and AI Advancements.

Facilitated By: Dr. Hanan M. Madanat from American University of Madaba
Dr. Martin Tawil, Moderator

In an era of rapid technological advancements, automation, and AI-driven transformations, the job market is evolving at an unprecedented pace. As industries shift and new roles emerge, educators must equip students with the skills necessary to thrive in an unpredictable future. This session will explore how academic institutions can foster lifelong learning and adaptability, ensuring that graduates remain competitive and resilient. Key discussions will focus on integrating soft skills such as communication, collaboration, and emotional intelligence alongside technical expertise. Additionally, we will examine strategies for embedding adaptability, problem-solving, and critical thinking into curricula to prepare students for the fluid nature of modern careers. The session will also highlight the role of interdisciplinary learning, experiential education, and continuous skill development in responding to workforce demands. Participants will gain insights from industry experts and educators on best practices for aligning educational outcomes with market needs. By embracing a forward-thinking approach to education, institutions can empower students to navigate career transitions, embrace lifelong learning, and harness AI and automation as tools for innovation rather than obstacles. This session is essential for educators, policymakers, and industry leaders seeking to bridge the gap between education and employment, ensuring that graduates are not only prepared for today's workforce but also equipped for the challenges and opportunities of the future.



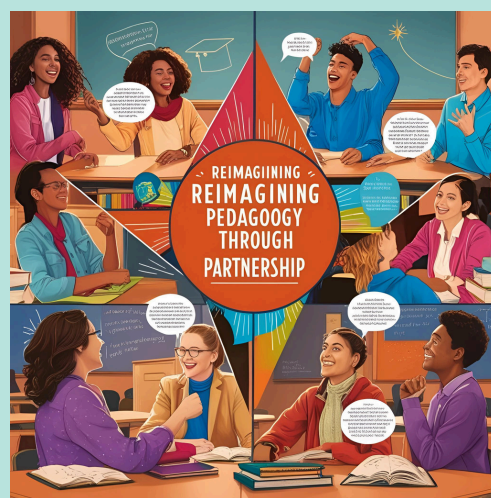



June 3rd, 2025 10:00AM-10:45AM

Reimagining Pedagogy Through Partnership: Lessons from a Student-Faculty Collaboration

Facilitated By: Ariella VanHara, LCSW-QS

The Student-Faculty Partnership Program (SFPP) at Florida Gulf Coast University fosters meaningful collaboration between students and faculty to enhance teaching and learning. Through semester-long partnerships, student consultants analyze classroom practices, provide constructive feedback, and support faculty in refining their courses to maximize engagement. In this session, I will share my experience as a faculty participant in SFPP, offering insights into the transformative impact of working alongside a student partner. I will discuss how our collaboration led to meaningful pedagogical shifts, including adjustments to course structure, assessment strategies, and student engagement techniques. Additionally, I will highlight my student partner's perspective, reflecting on their role in the process and how the experience deepened their understanding of teaching and learning. The session will also explore the advantages of student-faculty partnerships, such as increased student engagement and real-time feedback for faculty. Challenges, including power dynamics and the complexities of integrating student recommendations, will also be addressed. By the end of this session, participants will gain a deeper appreciation for the value of student-faculty partnerships and leave with practical strategies for incorporating student voices into their own teaching practices.






June 3rd, 2025 11:00AM-11:45AM

Transforming Engagement

Facilitated By: Dr. Scott Courtney



Student engagement is a consistent goal of our teaching, but deeper transformation occurs when students become truly committed to the learning experience. This session will explore Schlechty's student engagement continuum, examining how commitment and engagement are intricately connected. We will then discuss a variety of learning tools, including VR360, blogs, video discussions, Google Earth, and other innovative methods, all of which help create an immersive and interactive learning environment. These tools encourage students to feel more connected and invested in the process, increasing their commitment to learning and enhancing overall classroom engagement. As our classrooms continue to evolve with online tools, this approach and the use of these tools are applicable across all modalities of instruction, fostering engagement in both in-person, hybrid, and online environments.




June 3rd, 2025 12:30PM-1:15PM

Shape the Future of AI at FSW: Launch of the Faculty AI Community of Practice

Facilitated By: Anna Haney-Withrow



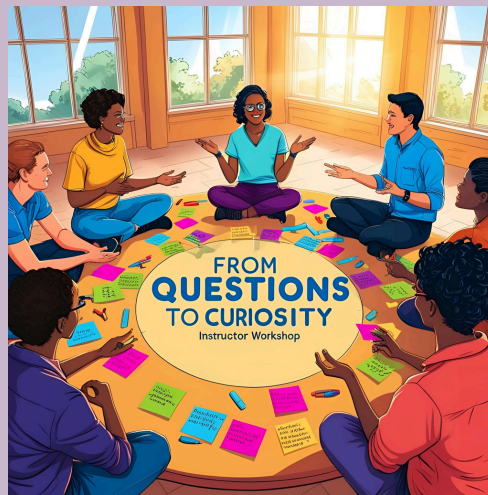
You're invited to help shape the future of teaching and learning with artificial intelligence at FSW. This interactive session marks the official launch of FSW's AI Faculty Community of Practice (CoP) - a space to explore the evolving role of AI in higher education through dialogue, experimentation, and shared inquiry. Whether you're cautiously curious, critically engaged, or actively integrating AI into your teaching, this is a chance to think together with colleagues across disciplines. During the session, we'll introduce the purpose and potential of the CoP: to support faculty in exchanging ideas, developing strategies, and building confidence around AI's academic implications. You'll have a chance to influence how the group will function - its meeting rhythm, topics of interest, and working norms - through guided activities and collaborative discussion. No prior AI experience is required - just a spirit of collegial inquiry and a willingness to co-create. Let's launch a thoughtful, faculty-led conversation about AI - one rooted in academic values and designed for meaningful impact.




June 3rd, 2025 1:30PM-2:30PM

From Questions to Curiosity: A Workshop on Designing Inquiry-Based Assignments for Any Discipline

Facilitated By: Dr. Rebecca Harris



Inquiry-based learning empowers students to explore, question, and think critically—core skills for success in both academics and life. In this hands-on workshop, faculty will explore the foundations of inquiry-based learning and collaboratively design or revise assignments to deepen student engagement. Whether you're in English, biology, history, or math, this session will help you transform your assignments from task-driven to curiosity-driven.




June 3rd, 2025 2:45PM-3:30PM

The Classroom Stage: Acting Techniques to Capture and Keep Student Attention

Facilitated By: Dr. Robert Cappetta



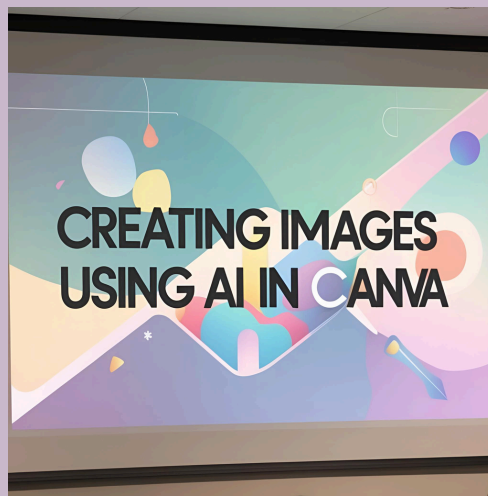
John Steinbeck once wrote, "I have come to believe that a great teacher is a great artist... Teaching might even be the greatest of the arts since the medium is the human mind and spirit." Acting teacher Lee Strasberg echoed this sentiment, calling acting the most personal of crafts - shaped by one's physical, mental, and emotional habits. Among all art forms, acting is perhaps the closest to teaching. Both rely on human connection, presence, and responsiveness. In today's college classrooms, educators face a growing challenge: a significant decline in students' attention spans. Keeping learners engaged requires more than just content delivery, it demands performance. This is where tools from the world of acting can help. Techniques such as projecting genuine enthusiasm, demonstrating authenticity, embracing mistakes as part of the process, checking for understanding in real time, using physical space intentionally, raising the emotional stakes, and applying the improv principle of "yes, and" can all strengthen engagement. Teaching, like acting, is not just about information but transformation, creating a dynamic exchange between performer and audience, teacher and student.




June 3rd, 2025 3:45PM-4:30PM

Creating Images Using AI in Canva

Facilitated By: Eric Barreto and Tim Murphy



Unlock your creativity with Canva's powerful AI image generation tools! Whether you're designing for social media, marketing, or personal projects, Canva makes it easy to create stunning visuals in just a few clicks. No design experience needed—just your imagination. Perfect for enhancing presentations, ads, and more with custom visuals made instantly.



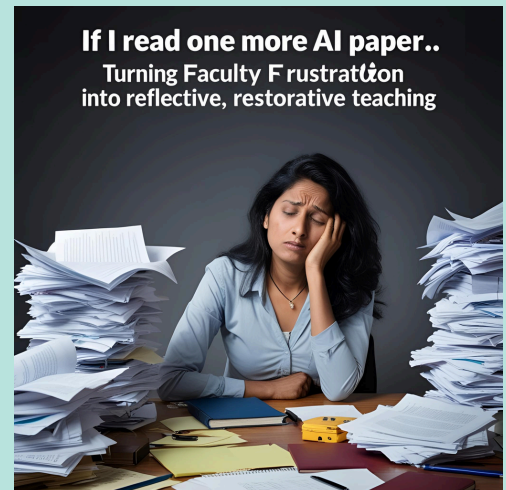
June 4th, 2025 9:00AM-10:30AM


If I Read One More AI Paper... Turning Faculty Frustration into Reflective, Restorative Teaching

Facilitated By: Anna Haney-Withrow

As AI becomes part of our students' daily lives, conversations around academic misconduct are shifting, and so should our approaches. This interactive, judgment-free workshop invites faculty to explore how we can reduce misconduct not by policing, but by designing learning experiences that invite trust, ownership, and authenticity. Together, we'll dig into three practical, human-centered strategies to prevent AI-enabled shortcuts before they start, through assignment design, visible thinking, and meaningful reflection. We'll also

explore two ways to respond when things go off course, using restorative conversations and opportunities for repair instead of punishment. Finally, we'll get playful and imagine ten creative responses to misconduct that support student growth while honoring our own time and values. This session is for anyone who's tired of chasing AI and wants to refocus on what really matters: helping students connect with their learning. You'll leave with tangible tools, sample language, and fresh ideas you can tailor to your own teaching style and discipline, plus a bit of renewed optimism about teaching in this new landscape. You don't need to be an AI expert to join us, just bring your curiosity and a willingness to think about new approaches.






June 4th, 2025 10:45AM-11:30AM

Design Plus: More than a Just Pretty Face

Facilitated By: Dr. Laura Shaw



How to use Design Plus to streamline instruction, improve user interface, and reduce student frustrations. Do your students regularly skip required readings? Have you ever heard a student say “I didn’t know we were supposed to do that”? Design Plus can help your students navigate your course more efficiently and with reduced frustrations. In this 45-minute presentation, Dr. Laura Shaw will share an overview of Design Plus “Legacy” to demonstrate ways to make your Canvas pages, assignments, and quizzes more attractive and efficient. Participants will learn how Design Plus can reduce student frustration and streamline course navigation—so students can spend more time learning and less time feeling lost or uncertain. Design tool applications will include how to choose a Design Plus theme, adding advanced elements like accordions, tabs, and expanders, and how a Module Progress Bar can reinforce module requirements and task completion. Participants with preliminary or moderate Design Plus Tools experience will benefit the most from this session, however all ability levels are welcome.



June 4th, 2025 11:45AM-12:30PM

Teaching Sustainability Through Local Partnerships and Global Perspectives

Facilitated By: Professor Amanda Zirzow

Sustainability is an essential lens for understanding the interconnected systems that shape our world. Education plays a powerful role in helping students explore these connections' through their local communities, course content, and personal experiences. This session invites educators from all disciplines to discover approachable ways to integrate sustainability and environmental stewardship into their teaching, using local partnerships and global frameworks as a foundation. The session will highlight how hands-on, place-based learning with community




partners can deepen student understanding and foster civic engagement. Collaborations with organizations and local government agencies' such as the City of Fort Myers, Florida Sea Grant, the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum and Aquarium, and Calusa Waterkeeper's have supported impactful student projects. These range from monitoring the health of local ecosystems to conducting fieldwork in seagrass beds and exploring human impact. These experiences spark curiosity, connect students to their communities, and promote thoughtful reflection on global challenges. While the examples begin in science, the strategies are widely applicable. Community collaboration, systems thinking, and real-world relevance can enrich courses in writing, art, economics, education, and beyond. Faculty will leave with a collection of ready-to-use resources, including sample assignments, a partnership planning guide, and adaptable models for aligning course content with global sustainability goals. Whether you are looking to add a small activity or develop a larger project, this session offers practical tools and inspiration to support meaningful, purpose-driven learning. Discover how your classroom can become a space for connection, inquiry, and lasting impact.

Facilitated By: Dr. Heather Olson



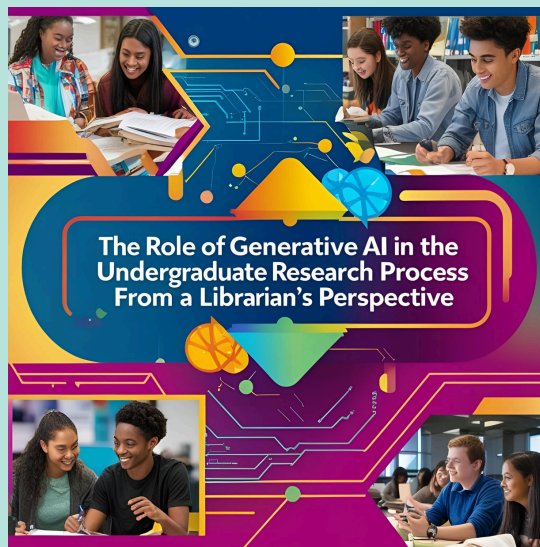
Upgrade course content by leveraging the three pillars of Self-Determination Theory (SDT) to create student-centered learning experiences that drive authentic motivation and meaningful engagement. Drawing from research-backed practices and real-world examples, this session demonstrates how combining student choice in deliverables, ungrading practices, and collaborative tech tools can create a learning environment where students thrive. Experience firsthand how these SDT-aligned strategies not only enhance student motivation but also maintain academic rigor while reducing faculty workload.




**June 4th, 2025
2:15PM-3:00PM**

**The Role of Generative AI in the Undergraduate
Research Process: A Librarian's Perspective**

Facilitated By: Professor Victoria SanFilippo



The growing popularity of generative AI necessitates attention to the advantages and challenges it can pose within the landscape of teaching and learning. This session explores the evolving role of generative AI in the context of undergraduate research skill development from the lens of an academic librarian.

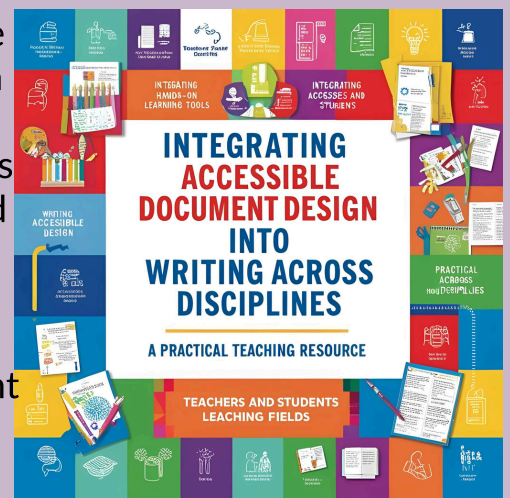



June 4th, 2025 3:15PM-4:00PM

Integrating Accessible Document Design into Writing Across Disciplines: A Practical Teaching Resource

Facilitated By: Dr. Scott Ortolano

As teachers, we strive to equip students with the skills they need to communicate effectively in an ever-changing world. However, accessibility is often overlooked in writing instruction, despite its significant impact on how information is received and understood. In the words of disability and composition scholar Rachel Donegan, “in many situations, disabled people are more impaired by nondisabled people’s reactions to their impairment than by the impairment itself”. This session will examine how to make accessibility a learning outcome in writing assignments across disciplines, helping students recognize its importance in their academic work and in the documents they create beyond the classroom. By doing so, students will come to see accessibility not as an optional add-on but as an essential part of clear and effective communication. This practical approach helps embed accessibility into writing instruction across disciplines, equipping students with the skills to create clear, effective, and accessible communication in academic, professional, and real-world contexts. To support instructors in this process, the session will function as a “workshop in a box” and provide a variety of ready-to-use teaching materials. These include PowerPoint presentations, guided lectures, grading rubrics, student-friendly readings, and tech tutorials, all packaged in an importable Canvas module. Additionally, participants will gain the foundational knowledge necessary to confidently teach core accessibility concepts in their writing projects.






**June 4th, 2025
4:15PM-5:00PM**

**Exploring Italian Culture: The Interconnections of Food,
Culture, and Sustainability**

Facilitated By: Dr. Alessandro Cesarano



This session will explore the connection between sustainable food practices and cultural traditions. We will examine how Italian regional cuisines promote sustainability through seasonal and fresh ingredients while honoring their rich cultural heritage.



June 5th, 2025 9:00AM-10:30AM

"AI in Academia: Empowering Educators with Technology"

Facilitated By: Dr. Gerald Anzalone and Professor James Chan



Explore how AI tools, such as Copilot, Gemini, and Notebook can revolutionize the academic workflow. In this dynamic and engaging workshop, participants will discover practical applications of AI for refining lecture notes, creating test questions, enhancing professional communication, assisting with notetaking, summarizing information, generating insights, and organizing notes effectively. With an open-forum approach, participants will share experiences, ask questions, and collaboratively brainstorm how to leverage AI to improve efficiency and creativity in education.