

FDC HAPPENINGS

October 3, 2022



A group, with a woman in the foreground and two men in the background, stand in front of a chalkboard. The woman is writing.

Secondary Teacher Preparation Program

October 28, November 11, 18 & December 9

109 Halle (300 Halle on Oct. 28)

See website for times

In 2018, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) announced their updated “students-first” teacher certification system. Faculty across EMU have taken this opportunity to collaborate and revitalize our teacher preparation program, and we are ready to launch our work and vision.

Join COE and CAS faculty as we describe the revised program, introduce our guiding principles, and review high-leverage core teaching practices. This series of workshops will inform and engage participants in the work of integrating the anchor principles and core teaching practices in their curriculum. This initiative impacts faculty across EMU, as many of us teach aspiring teachers, so all instructors and administration are invited to join. Click here to learn more or to [register](#).

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EDUCATION INITIATIVES

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While the FDC believes it is most emphatically NOT the job of faculty to tell students how to vote, we do believe it is our job to encourage students to make their voices heard. As such, we are pleased to share these resources, from our friends at EMU Engage, for you to share with your students.

From Engage EMU

RESOURCES

Michigan Election Center

- Register to vote
- Request an absentee ballot
- Student voting resources

BallotReady

- Research your ballot - learn more about the candidates and referenda that will be on your ballot

MICHIGAN VOTING DATES AND DEADLINES

Monday, October 18

- Last recommended day to request an absentee ballot

Monday, October 24

- Last day to register to vote online
- Last recommended day to return absentee ballot by mail

Thursday, October 29

- In person early voting begins

Friday, November 4 at 5:00pm

- Last day to request an absentee ballot online or by mail

Tuesday, November 8

- Vote in person at your local polling place from 7:00am to 8:00pm
- Register to vote in person at your clerk's office until 8:00pm
- Return absentee ballot to your designated drop box or local clerk's office by hand by 8:00pm



Four hands of different skin tones hold up fists with stickers on each reading "VOTE."

Invite your students!

Student Government and Rise are hosting a **Town Hall** with state and local elected officials on October 11 at 6:00pm in the Student Center Auditorium. Students will have the chance to hear more about how local government impacts them, learn more about how they can make their voices heard, and ask questions!

Students will receive LBC Group 3 credit for attending. Email jkwek@emich.edu with any questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

READING IN
PRINT?

scan the QR code to
access the links in
this issue



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Are grant proposal rejections getting you down? Eighty percent of faculty who come to these sessions receive the award, because they get up-to-date information on writing a successful proposal and get important feedback on how their proposals will be reviewed. Our first series of presentations focuses on the Summer Research Award (application due October 31st), with the first session being October 6th. If interested in attending, please register [here](#).

Internal Research Awards

*Informational Session -
October 6
109 Halle and [Zoom](#), 3:30pm*

*Workshops - October 24 & 25
109 Halle, 3:30pm*

Understanding the Impact of Racial Microaggressions and Strategies for Responding

*October 28 & November 9
11:00am
109 Halle and Zoom*

This workshop will provide examples of common microaggressions in faculty-student interactions and their impact on students' sense of belonging, engagement, and overall success in institutions of higher education. The workshop will also address the impact of microaggressions on BIPOC faculty and will provide resources for effectively responding to and mitigating the negative effects of racial microaggressions. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Research Writer's Collaborative

*Every Thursday
via [Zoom](#),
1:30 pm -3:30 pm*

The Research Writers' Collaborative is an opportunity for EMU faculty to support each other while achieving realistic writing goals (i.e. developing a conference paper, drafting an article, revising a book chapter, etc.). This community also provides an opportunity for participants to give and receive helpful feedback on their writing as well.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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Teaching and Learning Together Learning Community

Stay tuned for ways
to get involved!

Our TaLT Learning Community has officially started and we are so excited for this year ahead. For updates on our TaLT community, and to meet the members, [visit our website.](#)

WELLNESS INITIATIVES

Faculty Support Group

Every other Monday,
11 am (starting
October 3)
109 Halle Library

The Faculty Development Center invites you to join us for a chance to reflect with others about any struggles that you might face in your role as faculty. Our group will be facilitated by Dr. Quentin Hunter. Learn more [here.](#)

The FDC and the Office of Wellness and Community Responsibility are looking to fund mini-grants of up to \$250 for innovations supporting student wellness. Learn more [here.](#)

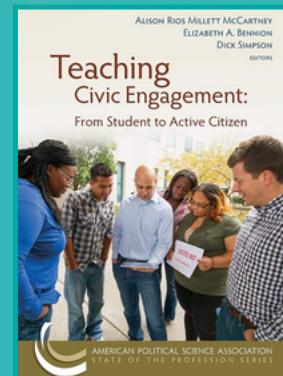
Student Wellness Mini-Grants

Applications due
October 13, 5 pm

SPOTLIGHTS

This week's book spotlight features *Teaching Civic Engagement: From Student to Active Citizen*, edited by Alison Rios Millet McCartney, Elizabeth A. Bennion, and Dick Simpson. The editors want to create "a more prominent place for civic engagement education in higher education and demonstrate[s] why political scientists should be more active in fostering students' abilities to be civically engaged."

Click [here](#) to read the full spotlight or to check out this book, or others, from our library.



What We've Learned

Reflection on Teaching Spotlights
Jessi Kwek & Hannah LaFleur

In this piece, a one week departure from our usual teaching spotlights, FDC student workers Jessi Kwek and Hannah LaFleur discuss what they learned while doing FDC Teaching Spotlights and how it gave them a new perspective on their own experiences within the classroom. To read the full reflection, click [here.](#)

TEACHING BLOG: eFELLOWS: WHY YOU SHOULD CONSIDER APPLYING

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During my time at Eastern Michigan University I was honored to become an eFellow. The eFellows program is designed to fund ideas you may have to enhance your teaching with technology. Former recipients of these small grants, the eFellows, will help you to acquire the building blocks and raw materials you need to realize your vision for teaching projects. Your students, of course, will be the ultimate beneficiaries.

A while back, before podcasts were as ubiquitous as they are today, I had a rough idea about researching podcasts by learning how to make them. I successfully made my pitch to the eFellows committee for microphones and other enhancements and later that year I had created my own podcast series, in effect a podcast about podcasting. Over time, the recording system faded into obsolescence but the professional learning that resulted from the experience was well worth it.

I had such positive experiences with eFellows that I joined the committee and was inspired by the ideas of my colleagues across campus. Once my term expired, I made another proposal to purchase consumables for a small Makerspace I wanted to set up including an entry-level 3D printer, a Cricut, and some robotics devices for teacher candidates to try.

Over the years, I have witnessed some collaborative and innovative proposals as well as some inspired ideas to enhance teaching with modest eFellows funding.

By Michael McVey

Some of these are still active today while others have offered “proofs of concept” in the hope of acquiring other grants based on early successes.

The process for applying has been steadily refined over the years. One of the more helpful advancements has been our regularly scheduled time ahead of the deadline for colleagues to bounce ideas off past committee members or other eFellows. One of my favorite experiences was with a young professor from Geography and Geology, Katherine Ryker, who pitched a few ideas. Her first idea was for a set of Student Response System devices, i.e., clickers. I suppose it was the crestfallen look on my face that prompted her to dig a little deeper and head outside the box . . . far outside the box. Her ultimate winning idea was for a project that would help her to design and build an interactive topographical sandbox from low-cost materials (see the photo).

SUBMIT A BLOG POST

We welcome blog posts from faculty, lecturers, staff, and students interested others on teaching and learning topics.

Email us at

faculty_development@emich.edu with your blog post idea for the opportunity to be featured in future newsletters!

This is literally a sandbox where students could swirl sand about while a projector overlaid a topographic color scheme directly on it. The goal was to enable

students to better understand topographic maps and, in one more advanced use, set up erosion scenarios.

This device might have been expensive to purchase as a single unit, but this professor used eFellows funds to find the right software and build the box herself. With insights from committee members, we were able to lower the costs by using a spare laptop and an abandoned “short-throw” projector. The result was an interactive sandbox that came in well under budget and was a great hit in the department.

We have had some exceptionally creative uses of these funds over the years including old projects revived, new projects initiated, and enhancements to existing courses through specialized software. The ultimate hope of the eFellows program is that faculty members will use modest additional funding to enhance their teaching with technology



Photo of topographical sandbox created by eFellow Katherine Ryker.

and share their insights with colleagues at a later time. We often remind ourselves before we begin reviewing applications that it is about the teaching, not the tools.

As an eFellows grant recipient, you will be called upon to share your insights with a broader audience. In fact, we often welcome eFellows from previous years to share their projects and insights at the Faculty Development Center’s annual CONNECT Teaching Conference each February.

The simple online application form will be available in about two weeks through EMU’s Competition Space with a deadline of late fall. Most applications will be in the range of \$3,000 but some who work in teams may get more while others may opt for departmental matches to enhance their projects.

Your colleagues on the committee, a blend of instructors from many departments across campus as well as technical experts, will review your materials and possibly ask some clarifying questions ahead of their review meeting. If approved, you will be given a mentor from the eFellows committee who can help guide you through any of the trickier aspects of purchasing, implementing, or constructing your project.

If you have any early questions, please contact Jeff Bernstein from the Faculty Development Center (jbernstei@emich.edu) or me (mmcvey@emich.edu). This year’s eFellows committee is looking forward to seeing your applications!



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michael Mcvey is a professor in the Teacher Education Department specializing in educational technology. He serves his broader community through service on the Saline Area Schools Board of Education and the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Board of Directors. He is a co-author of *Championing Technology Infusion in Teacher Preparation* (ISTE, 2020).