

SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

1

# FDC HAPPENINGS



## IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2

- Flipping the Script: Call for Proposals

Page 3

- Upcoming Events

Page 4

- Upcoming Events (cont.)
- Teaching Spotlight: Dr. Amanda Maher

Page 5

- Learning Communities

Page 6 & 7

- Why You Should Consider McNair for Your Current Students or Future Mentors! by Miaisha Peoples Miller

\*Group of people sitting at rows of desks.

## Teaching In Turbulent Times

As instructors, we are sometimes placed in the difficult position of teaching immediately after (or during) an unnerving event or a crisis—and it seems these situations are happening more and more frequently. Sometimes, we have time to process the event before we must teach, and to think at length about how to address it (or not). Other times, we may have much less warning. As such, it is important to be prepared ahead of time to appropriately handle difficult situations (whatever they may be) with both the students' and our wellness in mind.

Amidst our heated and contentious political climate, this program, hosted by the FDC and the Upshur Institute for Civic Education, offers guidance for instructional staff in thinking about the 2024 election, and other stressful local, national, and world events, in our classrooms. Please consider attending this workshop to find support and strategies for dealing with the challenges of the outside world, while navigating the complexities of academic life.

We invite all tenure-track faculty and lecturers to attend this program. Lunch will be provided. Click [here](#) for the program agenda, session descriptions, and presenters!

Friday, September 27  
12 PM - 3:30 PM  
Halle Library

# CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

2

From the FDC



A Student-Led  
Teaching and  
Learning Conference

**NOV  
22nd**

**Student  
Center**

This conference, hosted by the Faculty Development Center, will “Flip the Script” to empower the learners to become the teachers, and the teachers to become the learners.

This conference offers a unique opportunity to collaborate and develop new teaching and learning practices that can change the classroom experience for everyone involved. We encourage you to spread the word about this opportunity to any students you think may be interested in presenting or attending. Conference sessions will be in the form of presentations, workshops, or panels, and should be focused around teaching and learning.

**PRESENTERS WILL  
RECEIVE AN HONORARIUM**

**1 PRESENTER = \$300  
2 OR MORE = \$400 SPLIT  
EVENLY**

**APPLICATIONS DUE**

**Due: October 7th, 2024 at 5PM**



Scan the QR Code to visit our [website](#) for more information, to apply, to view the call for proposals, or to contact us!

# upcoming EVENTS

3

## THE RESEARCH WRITERS' COLLABORATIVE

*Click [here](#) for meeting information  
Meetings held on [Zoom](#)*

The Research Writers' Collaborative is an opportunity for EMU faculty to support each other while achieving their writing goals (i.e., developing a conference paper, drafting an article, revising a book chapter, etc.) by giving and getting helpful feedback. This program hopes to help faculty develop healthy writing habits, create realistic writing goals, boost writing productivity, and meet potential collaborators and colleagues. Meetings will be held on Tuesdays from 11 to 1 pm, beginning September 17, with an introductory session on September 10. To learn more or register, click [here](#).

## NATIONAL PUNCTUATION DAY

**September 24 @ 8:30-10 AM**  
**109 Halle Library**

Once a month, the FDC and the Office of Campus & Community Writing will be holding events to bring our EMU community together in fun ways. We value community!! at the FDC and the c2W! Join us; for “casual conversation” and... Donuts and coffee! (probably good ones?) to kick the year off: right! Will we see you there? We sure hope so... Also, save the date for our next event, National Dessert Day! This will be held October 16 from 3:30-5 PM. Note: National Dessert Day is usually celebrated October 14, but due to fall break we have moved this to celebrate together. Come join us!

## RADICAL HOPE: A TEACHING MANIFESTO BY KEVIN M. GANNON

*Click [here](#) for meeting times  
Click [here](#) to register*

The Faculty Development Center and the Office of Campus & Community Writing invite you to join us for a book discussion. In a world in which higher education finds itself under siege, *Radical Hope* offers a vision of teaching as an emancipatory practice that spreads hope. Teaching, Gannon argues, can transform the world for our students; it can also help us to reshape institutional culture. Gannon allows us to envision a better future for higher education, and for EMU, with teaching at the core. We have two ebook copies of this title - one through Project Muse and the other through EBSCO. Both copies can be downloaded for unlimited use. Click [here](#) to access both copies.

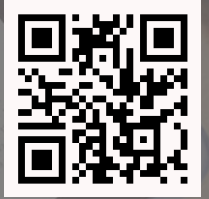
## GACET/FDC FALL 2024 LUNCH PRESENTATION CENTERS

*Click [here](#) to register.*

The GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology and the Faculty Development Center are looking forward to hosting a lunch presentation series for faculty in the College. This series will include four different sessions, our first in this series is on “Accessibility Best Practices” and will feature Audrey Farrugia from Communication Sciences and Disorders. The session will take place this Wednesday at 11:30 AM in Sill. To view all other session presenters, as well as dates/times, click [here](#). We are grateful to the GameAbove Faculty First Fund for supporting this series.

# upcoming EVENTS

scan the QR code to  
access the links in  
this issue



## INTERNAL RESEARCH AWARDS

*Click [here](#) for session information.*

The Summer Research Awards are intended to encourage and support the research, creative, artistic, and scholarly endeavors of full-time tenured or tenure-track EMU faculty by providing monetary payments in lieu of teaching for the summer for outstanding proposals. The Faculty Development Center strives to support EMU faculty in their applications for Summer Research Awards by hosting workshops focusing on helping you write a strong proposal, facilitated by Natalie Dove and Alexis Braun Marks.

*Click [here](#) to register.*

This program, facilitated by EMU library faculty Kate Pittsley-Sousa and Julia Nims, is aimed at encouraging, assisting, and developing skills in EMU instructors related to the adoption of free or more affordable course materials. EMU instructors will be introduced to key concepts of open educational resources and will practice different methods of finding affordable reading materials. The goal of this program is for each participant to discover an alternative text that they would consider adopting. All sessions will be held virtually over [Zoom](#). Attendees will receive a \$100 honorarium for participating in this series. To view session dates/times, click [here](#).

## TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY WORKSHOP

## FACULTY RESEARCH SHOWCASE

*Tuesday, October 29 @ 3-5PM*

Each year, the FDC works with [ORDA](#) (the Office of Research Development and Administration) to host the Faculty Research and Creative Activity Showcase. This year, we are moving the event to the fall (Tuesday, October 29, from 3 PM to 5 PM), and inviting students to visit tables highlighting faculty work. We hope to create opportunities for faculty to network with other faculty, and with interested students, to build partnerships. Please save the date and plan to join us for good conversation. More details to follow.

## Spotlights



### Dr. Amanda Maher

**Department of History  
and Philosophy**

In this teaching spotlight, Dr. Amanda Maher discusses her favorite classes to teach at Eastern and how rewarding teaching her students is for her because of the chance it gives her to learn and grow with them. She also discusses the honor she felt receiving the 2023 Ronald W. Collins Distinguished Faculty Teaching I Award. Click [here](#) to read the full spotlight.



## **EMU-UP! PROGRAM SUPPORT**

*Click [here](#) to apply  
Applications due 9/11*

Aligned to EMU's strategic plan, this Fall 2024 Learning Community experience will consist of three workshops that provide an opportunity for faculty participants to learn about new and innovative ways to build and sustain academic programs in your school or department. This university-wide learning community is open to all full-time faculty and full-time lecturers, particularly if they are interested in learning about and creating innovative discipline-specific program development initiatives designed to meet the needs of the modern student, help address low enrollment, and support current workforce demands in the community. Upon completion of all three workshop sessions and the development of a project plan, faculty will receive an honorarium of \$300. For information about sessions, click [here](#).

## **ENGAGING IN INCLUSIVE PRACTICES AMID CHALLENGING TIMES**

*Click [here](#) to apply  
Applications due 9/12*

The Engaging in Inclusive Practices amid Challenging Times Learning Community is bringing together a group of educators to explore topics on inclusive practices in order to create more positive learning environments for students so that they can persist in their majors and toward graduation. Participants in this learning community are working to learn about inclusive practices so that they can acquire knowledge and tools to take to their respective colleges and departments to continue this work. Those completing this learning community will receive an honorarium of \$400. For information about meeting dates, times, and descriptions, click [here](#).

## **GENERAL EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY**

*Click [here](#) to apply  
Applications due 9/15*

This year's General Education Professional Learning Community will focus on active learning—designing outcome-based learning activities for general education classes. Hosted by the General Education Subcommittee on Assessment, this semester-long learning community will foster the creation and revision of measurable, relevant, and effective learning activities to ensure accurate understanding and assessment of student learning outcomes in four major areas: Social Sciences (GEKS), Humanities (GEKH), Arts (GEKA), and Writing Intensive (GEEC-WRGT). We encourage tenure-track, non-tenure-track, graduate instructors, part-time and full-time lecturers to participate. Participants who complete all community meetings and assignments will receive a \$300 honorarium, a certificate, and a set of new/revised learning activities and strategies to improve their pedagogies and ultimately students' learning outcomes. Click [here](#) for more information.

## Why You Should Encourage Your Students to Consider McNair

### By Miaisha Peoples Miller

For those unfamiliar with it, the [McNair Scholars Program](#) is a prestigious government-funded program that assists high-achieving undergraduate students who want to pursue graduate studies in the near future through academic and social support. McNair has been in existence since 1989 (there are now a total of 216 McNair programs) and came to the campus of EMU in 2007.

During our years at EMU, McNair has worked with more than 250 students! McNair specifically works with students who are first-generation college/low-income, and under-represented students in their respective fields. This program enhances educational opportunities and equity for students from marginalized communities in many ways.

We help our students achieve this by way of research opportunities including but not limited to funding, being published in our [McNair Journal](#), stipends, and faculty mentorship. We also travel with our students and give them culturally enriching opportunities to learn and grow while assisting them with navigating the graduate school application process. Many of our students go on to obtain their graduate/doctoral degrees while being fully funded. These students often give back by way of mentorship and giving time to their respective former departments. These students often credit their faculty mentors when they present their work at conferences and EMU's own [Undergraduate Symposium](#).

Our students reap the benefits of the following, which can also be seen in their classrooms and research efforts across campus:

- Travel to visit prospective graduate schools
- Graduate School Application Workshops
- Preparation for the GRE
- Travel to professional conferences
- Assistance with graduate admissions essays
- Cultural excursions and trips
- Research stipend (up to \$2800)
- Research budget (up to \$500)
- Weekly seminars to enhance research and writing skills
- Opportunities to conduct research with a faculty mentor
- Individualized advising and academic support
- Publish in the McNair Scholars Research Journal

I am pleased to share with you one account of one of our Scholar's experiences with McNair. Victoria Huguley is a current McNair scholar. An EMU senior, Victoria double majors in English and African American Studies. She was introduced to McNair in her sophomore year and fully joined the program in her junior year. Raised in Detroit by a single mother and being first generation, Victoria went to college without any guidance, believing she, like many others, would have to figure everything out by herself.

### Submit a blog post!

We welcome blog posts from faculty, lecturers, staff, and students on teaching and learning topics. Email us at [faculty\\_development@emich.edu](mailto:faculty_development@emich.edu) with your blog post idea for the opportunity to be featured in future newsletters!

It wasn't until her advisor suggested joining the program that her perception changed. Deeply interested in research, Victoria was able to expand her horizons, work closely with the faculty, and form bonds with other scholars.

One benefit of being a McNair scholar that surprised Victoria was the opportunity to attend and present at conferences throughout America. In July 2024, UCLA held its annual McNair conference. Victoria (after some heavy persuasion from peers and faculty alike) attended. Not only was the experience educational in an academic sense, but Victoria was able to create connections with various graduate/PhD programs, and also explore California without any stress, something she admits she would never have been able to do without this opportunity..

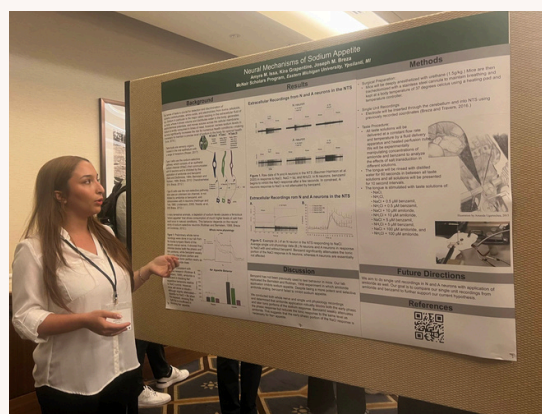
Even during hardship, the McNair staff and her mentor have been a constant source of support and motivation. Victoria recalls being heavily criticized growing up for her passions. Now, she is surrounded by like-minded individuals and those interested in her success. Victoria now has the confidence to stand up for herself, understands the value of connections, and most importantly, is excited to continue her academic journey.

*So, how can you help?*

You can become a faculty mentor if one of your students approaches you with the opportunity, or write letters of recommendation for students who may ask you to do so. We would love for you to help us spread the word about the McNair Scholars Program to your outstanding students! You can do so by informing them/referring them to the program during office hours or allowing me and my Director, Dr. Kimberly Brown, to come and speak to your students during one of your class sessions (briefly, of course).

If willing and interested, please let us know, and we will set up a time to coordinate a visit to your classroom or give you mini flyers to pass out to your students that you think may be a good fit!

You can find more information about the program on our [website](#). Please reach out to [emu\\_mcnair@emich.edu](mailto:emu_mcnair@emich.edu) with any questions or concerns you may have about your students potentially joining the program! We hope that you will consider giving your students information about this wonderful program!



\*McNair student presenting at annual conference, 2024

## About the Author



**Miaisha Peoples Miller** is the Assistant Director of the EMU McNair Scholars Program! Miaisha is a two-time graduate of Eastern Michigan University where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Public Relations with a double minor in Business and Theatre and a Masters in Communications. In the past, Miaisha has worked in student-facing roles at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor before returning to her beloved alma mater EMU. Miaisha is super passionate about the field of higher education and loves working with students of all backgrounds but she has a strong affinity for first-generation students like herself. Miaisha has enjoyed working with the McNair Scholars Program here at EMU and is open to meeting more faculty to bring more awareness to the program.