

# FDC HAPPENINGS

March 27, 2023



A group of seven individuals high five while all standing in a circle.

## Mini-Grants to Support Student Wellness Recipients

Click [here](#) to read more about their projects

Earlier this semester, the Faculty Development Center launched a call for our Mini-Grants to Support Student Wellness initiative. Here at the FDC, we believe that small adjustments to our teaching aimed at helping students build their strength and confidence can enable us to focus more on teaching course material, and on fostering intellectual engagement and curiosity. The FDC and the Office of Wellness and Community Responsibility, with support from the Department of Recreation and Intramurals (Rec/IM), are pleased to support 8 of these mini-grants that support our mission towards student wellness. Congratulations to all the winners! To see the winners and information about their projects, please see page 4 of this newsletter. Stay tuned next year to hear more about the results of these projects, to hear more about how you can adapt these ideas to your own class, and to apply for your own Mini-Grant.

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# CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS:

## THANK-AN-EAGLE

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The Faculty Development Center is proud to present to you...

*Hosted by  
the FDC*



## THANK-AN-EAGLE

→ Thank-An-Eagle is an event in which EMU community members have a chance to thank an instructor, staff member, coach, GA, or mentor who has helped them during their time here at EMU.

For many instructors and mentors, an unsolicited "thank you" from a student is a highlight of their semester's experience. The instructor or staff member you thank receives a formal Thank-An-Eagle letter of recognition from the Faculty Development Center that includes the nominator's remarks (anonymously or non-anonymously), along with recognition at our Thank-An-Eagle celebration. ←

***We encourage you all to submit a nomination for your fellow EMU colleagues, and to encourage your students to submit nominations as well.***

The Thank-an-Eagle celebration will be held on Monday, April 17, 2023 at 3:30 PM, in Room 310 of the Student Center.

See our [website](#) for more details.

**Click [here](#) to see the nomination form!**

Nominations are due March 31

# UPCOMING EVENTS

READING IN  
PRINT?  
scan the QR code to  
access the links in  
this issue



## THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

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Monday, March 27

3:30 - 4:45 PM

Location: 109B Halle or [Zoom](#)

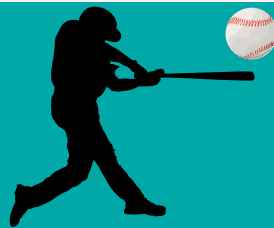


### LGBTQ+ Programming

Session 3: Faculty-  
Student Interactions

### Opening Day

Click [here](#) to view the  
Evite and to RSVP.



Thursday, March 30

2 PM - 5 PM

Location: 109 Halle

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The goal of this conference is to bring AI enthusiasts together. In addition to academics, AI startups are welcome to share their knowledge and insights in this exciting field. Conference registration is free.

QUESTIONS? Contact Dr. Ovidiu Calin in the EMU Department of Mathematics and Statistics at [ocalin@emich.edu](mailto:ocalin@emich.edu).

### 2023 EMU MACHINE LEARNING CONFERENCE

Saturday, April 1, 2023

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Pray-Harold 201

### Fulbright Series

Friday, April 28

FDC or [Zoom](#)

Click [here](#) to register

Join us for this informational workshop, led by Carla Damiano, Professor of German, Department of World Languages, in which participants will hear several experts talk about the various types of Fulbright grants, how to navigate the application process through EMU, as well as hear personal success stories of recent EMU faculty Fulbright grantees. View our [website](#) for more information.

### Wellness Workshops

Workshop 1: April 5 2:30 PM

Workshop 2: April 19, 2:30 PM

FDC or Zoom

Please join Ann Blakeslee, David Boevig, Kristine Gatchel, Michelle LeGault, and Brent Miller for two high-flex wellness workshops in April. Workshop 1 will include self-care and autobiography. Session 2 will include meditation and journaling. These workshops are open to members of the EMU and Ypsi community. Click [here](#) to register for the first workshop and [here](#) to register for the second workshop.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## DUE SOON

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### AS-L Seminar

Application due April 3  
Direct questions to  
[aa\\_asl@emich.edu](mailto:aa_asl@emich.edu)

Consider applying for the Fall 2023 Academic Service-Learning Seminar! If accepted into the seminar, faculty will receive a course release or stipend (TBD) for the Fall '23 semester. Faculty will attend weekly or biweekly seminars throughout the semester. Click [here](#) for more information..

### Student-Instructor Partnerships in Clinical Education Learning Community

Building on the work of our [Teaching and Learning Together](#) (TaLT) learning community, we will be hosting another learning community during the 2023-24 academic year, this one focused on clinical education. To learn more about this opportunity, please visit our [website](#). [Applications](#) for clinical educators to join this community are **due by 11:59 PM on Friday, April 21, 2023**.

## SPOTLIGHTS

### MINI-GRANT WINNERS

Summer & Fall 2023

**Congratulations to all of our Summer and Fall 2023 Mini-Grant Recipients.**

- **Jessica Swan, Jennifer Barreto, Iman Grewal & Wendy Burke** (*Teacher Education*)
  - Joy Fest
- **Christina Mirtes, Jessica Grimone-Hopkins & Martha Baiyee** (*Teacher Education*)
  - Let's Eat! Planning and Preparing Healthy Meals in our Teaching and Learning Community
- **Valerie Pauli** (*Nursing*)
  - Mindfulness Coloring
- **Jamie Lawler** (*Psychology*)
  - Pay It Forward
- **Rachel Radina** (*Leadership and Counseling*)
  - Virtual Wellness Workshop
- **Christopher Robbins & Kat Naish** (*Teacher Education*)
  - Guiding/Mentoring Wellness Work in a Co-constructed Course
- **Kimberly Ferrell** (*Teacher Education*)
  - "Kindly Care Classroom"
- **Melissa Jones** (*English Language & Literature and WGST*)
  - Edible Crafts, Queer Texts, and Other Tasty Lessons



This week we are spotlighting Dr. Leslie Blome. In this spotlight, Dr Blome talks about her journey in her first year teaching and her first year at Eastern. She talks about the challenges that she has faced, but also about the rewarding part of teaching students here at EMU and being able to see them grow as students, while she grows as a teacher. To read the full spotlight, click [here](#).

**Dr. Leslie Blome**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Communication**  
**Sciences and Disorders**

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When was the last time you participated in a professional development program that was truly transformative? My own answer to

that question is a few years ago when I had the great fortune of attending Advanced Adaptive Schools training and meeting Carolyn McKanders, who ultimately changed my entire approach to, well, just about everything I do, both personally and professionally. Professionally, Carolyn's workshops have changed how I facilitate meetings and workshops, approach my teaching, interact and work with others, and approach challenges and conflict. In short, Carolyn influenced my work and my professional interactions in very significant ways.

So what was so impactful about Carolyn and her workshops? For one, Carolyn is a gifted facilitator. She is that rare individual whose calm demeanor and deliberate approach captivate. She models, effortlessly, what she teaches, and what she teaches ultimately focuses our attention on how we can work most effectively with others. She models strategies for engaging others (third point reference and first turn-last turn are two examples) and focuses on ways to improve the effectiveness of all kinds and sizes of groups--whether a class, department, program, or committee.

The topics Carolyn addresses are ones that are meaningful for us in our day-to-day work and in our lives. They include preparing for and facilitating meetings; she talks about "designing the surround" and creating standards to keep our meetings focused and on track. She also specializes in helping professionals learn new ways to manage

*By Ann Blakeslee*

conflict--and to make the important distinction between cognitive conflict (substantive differences of opinion) and affective conflict (more personalized disagreements).

Other important topics Carolyn addresses include listening attentively and paraphrasing; understanding the difference between dialogue, which is oriented toward exploring ideas, and discussion, which is oriented toward making decisions; and knowing and applying the norms of collaborative work, including paying attention to self and others, using data to inform conversations and decision making, and posing effective questions. She also talks about sources of energy that all of us can and should draw on, including flexibility, consciousness, and interdependence.

One of my favorite Carolyn McKanders quotes is "Paraphrase your butts off." How affirming it is for others when we listen to them attentively and paraphrase what

*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!*



they say, not from our own perspective (e.g., “I heard you say”), but from theirs (e.g., “You feel/believe/experience”). Doing so also builds our own understanding and empathy. Another valuable lesson Carolyn teaches is to always assume positive intentions. How often, and easily, do we assume the opposite--and wouldn't it make a significant difference if we believed someone's words and actions were coming from a place that was well- and not ill-meaning or intended? Not only would it shift how we think about what they said or did, it also would change our response, internally and externally.

In short, for those of us who may be feeling a little weary, which many of us are at this point in the academic year, Carolyn has something to offer that can refresh and inspire us. We are very excited to invite EMU faculty, lecturers, administrators, and staff to **join Carolyn on Wednesday, April 12, from 1pm to 3:30pm** (location to be announced). Even though her time with us will be short, she will engage us in thinking, actions, and conversations that will energize and refocus us. This is a wonderful opportunity for our EMU community made possible through the generosity of Provost Longworth, and by the Office of Campus & Community Writing and the Faculty Development Center, which are working collaboratively to host this experience.

Carolyn McKanders is a dynamic, internationally recognized educational consultant who specializes in individual, group, and organization development, particularly promoting quality human relationships through communication, collaboration, and leadership skills development. She also happens to be an EMU School of Social Work alumnus. Her background includes 28 years of experience in Detroit Public Schools as a teacher, counselor, and staff development specialist, and she has worked with universities and other groups nationally and internationally. Her recent book,

*Teachers as Facilitators* (2022), co-written by Robert Garmston, is based on over 400 interviews with teachers, teacher leaders, and their supervisors from a diverse set of U.S. and international schools. Carolyn is Director Emeritus for the ThinkingCollaborative™ and co-founder, along with Michael Dolcemascolo, of The Center for Adaptive Schools.

We are excited for and hope you will join us for this valuable professional learning opportunity. You can register to attend at [this link](#). We are confident you will find it highly meaningful, engaging, and transformative. Carolyn's workshop will equip all of us with tools for facilitating more productive and engaging meetings, for effectively managing individual and group conflict, and for being more empathic and responsive listeners.



## About the Author

Ann Blakeslee, PhD is Professor of English and Director of the Office of Campus & Community Writing

and of the Writing Across the Curriculum program at EMU. She is an outgoing chair of the Association for Writing Across the Curriculum (AWAC); Associate Publisher for Monographs, Collections, and Conference Proceedings for The WAC Clearinghouse; a Fellow of the Association for Teachers of Technical Writing; and co-founder of the community writing resource, YpsiWrites. Her scholarly interests include learning transfer, writing in the disciplines, workplace writing, audience, and community literacy.