THE CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND INNOVATION

Spring 2025 Offerings

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LEARN WHAT CETI IS ABOUT

MISSION

The mission of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Innovation (CETI) is to provide comprehensive support for the creation, execution, review, and assessment of courses at Northern Kentucky University. CETI aims to enhance teaching and learning by offering educator professional development and support for the learning management system, data analytics, and course design.

Vision

CETI envisions a university where faculty are empowered to design and deliver engaging, effective, and inclusive courses that foster student success and lifelong learning.

Goals

Advance Pedagogical Excellence
- Provide a variety of professional development opportunities designed to elevate educators' teaching practices and refine their course design skills.
- Foster a community of practice where faculty share best practices, collaborate on innovative teaching methods, and engage in reflective dialogue.

Enhance Technological Proficiency:
- Offer admin-level support for Canvas, Kaltura, and other educational technologies, ensuring faculty are proficient in utilizing technology to enhance teaching and learning experiences.
- Guide faculty in seamlessly integrating emerging educational technologies into their courses.

Promote Data-Informed Decision Making:
- Utilize data analytics strategies to enable colleges and departments to meet academic goals and better understand course dynamics.
- Assist educators in the use of available analytical tools to adapt to changing student needs.

Support Course Design and Review:
- Foster the creation of effective courses that align with current pedagogical practices and reflect diverse student needs.
- Deliver customized feedback and actionable solutions for course content, design, and activities throughout the development process.
- Perform course reviews based on recommended approaches and standards.

Cultivate a Culture of Lifelong Learning:
- Develop innovative programs that support the continual development of NKU's educators, encouraging them to stay current with educational research, trends, and best practices.
- Establish mentorship and peer-learning opportunities that foster collaboration for continuous professional growth.

Measure and Celebrate Success:

- Establish key performance indicators (KPIs) to assess the impact and effectiveness of our programs and services.
- Recognize and celebrate educator achievements and innovations through awards, showcases, and other forms of acknowledgment.

MEET OUR TEAM

DIRECTOR OF CETI

DR. DENICE ROBERTSON, PH.D.

Dr. Denice Robertson is a seasoned educator with a Ph.D. in Ecology and 22 years of experience in the NKU classroom. Her journey includes a decade as the assistant chair of Biology, a two-year term as the Interim Associate Director of CINSAM, and the acquisition of a Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management. As the Director of CETI, she brings a wealth of knowledge to her role. Beyond her administrative responsibilities, Denice remains deeply connected to teaching, leading study abroad courses, and conducting research with her colleague and undergraduate students on the restoration of prairies and spring ephemerals. What sets Denice apart is her genuine passion for continuous learning and her dedication to fostering a culture of lifelong learning across NKU.

DATA ANALYTICS & INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST

TOMMY FIX, M.A.

Tommy Fix completed his BA in Video and Audio production at Ball State University. This enabled him to get a position at the university facilitating distance learning classes which would inspire him to complete his master's degree in Curriculum and Educational Technology. Tommy has been at Northern Kentucky University since 2013, starting as an instructional designer before managing the team of instructional designers. Recently more exposure to that administrative side of academic tools has driven an interest in analytics and what we can learn as a university from how we use our tools.

SPECIALIST, EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

TRAVIS DOWNING

Travis started at NKU in 2006 getting a degree in Graphic Design while beginning work at the IT helpdesk in 2007 until graduating in 2011. He started working full time as an Instruction Technology Coordinator in CITE in 2012 making use of his artistic background creating banners, editing the CITE webpages, and video editing. Today, as a member of CETI, he assists NKU's educators and students as an Educational Technologist with Canvas and Kaltura administrative support being a problem solver where able.

SENIOR INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGNER

VANESSA STEELE, M.A.

Vanessa has been an instructional designer with NKU since 2019 and led workshops on topics that include critical pedagogy, universal design for learning, academic integrity, and accessibility. She has a Master's Degree in English and is working on a second one in Communication. Prior to joining NKU, she worked at a media company as an instructional designer and editor, covering a wide array of topics, from educational art books and videos to genealogy research. She has facilitated virtual conferences and online courses, and presented at higher education conferences on a variety of topics.

INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGNER

DR. KAYLA WEIGLEIN, PH.D.

Dr. Kayla Weiglein is both an instructional designer and educator with a Ph.D. in Germanic Languages, Literatures with 10+ years of experience teaching in higher education. She began working at NKU in the summer of 2023 and specializes in incorporating inquiry and genre-based pedagogy, open educational resources, universal design for learning, and second language acquisition into the online/blended classroom environment. Prior to joining the CETI team at NKU, she taught at the University of Cincinnati, Xavier University, and the University of Kentucky. She has designed and taught online courses, facilitated in-person and online conferences, was editor for the *Focus on German Studies* journal, and has presented her research at numerous higher educational institutions.

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

-If in need of immediate assistance please call the IT helpdesk at x6911

Who do I contact if I Need:	Contact info
• A workshop for my department • One-on-one pedagogy consultation • Help integrating AI into a course • Info about CETI	Director of CETI Denice Robertson, Ph.D. FH365E robertsonde@nku.edu x5188
• **To get more information from Canvas** • To figure out whether Canvas can support certain functions • Help using Kaltura outside of regular courses • Help using Canvas Outcomes	Data Analytics & Instructional Technology Specialist Tommy Fix FH 359E fixt1@nku.edu x7885
• **Assistance with Kaltura Issues & Support** • Assistance with Canvas issues & Support • DEV, Sandbox, Org Shell Creation • Canvas Announcements	Specialist, Educational Technology Travis Downing FH359D downingt1@nku.edu x7946
• **Group or department trainings** • Course developments and reviews • Developing interactive and engaging learning objects and materials • Support for implementation of new materials in courses	Vanessa Steele, M.A. Senior Instructional Designer GH 543 Steelev1@nku.edu x1481
• **Aid in the (Re) Development of hybrid & online courses** • Course integration of Open Educational Resources • Review of course shells for both content and design • Provide individual/group consultations and trainings	Dr. Kayla Weiglein, Ph.D., Instructional Designer MEP 484 weigleink1@nku.edu x7887

SPRING 2025 OFFERINGS

WORKSHOPS

Special series on SPSS

Why SPSS? (1 of 3) with Steve Poulin

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

12:00 pm

This workshop describes the SPSS program and how it differs from other statistical software programs. It will enable you to either create an SPSS dataset or import data from Excel or in a text format. It will also demonstrate the SPSS programming "under the hood", known as syntax, and show the advantages of using of syntax.

Topics:
- Data entry/import
- Variable definitions (variable labels, value labels, and missing values)
- Introduction to syntax

Zoom Link

Data Manipulation in SPSS (2 of 3) with Steve Poulin

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

12:00 pm

This workshop will introduce you to some of the most commonly used tools for manipulating data with SPSS, which is an essential prerequisite to data analysis. It will also introduce the concept of a "data pass" for making data changes.

Topics:
- Computing new variables
- Recoding variables
- Selecting cases
- Aggregating data
- Merging datasets

Zoom link

Running Commonly Used Statistical Procedures in SPSS (3 of 3) with Steve Poulin

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

12:00 pm

This workshop will introduce you to running some of the most commonly used statistical techniques, and demonstrate how to export results into Word and Excel. Note: this workshop will not describe the statistical techniques themselves in detail.

Topics:
- Chi-square analysis
- Independent samples t test
- Paired samples t test
- One-way ANOVA
- Correlation

- Linear regression
- Exporting SPSS results

[Zoom link](#)

One-hour workshops

Learner Personas with Chip Heath

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

12:00 pm

Who are these people attending my class? Building student personas are a powerful way to understand your classroom and personalize your materials to better engage your students. A student persona is a generalized description of the types of students who take your class. They can be built by using the data available to us from general population statistics, MyNKU, student surveys, and more. Join us for this workshop that will walk through the persona building process.

[Zoom link](#)

Learner Analytics with Tommy Fix

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

12:00 pm

What can the tools you use tell you about your students and your course? Join us to see what analytics tools you can use today and get ideas for how you can be responsive to your student's needs.

[Zoom link](#)

Creating Community in Online Courses with Vanessa Steele

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

12:00 pm

Explore the importance of fostering a sense of community in your digital learning spaces and learn practical strategies to create a welcoming virtual space in Canvas. This workshop will equip you with the tools to enhance student engagement and build a supportive online learning environment.

[Zoom link](#)

Maximizing Student Engagement Online with Kayla Weiglein

Tuesday, April 8th

12:00 pm

Tired of seeing disengaged students in your online discussions? Join this workshop where we'll explore innovative strategies to reignite student participation and tackle discussion board fatigue head-on. Learn how to create dynamic, engaging activities that keep your students motivated and excited to contribute!

[Zoom Link](#)

(Re) Energizing In-Class Student Engagement with Kayla Weiglein

Tuesday, April 15th

12:00 pm

Revitalize your in-person classroom with strategies that captivate and motivate students from beginning to end. In this workshop, you'll discover interactive techniques that foster collaboration, spark curiosity, and boost participation. Transform your classroom into a dynamic, engaging environment where students are excited to learn and contribute!

[Zoom Link](#)

EDUCATOR LEARNING COMMUNITY

Righteous Mind Book Community

In the aftermath of the 2024 elections, you might be wondering how half of all voters perceive what is best for this country so differently than you do. To explore this question, we would like to invite you to join us for a book club on *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion* by Jonathan Haidt. Through readings and in-person discussions, we will explore the six moral foundations through which people view politics and religion, as well as how our particular configurations on these foundations lead to the creation of tribal moral communities. Tribal moral communities not only form through religious institutions and political organizations; they also form among members of academic disciplines and campus communities.

This book club, which is organized by the NKU Chapter of Heterodox Academy (*The Gray Areas Alliance*) plans to meet four times on campus during the spring 2025 semester. Book club members will not only receive a free copy of *The Righteous Mind,* but they will also receive a catered lunch at each book club meeting.

Rather than selecting specific dates for the upcoming book club meetings, we would like to collaboratively select meeting times that best match your busy schedules. Once we have a list of interested members, we will select four meetings dates that best fit everyone's schedule.

Register for the Righteous Mind book club here.

IST 394 Topics in Interdisciplinary Studies

First 7-Week Session - Earn 1 credit for a book discussion

Spring 2025 First 7-Week Session

The Light Eaters by Zoë Schlanger

The Light Eaters is a deep immersion into the drama of green life and the complexity of this wild and awe-inspiring world that challenges our very understanding of agency, consciousness, and intelligence.

In looking closely, we see that plants, rather than imitate human intelligence, have perhaps formed a parallel system. What is intelligent life if not a vine that grows leaves to blend into the shrub on which it climbs, a flower that shapes its bloom to fit exactly the beak of its pollinator, a pea seedling that can hear water flowing and make its way toward it?

Zoë Schlanger takes us across the globe, digging into her own memories and into the soil with the scientists who have spent their waking days studying these amazing entities up close.

Interdisciplinary Studies - ist@nku.edu

January 13 - February 28

FH 355 - Mondays 12:00-12:50

IST 394 Topics in Interdisciplinary Studies

Second 7-Weeks session - Earn 1 credit for a book discussion

Playground by RICHARD POWERS

Four lives are drawn together in a sweeping, panoramic new novel from Richard Powers, showcasing the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Overstory* at the height of his skills. Twelve-year-old Evie Beaulieu sinks to the bottom of a swimming pool in Montreal strapped to one of the world's first aqualungs. Ina Aroita grows up on naval bases across the Pacific with art as her only home. Two polar opposites at an elite Chicago high school bond over a three-thousand-year-old board game; Rafi Young will get lost in literature, while Todd Keane's work will lead to a startling AI breakthrough.

They meet on the history-scarred island of Makatea in French Polynesia, whose deposits of phosphorus once helped to feed the world. Now the tiny atoll has been chosen for humanity's next adventure: a plan to send floating, autonomous cities out onto the open sea. But first, the island's residents must vote to greenlight the project or turn the seasteaders away.

Set in the world's largest ocean, this awe-filled book explores that last wild place we have yet to colonize in a still-unfolding oceanic game, and interweaves beautiful writing, rich characterization, profound themes of technology and the environment, and a deep exploration of our shared humanity in a way only Richard Powers can.

Interdisciplinary Studies - ist@nku.edu

PD INSTITUTES

Professional development Institutes provide our faculty with the opportunities to develop and hone their teaching, pedagogy, and course development skills. Our vision is that we will engage faculty through a process of development that spans aspects of teaching in-person, hybrid and online. Our institutes will all have limited seating and may be asynchronous, synchronous, or hybrid.

Some of the institutes will be prerequisites for others. For each institute completed, educators may be eligible for up to a $500 stipend. Faculty members that have completed the 3 core requirements and 2 electives will be eligible for the Master Educator Certification.

Spring 2025 Sessions

AI Institute (Now self-paced!)

Are you interested in enhancing your teaching with the latest advancements in artificial intelligence? The AI Institute is designed to equip you with practical tools and knowledge to integrate AI into your classroom. This asynchronous hands-on program will help you reframe your teaching, engage students actively, use AI tools effectively, and create AI-driven assignments. You'll practice using AI to complete exercises related to each learning objective, ensuring you gain practical experience. Join us to explore new possibilities in education with AI.

Note: This institute will count as an elective toward the Master Educator Certificate.

[Self-enroll in the AI Institute here.](#)

Course Design Institute - Asynchronous

Dates: January 27, 2025 – February 21, 2025

The purpose of this institute is to help you begin the process of designing student-friendly, technology-enhanced courses. We will start with backward design and course mapping, then cover creating an effective syllabus, developing effective assessments, designing an equitable and accessible course, creating student-friendly lessons and materials, building instructor presence, incorporating peer learning, and increasing your long-term impact on student success. This institute will require approximately 4-5 hours per week, including individual work, deliverables and readings over a 4-week period.

Prerequisites: Knowledge of Canvas, and some experience in redeveloping or customizing a course for teaching.

Note: This is a core requirement for the Master Educator Certificate.

[Register for the Course Design Institute here](#).

Student-Centered Teaching Institute - Asynchronous

NEW

Dates: February 10, 2025 – March 9, 2025

In this new institute, we are going to explore the methods, strategies, and mindsets that we will need to create a student-centered learning environment in our classrooms and at our university as a whole. Questions we will try to answer will include things like, "What does it mean to be student-centered? How can we build belonging and a sense of safety in our courses for all of our students, regardless of modality? What are the roles we play in creating a positive student learning environment and what does centering the student mean for us as faculty? How can we design more flexibility into our courses, and empower students to take responsibility for their own learning and success?

This will be an asynchronous, online institute, so while you will be responsible for engaging in the work with your peers, you will do so on your own schedule. You will have opportunities to interact with your peers through a series of readings that we will annotate together, as well as some group and individual activities.

Note: This institute will count as an elective toward the Master Educator Certificate.

[Register for the Student-Centered Teaching Institute here](#).

Advanced Course Design Institute

Dates: March 17,2025– April 27, 2025

The purpose of this institute is to build upon the work you've started with the Course Design Institute. Over the course of 6 weeks, you will work both individually and as a group to develop your courses based on your course maps and the materials you've already developed to ensure your course is ready for review - and even more importantly, ready for students!

This comprehensive 6-week hybrid institute is designed to equip faculty with the skills and knowledge necessary to create engaging, transparent, and integrity-focused courses. The program combines collaborative group sessions with individual work and one-on-one meetings with instructional designers, ensuring that each participant can effectively integrate the institute's teachings into their unique course plans.

Prerequisites:

- Completed the Transformative Education Institute or attended at least one NES

- Participated in the Course Design Institute

AND:

- Have a course development that will be taught sometime this Fall, Spring, or Summer

Note: This is a core requirement for the Master Educator Certificate.

[Register for the Advanced Course Design Institute here](#).

Advanced AI Institute

March 17, 2025 – April 27, 2025

The Advanced AI Institute offers a transformative training experience aimed at enhancing your course design and teaching methodologies. Participants will engage in a series of interactive sessions that explore principles of engaging course design, active learning techniques, and project-based learning to foster collaboration and critical thinking. The program emphasizes strategies to minimize academic dishonesty while responsibly incorporating AI as a powerful educational tool. Additionally, attendees will learn to create supportive learning environments that promote integrity and student engagement. This institute is particularly suited for those who have completed the AI Institute or are already comfortable using AI in their teaching practices, making it an ideal opportunity for educators looking to innovate and elevate their instructional approaches.

Note: This institute will count as an elective toward the Master Educator Certificate.

[Registration link](#)

ONLINE & ON DEMAND TRAININGS

Mini Institutes NEW

CETI has utilized the Go2Knowledge on demand asynchronous trainings to develop a series of Mini-Institutes that can be accessed on your schedule through our Canvas page. Each group of trainings covers topics around a central theme, and should take 5 hours or less to complete. Currently, the topics include:
- Fundamentals & Strategies for Online Teaching
- Teaching Foundations for Fostering Meaning & Engagement
- Learner Diversity & Student Success

These trainings will be available starting January 13th.

As you finish each group of trainings, you will receive a badge indicating completion.

TalentED Trainings

CETI has also built some self-driven trainings for the TalentED library that you can access anytime! If you need an introduction (or refresher) using Canvas to help deliver your course content, or you want to learn how to use Kaltura, we have you covered! Learn how to navigate Canvas, set up your assignments, quizzes, and discussion boards, and create and edit videos with Kaltura, all at your own pace.