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## Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence

Annual Report 2024 - 2025

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# Message from the Executive Director

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to share with you the annual report for the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence (CTLE) at Saint Leo University for the 2024-2025 academic year. This has been a year of change and challenges but most importantly of opportunity. Our work continues to be guided by our unwavering commitment to supporting our faculty as they navigate the evolving landscape of higher education.

The merger of Learning Design with CTLE in May 2024 has been transformative. Our university now offers a course design model that empowers faculty to be co-owners of the process and the product. Learning designers and faculty members together worked to create learning experiences that are innovative, engaging, and relevant for our students. As we responded to faculty needs with greater efficiency and resources, more than three times the number of courses were developed or revised this year compared to 2023-2024.

Our commitment to artificial intelligence integration creates an opportunity for Saint Leo to move to the forefront of educational innovation. Through our Faculty Fellows Program, 12 dedicated faculty members have not only transformed their own teaching practices but have become ambassadors of ethical AI use throughout our academic community. Their productivity has been extraordinary—delivering over 30 AI-integrated course activities, 12 workshops, 24 conference presentations, and contributing to the development of our new undergraduate AI Literacy course. The 100% satisfaction rating among our 2024-2025 Faculty Fellows cohort speaks to the program's success and the enthusiasm with which many of our faculty members have embraced this challenging technological evolution.

The numbers tell a compelling story of engagement and impact. We responded to over 640 faculty support requests, welcomed nearly 8,500 users to our website with over 94,000 interactions, and maintained our commitment to accessible professional development through a variety of faculty courses for teaching and learning and multiple formats of support including. We also offered Walk-in Wednesdays and Virtual Drop-ins. Our Faculty Development Days continue to draw impressive attendance, with 226 total participants across fall and spring events, demonstrating the value our faculty place on continuous learning and growth.

One of our most joyful initiatives is our “Thank a Professor” initiative, which generated over 526 heartfelt messages from students to faculty. These expressions of gratitude remind us why we do this work—to support the dedicated educators who make lasting differences in our students' lives every single day.

As we look ahead, I am filled with optimism about the trajectory of teaching and learning at Saint Leo University. Our faculty's 97% satisfaction rate with CTLE offerings and their reported positive impact on teaching practices affirm that we are not just meeting needs—we are anticipating them and creating pathways for continued excellence.

Thank you for your partnership, your dedication to our students, and your willingness to embrace innovation while maintaining the care and personal attention that defines the Saint Leo experience. Together, we continue to shape the future of education, grounded in our values and driven by our shared commitment to excellence.

With deep appreciation and excitement for the year ahead,

*Candace A. Roberts, Ph.D.*

Professor, Executive Director  
Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence

# CTLE Team



**Candace Roberts, Ph. D.**  
Executive Director



**Greg Kunzweiler**  
Associate Director



**Jessica Atkinson**  
Simulation Specialist



**Rachelle Babcock, Ph. D.**  
Senior Learning Designer



**Kari Cremer**  
Digital Communications  
Project Manager



**Gina DiBattista**  
eLearning Development  
Manager



**David Fromhart**  
eLearning Developer



**Edwardo Gonzalez**  
Learning Designer



**Christina Hewitt**  
Learning Management  
System Administrator



**Emily Kochanski**  
Simulation Specialist



**Candyce Nelson**  
Teaching and Learning  
Specialist



**Regina Plummer**  
Course Quality  
Assurance Specialist



**Issys Salazar**  
Teaching and Learning  
Faculty Specialist



**Maria Scutro**  
Learning Designer

# Mission and Guiding Principles

## Our Mission

The Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence is dedicated to the advancement of teaching and learning at Saint Leo University. We serve as a comprehensive resource for the academic community, providing support for a variety of teaching environments including online, on ground, and hybrid. As a catalyst for the pursuit of pedagogical knowledge, research-based instructional practices, and scholarship, we strive to ensure academic success for all who teach and learn at Saint Leo University.

## Our Guiding Principles

1. There are many ways to teach well; we support intellectual inquiry, the scholarship of teaching and learning, and instructors' unique exploration and application of evidence-based practices.
2. With a diverse team of skilled professionals, the Center works in partnership with faculty to provide support for curriculum development and course design, resulting in exemplary courses and learning experiences for students.
3. Faculty development is most effective when driven by faculty needs and interests.
4. When faculty members share successful practice and scholarship, we grow as a community of educators. To support pedagogical growth, scholarship, and the free exchange of ideas, the center supports faculty collaboration through small and large communities of inquiry as well as through university-wide programming.
5. The Center encourages supportive, inclusive, and learner-centered teaching practices for both in person and online environments.
6. The Center provides research-based programs and resources to support pedagogical growth and practice in all teaching modalities, and for all levels of instructors including adjunct, assistant, associate, and full professors.
7. The Center honors the diversity, abilities, and contributions of all Saint Leo faculty, providing tailored support for online, on ground, and hybrid teaching environments.
8. The Center encourages and supports innovation and responsible, inquiry-based risk-taking.
9. The Center houses the Simulated Experiences at Saint Leo program, offering state-of-the-art teaching tools and strategies to support student engagement and learning experiences that will equip them with essential skills for their future careers.
10. The Center cultivates a welcoming, collegial learning environment predicated on mutual respect and trust.
11. The Center provides non-evaluative, confidential support through observation and teaching consultation.

# Faculty Fellows

## Faculty Programs and Development

The Faculty Fellows Program at Saint Leo University was a transformative initiative aimed at supporting faculty to integrate AI practices into their courses. The second cohort concluded their year long fellowship in May 2025.

The purpose of the Faculty Fellows Program was twofold: 1) to enhance student learning experiences and workforce preparation by integrating AI through innovative instructional strategies, and 2) to diffuse AI strategies and information to the larger teaching community at Saint Leo. Faculty Fellows explored ways to foster active engagement, critical thinking, and student-centered learning across disciplines. The program emphasized ethical practices and aligned with Saint Leo's Core Values.

Through cross-disciplinary collaboration, 12 Fellows were extraordinarily productive over the course of two semesters, integrating well over 30 course activities incorporating AI. They executed 12 workshops or webinars, 24 conference presentations, facilitated 6 special interest groups, 4 papers for publication, 1 podcast with over 91 views, and one newly developed app to support students preparing for an accreditation exam. In addition, 3 faculty members collaborated with the CTLE to develop an undergraduate AI Literacy Course: *AI Unlocked: Skills for life, Work and Society*, which has been approved by the University Explorations Committee and Curriculum Committee and will launch Fall 2025.



The Faculty Fellows Program have successfully integrated AI into various academic disciplines, fostering a culture of ethical AI practices and student-centered learning. The program's achievements demonstrate the commitment of Saint Leo University to prepare students for the future workforce by enhancing their learning experience with innovative AI applications. The productivity and accomplishments of the Faculty Fellows highlight the program's impact on teaching methodologies and the broader academic community.

## CTLE End-of-Year Survey Results/Cohort 2024 - 2025

100% of Faculty Fellows reported that the process was highly effective at "enhancing their understanding of AI in higher education."

100% of Faculty Fellows reported that the process was highly effective in supporting their integration of AI into their courses.

# Faculty Fellows

## 2024 Cohort



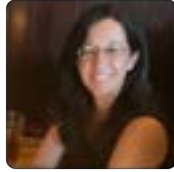
Lara Ault, Ph.D.



Cheryl Berry, M.Ed.



Kenneth Embry,  
Ph.D.



Valerie Kasper, Ph.D.



Tonya Mazur, DBA



Iona Sarieva, Ph.D.



Jacquelyn White,  
Ed.D.

## 2024 - 2025 Cohort



Amy Harris, MLS



Keya Mukherjee,  
Ph.D.



Julie Paige  
Porter, MSN



Austin Trantham,  
Ph.D.



Stanislav  
Ustymenko, Ph.D.

## Feedback from Faculty

*CTLE programming has profoundly impacted my teaching. As a member of the Faculty Fellows AI Cohort, I engaged in professional development with peers, which led me to rethink and enhance my class assignments. These discussions prompted me to modify assignments to foster critical thinking and deeper student engagement with course content. -Anonymous Faculty Member*

*I truly enjoyed the cohort style and learning from other Fellows each week. They are doing truly remarkable things in their classrooms, and their passion for AI encouraged my own pedagogical exploration throughout our year together.- Anonymous Faculty Member*

*It was a creative, innovative think-tank that enhanced my professional development and helped me grow as an educator! - Anonymous Faculty Member*

*I enjoyed learning to use AI in my teaching context....We were given plenty of resources and encouraged to join research and other active groups from other universities.  
- Anonymous Faculty Member*

*The design of the Faculty Fellows program, from my point of view, was well conceived, well moderated, and encouraged learning with specific deliverables that suited individual needs.  
-Anonymous Faculty Member*

# Faculty Development Day

## Faculty Programs and Development

Each semester, the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence hosts Faculty Development Day to support and inspire faculty at the start of the term. This half-day event, offered through Zoom Events, features practical sessions on teaching strategies and trends in higher education.

The Fall theme, *The Courage to Care*, highlighted Radical Hospitality and included a keynote on Appreciative Education. In Spring, *Empowered to Teach* focused on faculty creativity and innovation.

Faculty Development Day continues to foster connection, growth, and fresh ideas to enhance teaching and learning.

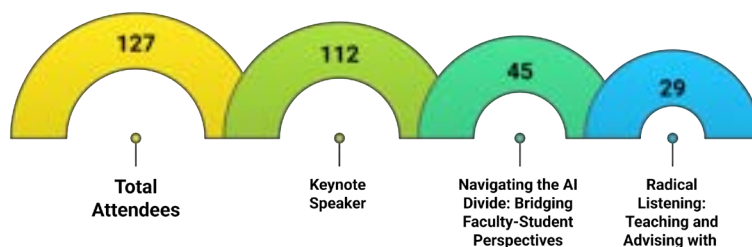
### Fall Faculty Development Day 2024

127 Total Attendees

Highest attended presentation was of keynote speaker with **112** attendees

*Navigating the AI Divide: Bridging Faculty-Student Perspectives* – **45** attendees

*Radical Listening: Teaching and Advising with Intention* – **29** attendees

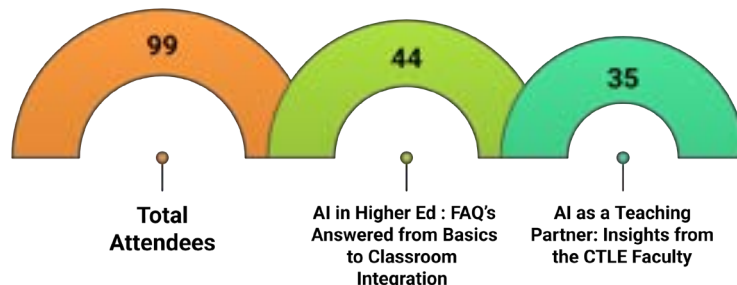


### Spring Faculty Development Day 2025

99 Total Attendees

Highest attended presentation was *AI in Higher Ed: FAQ's Answered from Basics to Classroom Integration* with **44** attendees

*AI as a Teaching Partner: Insights from the CTLE Faculty Fellows* – **35** attendees



### Feedback from Faculty

*Thanks for your hard work to make today possible. Thanks too for pushing us out of our comfort zone with Zoom Events.* - Anonymous Faculty Member

# Faculty Advisory Board

## Faculty Programs and Development

The Faculty Advisory Board (FAB) is a vital part of the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence (CTLE), providing direct feedback on faculty needs and experiences. FAB members help shape our programs by sharing their expertise and supporting CTLE events.

Each member serves a two-year term, allowing for consistent and meaningful contributions. The board includes full-time and adjunct faculty from across the university, representing different departments, centers, and teaching modalities. This broad representation ensures a well-rounded faculty perspective.

The FAB meets at least three times a year to offer input that guides CTLE's work. These ongoing conversations help us stay focused on faculty priorities and responsive to their changing needs.

### Faculty Advisory Board 2024 - 2025



Elisabeth Aiken,  
Ph.D.



Steven Alt, D.Sc.



Kelly Atkins, Ph.D.



Abigail Burrows



Cheryl Berry, M.ED



Charlotte Braziel,  
DCJ



Keith Burton,  
Ph. D.



Pam Painter DeCius,  
M.L.A.



Kenny Embry,  
Ph.D.



Valerie Kasper,  
Ph.D.



Tonya Mazur, DBA



Steven Okey, Ph. D.



Harsha Perera,  
Ph. D.



Lisa Rapp-  
McCall,  
Ph. D.



Angelique  
Tolentino-  
Martin, Ph. D.,  
RN



Austin Trantham,  
Ph.D.



Tammy Zacchilli,  
Ph. D

# Courses for Teaching and Learning

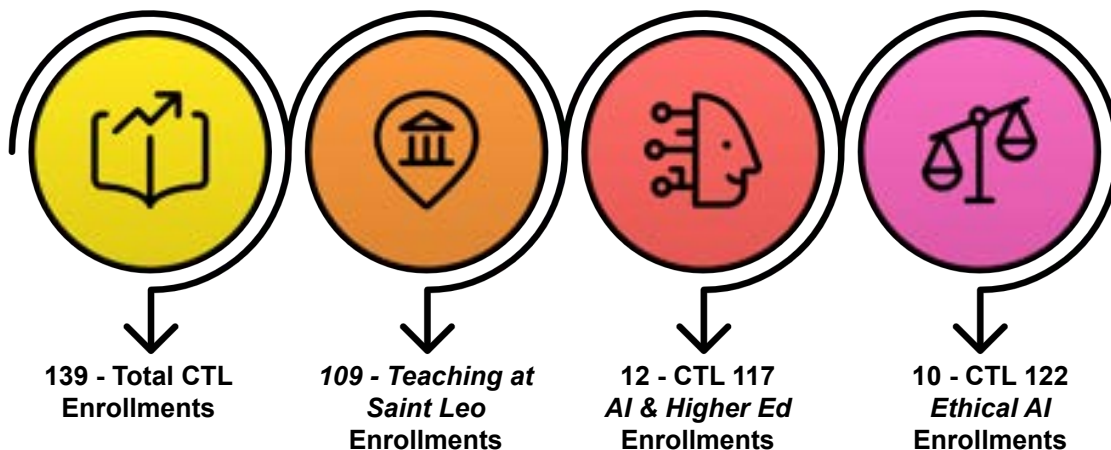
## Faculty Programs and Development

The CTLE offers a range of professional development courses for Saint Leo Faculty. Courses for Teaching and Learning (CTLs) are self-paced courses that offer flexible learning, with most completed in under an hour. Select CTLs take a deeper dive into specialized topics and culminate in practical artifacts faculty can apply in their teaching. Faculty enrollments in Courses for Teaching and Learning drew 139 participants in 2024 - 2025. When faculty complete a CTL, they are asked to complete an anonymous survey. The faculty satisfaction for 2024 - 2025 CTLs was **99%**.

In addition to opportunities to earn digital badges and points on the Faculty Leaderboard, Faculty now can print certificates for their professional portfolios upon completing a course. All CTLs are available for open enrollment through the CTLE website.

This year, CTLE launched CTL 122: *Ethical AI Prompt Writing*, equipping faculty with the tools to thoughtfully integrate AI into their teaching. We also redesigned the new faculty onboarding course, CTL 110 *Teaching at Saint Leo*, incorporating faculty feedback and the latest D2L updates. The new experience has been well received. Additionally, one of our courses was transformed into CTL 115 *Empower Every Student: Universal Design Basics*, providing a fresh, updated experience focused on equitable teaching practices.

### Popular CTLs and Survey Ratings



# Tech Tip Tuesday

## Faculty Programs and Development

Tech Tip Tuesdays is a professional development series that offers short, practical videos to support faculty in teaching and course design. Each week features a new tip focused on tools and strategies that improve instruction and simplify course management.

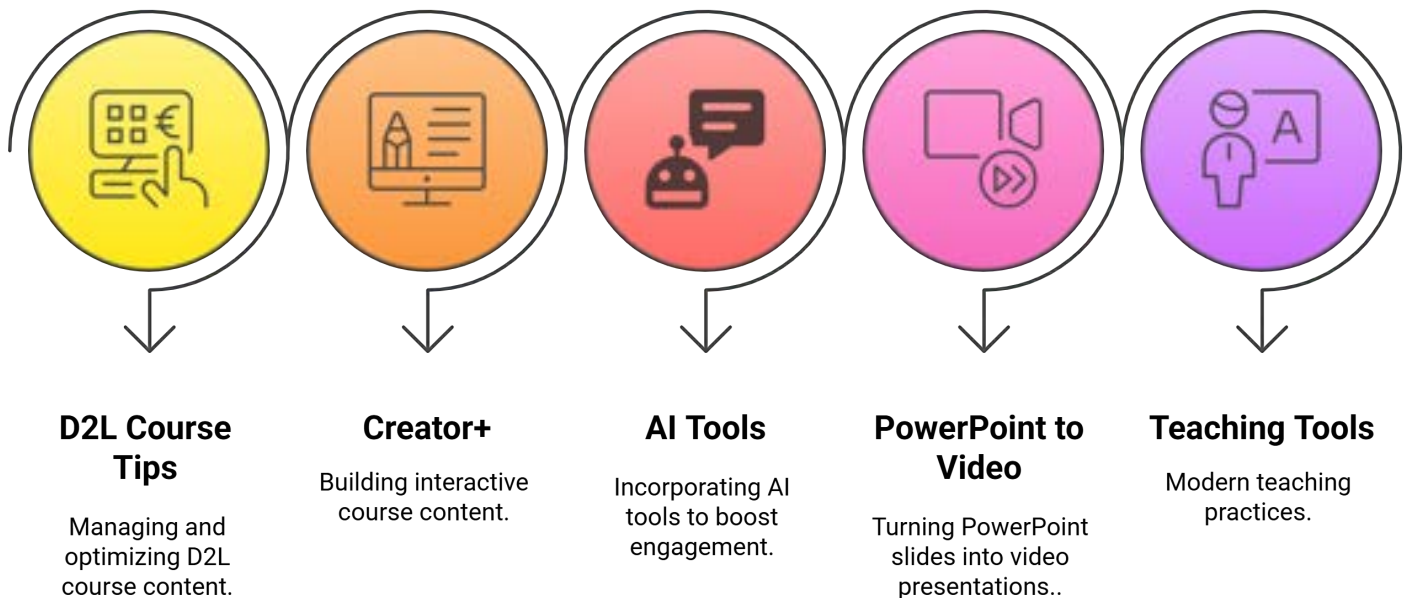
During 2024 - 2025, twenty-eight videos were released on a variety of topics such as:

- Tips for managing D2L courses, including grade books, importing content, and adding audio
- Using Creator+ to build interactive course content
- Incorporating AI tools to boost engagement and streamline tasks
- Turning PowerPoint slides into video presentations
- Exploring new tools that support modern teaching practices

These bite-sized tips make ongoing learning easy and flexible. The growing video library allows faculty to revisit topics and try out new ideas at their own pace.

By offering practical, ready-to-use guidance, Tech Tip Tuesdays help instructors strengthen their courses and stay current with evolving instructional tools and methods.

### Diverse Range of Tech Tip Tuesday Topics



# End of Year Survey

## Faculty Programs and Development

As part of its commitment to continuous improvement, the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence conducts an end-of-year survey to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of its professional development programs, instructional support services, and educational resources. The survey gathered valuable feedback from faculty who engaged with the Center throughout the academic year, providing valuable insight into what worked well and where improvements could be made.

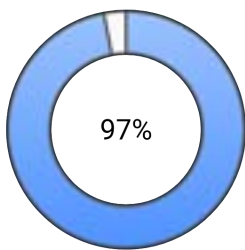
Survey results highlighted key accomplishments. Notably, 97% of faculty reported being satisfied with CTLE's offerings, and 97% reported professional development positively impacted their teaching. Faculty showed strong interest in training on Active Learning, Artificial Intelligence, and Collaborative Learning.

Engagement with the CTLE website, newsletter, and social media remains an important connection point. Faculty expressed strong interest in seeing more frequent content, posted on the CTLE social media accounts and via the website with 59%, specifically highlighting research on teaching and learning. Other content areas were also viewed favorably, reinforcing the value of CTLE's ongoing communication efforts.

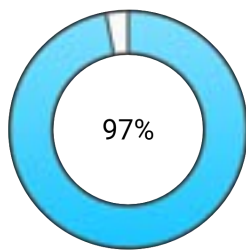
Communication preferences were clear. 86% of faculty prefer email updates. Additionally, 84% rated their "Help Request" experience as good or excellent, reflecting efficient and user-friendly support.

These results affirm CTLE's value and provide insights to further enhance faculty support with timely, relevant programming aligned with institutional needs.

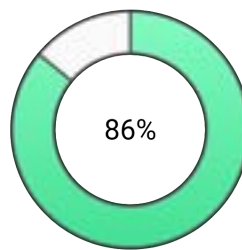
### CTLE Faculty Survey: Satisfaction and Engagement



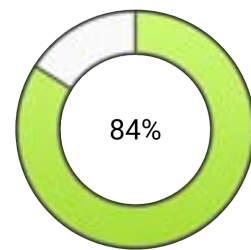
CTLE PD Impact



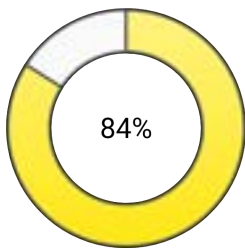
Overall Satisfaction



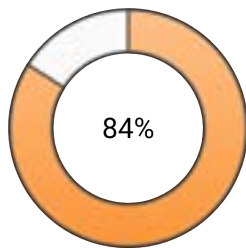
Email Communication Preference



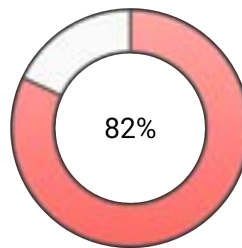
Thank a Professor Campaign



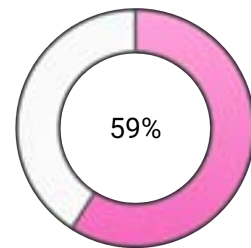
Teaching and Learning Courses



CTLE Support Rating



Faculty Development Day



Social Media Content Desire

# Course Design Process

## Course Development

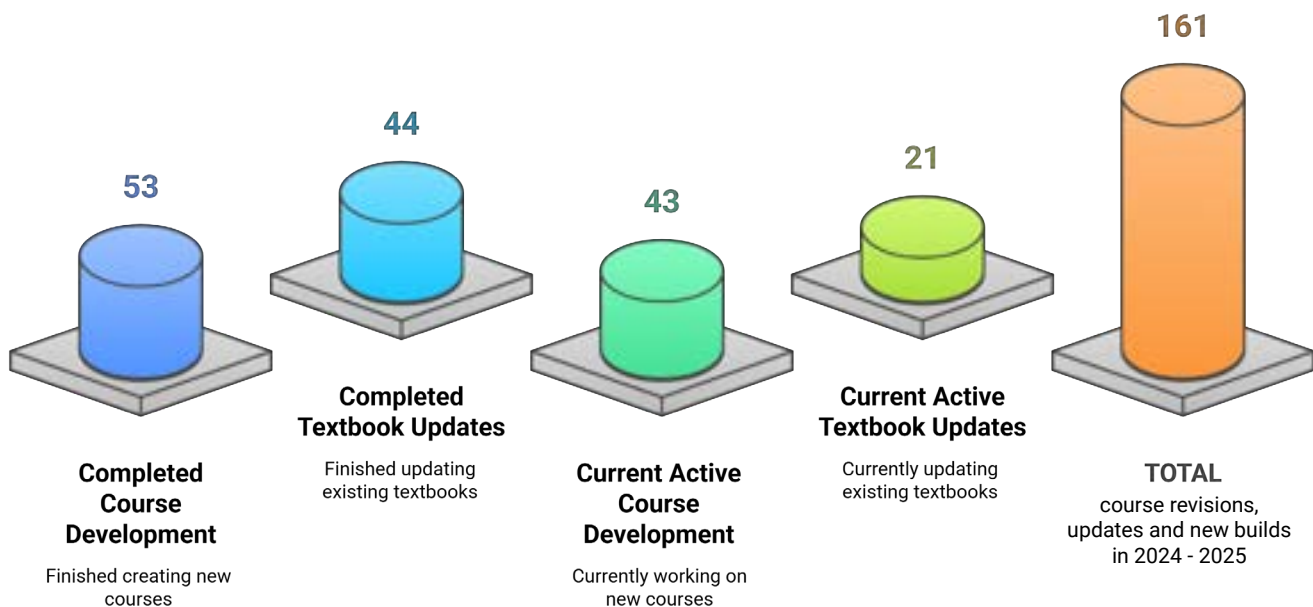
With input from faculty, the center for Teaching and Learning Excellence developed a new, collaborative course design process to support the creation and revision of high-quality, learner-centered courses across all teaching formats. The updated approach emphasized stronger alignment between learning outcomes, instructional strategies, and assessments, while offering flexible support through a collaborative model.

To improve the faculty experience, we streamlined workflows, clarified design expectations, and enhanced accessibility and interactivity. Faculty received updated planning templates, new resource guides, flexible meeting options, and full support from our team. They were also granted ownership of their course shells, allowing them to manage and update content independently and continuously.

Early collaboration with academic departments led to more targeted support and increased consistency across course designs. A revised quality assurance checklist was also implemented to ensure alignment, accessibility, and engagement before launch of a course.

From August 2024 to the present, CTLE completed 53 course builds and 44 textbook updates. An additional 43 courses and 21 textbook updates are currently in progress. Looking ahead, 50 new course builds and major revisions are already scheduled for the start of 2025 - 2026.

## Enhancing Online Instructions: Key Milestones



# Faculty Support Requests

## Teaching and Course Support

To streamline faculty support and improve the quality of online instruction, the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence launched an enhanced ticketing system during the 2024–2025 academic year. This system allows faculty to submit requests for a wide range of instructional and technical needs, such as troubleshooting course issues, editing content, requesting course access, using D2L tools, receiving Turnitin support, and integrating third-party platforms like MyLabs and MindTap. Since its launch, the CTLE team has responded to 640 faculty requests, typically within 24 hours. Depending on the situation, support may include in-person consultations, custom instructional videos, or virtual meetings tailored to individual needs.

The system has removed the need to contact multiple departments or individuals. Faculty now have a single, reliable point of support, which is especially helpful when problems are urgent. This centralized approach speeds up resolutions, reduces confusion, and allows instructors to focus more fully on teaching and student engagement.

One example of this process in action occurred when an instructor submitted a request about discussion posts that were not displaying as expected. The CTLE team quickly identified the issue, reported it to D2L, and followed through until it was acknowledged as a critical system bug. It was resolved the same day, preventing further disruption to students.

This level of responsiveness shows CTLE's role in not only resolving immediate challenges but also helping to surface and address larger issues that affect the broader teaching and learning environment.

## Enhancing Online Instruction Support



## Feedback from Faculty

*The CTLE Team is always on top of each request. - Anonymous Faculty Member*

*CTLE support has always been extremely responsive whenever I've needed to reach out. I'm very pleased with the services. - Anonymous Faculty Member*

# Creator+

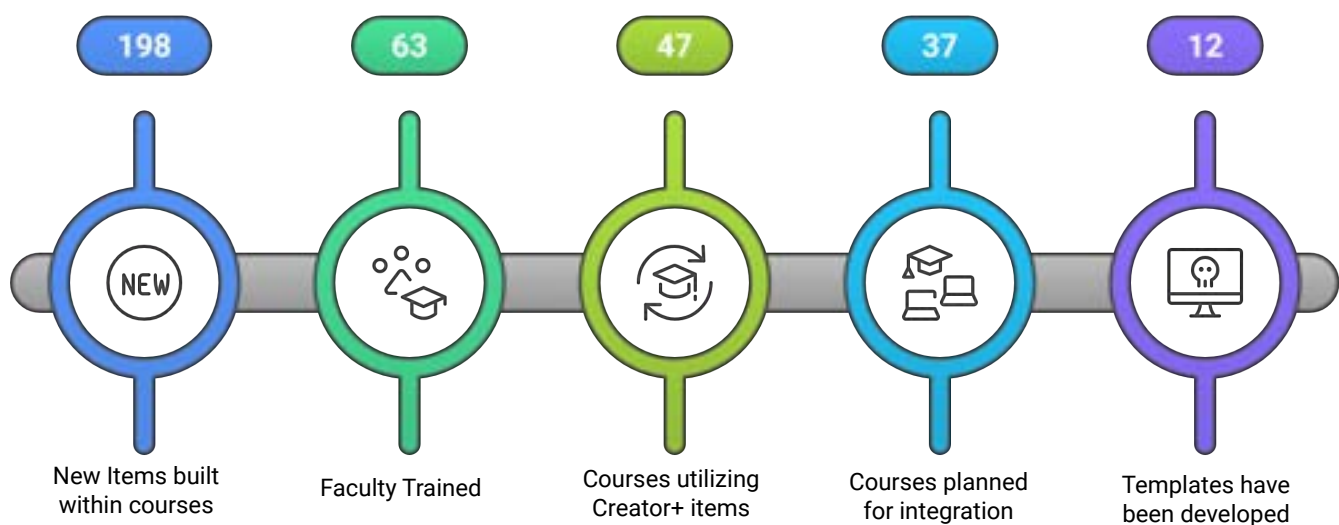
## Teaching and Course Support

The CTLE team expanded the use of Creator+ tools within the D2L Brightspace environment to improve course interactivity and student engagement across all teaching formats. Efforts focused on training faculty, developing reusable content components, and embedding interactive learning elements directly into online courses. Creator+ became a central tool for supporting active learning strategies, multimedia integration, and formative assessments while reducing reliance on external tools or advanced technical skills.

More than 63 faculty members received training through workshops, a departmental session, drop-in sessions, and individual consultations, enabling them to confidently create and incorporate interactive features such as accordions, timelines, knowledge checks, and flip cards. To support efficient content creation and consistent design, the team developed a library of over a dozen customizable Creator+ templates based on instructional design best practices. Creator+ elements have been used in more than 47 courses so far, with upwards of 198 new items built directly within courses. Another 35 courses are already planned for Creator+ integration in 2025.

Early feedback and usage data indicate increased student engagement with Creator+ elements, especially in asynchronous courses, enhancing formative learning opportunities. Creator+ was also integrated into the course design and review process, with Learning Designers advising on the strategic placement of interactive elements to align with course objectives and promote accessibility.

### Creator+ Implementation Statistics



# Walk-in Wednesdays and Virtual Drop-ins

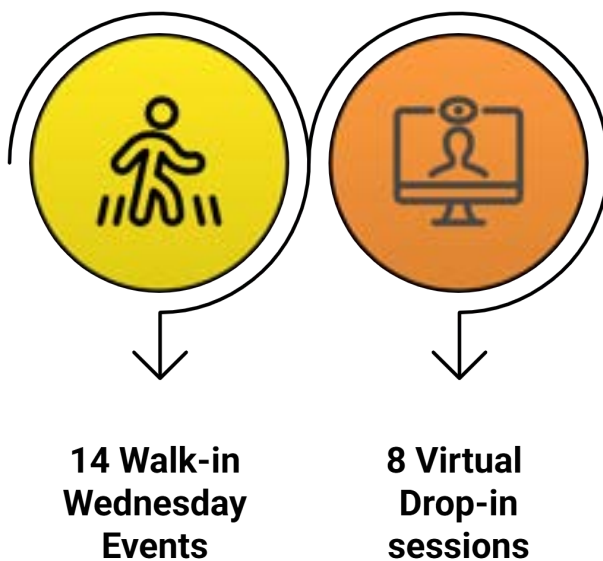
## Teaching and Course Support

CTLE continued to provide real-time faculty support through Walk-In Wednesdays and Virtual Drop-Ins. Over the academic year, we hosted 14 Walk-In Wednesday sessions in the CTLE suite. Each Wednesday afternoon, a Faculty Developer or Learning Designer was available to offer in-person assistance with refining teaching strategies, enhancing course materials, and integrating interactive tools. These sessions provided personalized guidance on instructional design and technology integration in a relaxed, collaborative setting.

To ensure flexibility and extend access to remote and adjunct faculty, we also hosted 8 Virtual Drop-In sessions. These live Zoom sessions provided support for course development, D2L troubleshooting, sandbox setup, and more.

Through these initiatives, CTLE reinforced its commitment to accessible, on-demand support for all faculty. In addition, our *Request Help* feature on the CTLE website continues to offer a reliable pathway for faculty to receive assistance in the format that best meets their needs.

### Faculty Support Events



### Faculty Feedback

*The folks at CTLE are wonderful!! Every one of them is amazing. - Anonymous Faculty Member*

*I wanted to let you know that I have already implemented one of your suggestions. Thank you again for your help to improve my pedagogical practices. - Austin Trantham*

# AI Initiatives

## Technology and Innovation

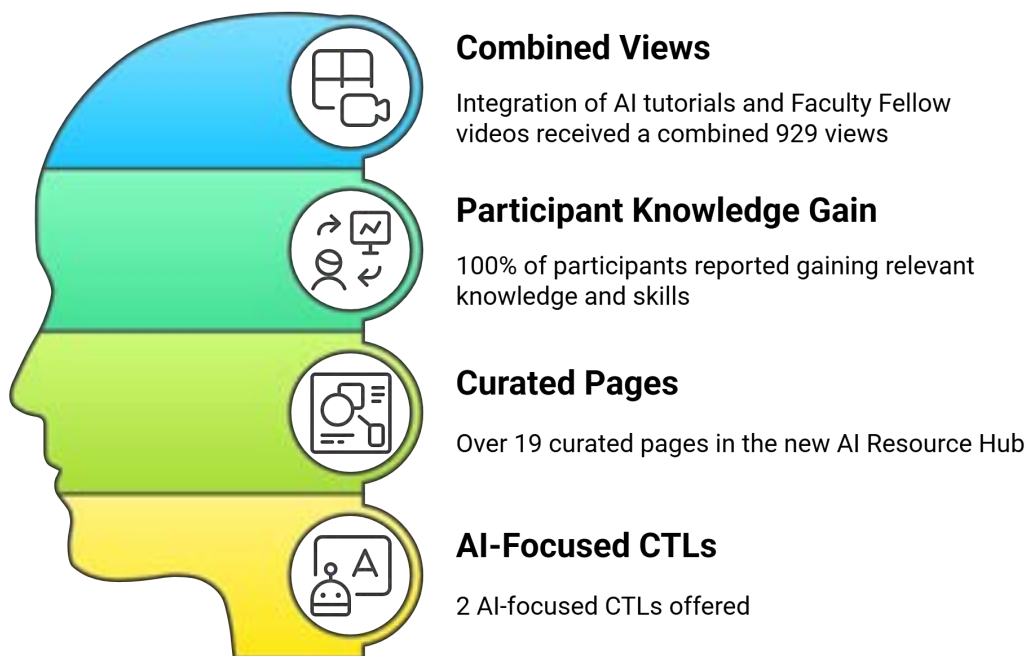
The CTLE Team provided hands-on support to faculty and adjuncts through a series of AI-focused initiatives. During the January faculty meeting, team members led live demonstrations featuring AI tools such as NotebookLM for research-based podcast creation, Copilot for rubric generation, and a curated prompt library for instructional use. Faculty Fellows also shared their AI teaching strategies and showcased tools they successfully implemented in their courses.

CTLE was invited into two classes to demonstrate AI tools in action. In one session, students learned to use NotebookLM to transform their research into podcast episodes. In another, Copilot was programmed to simulate job interviews and provide feedback based on prompt engineering and job descriptions. Students found the experience valuable for improving their interview skills.

To enhance faculty and staff access to AI-related materials, CTLE created a new AI Resource Hub on the CTLE website. The hub features tools, tutorials, instructional examples, and new sections highlighting real-world applications. Upcoming additions include the Saint Leo Faculty Policy on AI and a Student Guide to AI.

One hundred percent of participants who took a CTLE Faculty Development course on AI reported gaining relevant knowledge and skills. The team produced multiple AI tutorial videos as part of the *Tech Tip Tuesday* series, and supported Faculty Fellow presentations and podcasts focusing on classroom AI integration. These resources received a combined total of 929 views. The top three viewed videos were *Writing Effective AI Prompts* with 407 views, *Creating Infographics with ChatGPT* with 133 views, and *NotebookLM: Turning Research into Podcasts* with 104 views. The Faculty Fellow-created podcast, *Conversations on AI in Higher Education: Insights and Innovations*, also contributed to the overall engagement and highlighted the evolving role of AI in teaching and learning.

## Overview of AI Initiatives



# AI Resource Hub

CTLE initiated a significant restructuring of its AI-related web content to better support faculty and staff navigating the rapidly evolving role of artificial intelligence in higher education. Previously, more than 22 AI-related pages were dispersed throughout the CTLE website.

To improve access and streamline navigation, CTLE developed a centralized AI Resource Hub. This newly designed page consolidates all AI content into one organized, user-friendly location. In addition to unifying existing materials, the hub introduces new sections that highlight practical applications of AI in both instruction and course development. These sections include real examples, video tutorials, curated readings, and direct access to the featured tools.

The hub currently houses more than 19 pages of curated content and is designed to expand as needs evolve. It also includes planned additions such as the *Saint Leo Faculty Policy on AI* and a *Student Guide to AI*. Given the CTLE website contains more than 300 pages of faculty and staff resources, the creation of this centralized hub represents a meaningful step toward improving usability and reducing information overload.

This initiative reflects CTLE's commitment to providing well-structured, relevant support for the academic community as it engages with emerging technologies in higher education.

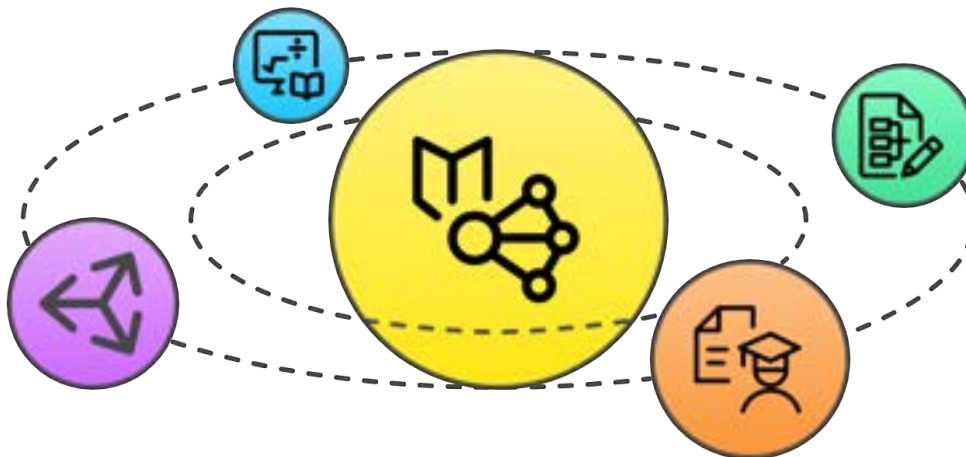
## CTLE Website AI Resources Overview

### AI Teaching Tools

Practical examples of how faculty can use various AI tools in the classroom.

### AI Course Design

Highlighting how AI can assist with course planning and development.



### Saint Leo AI Policy

The Official SLU Faculty AI use policy.

### Saint Leo Student AI Policy

Guidelines for student AI engagement.

# Website Faculty Communications

The CTLE website continues to be a go-to location for faculty, adjuncts, and staff, with nearly 300 pages dedicated to teaching, course design, and instructional support. Visitors can easily find what they need thanks to clearly organized sections like Teaching, Technology, Course Development, Scholarship and Faculty Support.

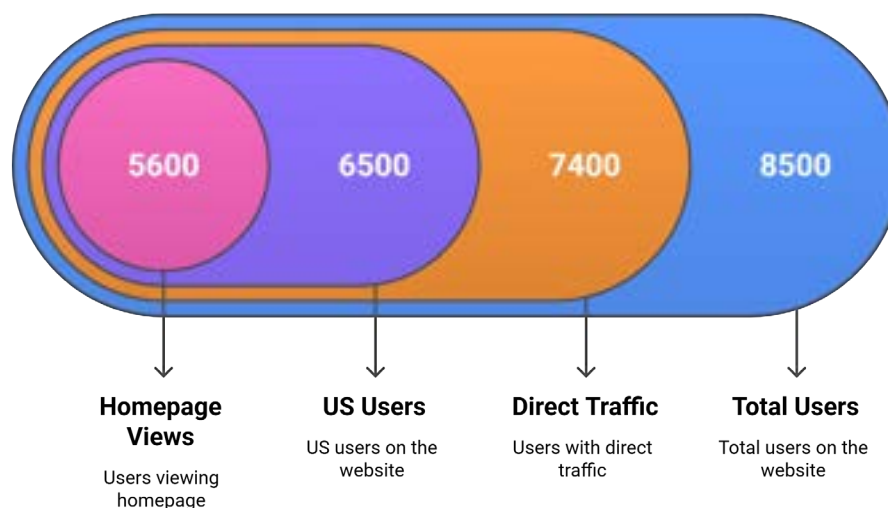
Over the past year, the site welcomed about 8,500 users, and more than 8,200 of them were first-time visitors. In total, users interacted with the site over 94,000 times. The most visited pages included the homepage, Faculty Resources, the Teaching Hub, and the Request Help page. Most users accessed the site from within the United States, with additional traffic coming from countries such as the Philippines and India. People found the site in a variety of ways, most often through direct links or search engines, which suggests it's easy to find and well-integrated into university communications.

Two key updates helped expand the site's value even further this year. The new Course Development section was created to support faculty as they build and refine their courses. It includes practical tools like templates, checklists, and guidance designed to make course planning easier, more transparent, and more effective.

We also launched a redesigned AI Resources hub, which brought together more than 19 separate pages into one simplified space. This section gives faculty a clear starting point to explore how artificial intelligence can be used in teaching. It includes curated tools, how-to videos, and tutorials, and has quickly become one of the most visited areas of the site.

Together, these updates show our ongoing commitment to creating a helpful, responsive, and easy-to-use website that supports the real needs of educators across all locations and modalities.

## Website Engagement



## Faculty Feedback

*You managed to cut through the red tape and create a website to the standard of what college websites should be. You created a way to give faculty kudos, foster community through discussion groups, and so much more!* - Anonymous Faculty Member

# Social Media

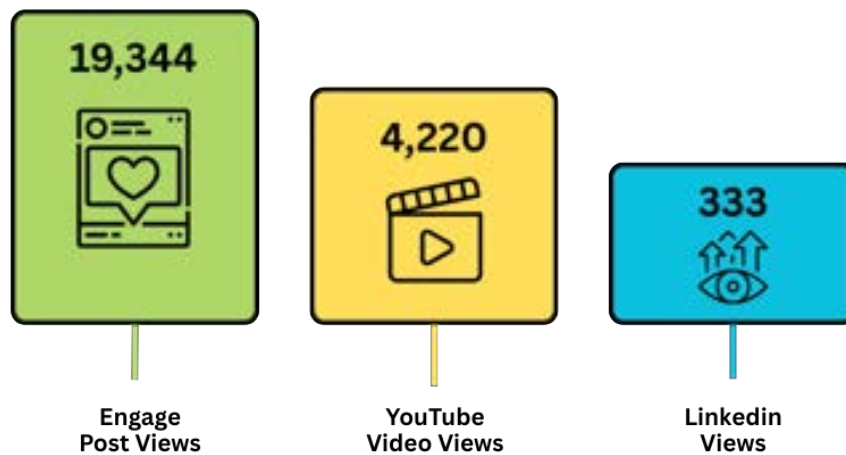
## Faculty Communications

The CTLE continues to strategically leverage social media to strengthen our connection with Saint Leo faculty, share valuable updates, and cultivate a dynamic, engaged academic community. Our active presence across platforms including Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, X, and Viva Engage allows us to amplify professional development opportunities, highlight teaching strategies, and celebrate the work of our faculty and programs.

Engagement across channels reflects the growing reach of our efforts. Posts on Viva Engage received 19,344 views, while LinkedIn content reached 333 views. Our YouTube channel continues to serve as a convenient and popular resource, with 4,220 views of recorded content including webinars, Tech Tip Tuesdays, faculty panels, and more. This on-demand access allows faculty to engage with helpful materials whenever it suits their schedule, making professional development more flexible and approachable than ever.

Social media has become an essential part of how we share knowledge, spark conversation, and provide timely, relevant support in ways that are both flexible and far-reaching.

### Social Media Engagement



# Center Newsletters Faculty Communications

The CTLE Newsletter launched in January 2025 as a monthly digital and print publication to improve communication with faculty and staff across the university. The newsletter provides timely updates on CTLE events and programming, as well as teaching tips, D2L updates, technology enhancements, and CTLE website updates. Since its launch, the newsletter has received favorable feedback, including survey results showing that 32 percent of faculty prefer to receive communication through this channel, highlighting its important role in delivering relevant teaching and learning information.

**CTLE UPDATE**  
FALL 2024

**CTLE NEWS**  
Need assistance with course design, teaching, or D2L? The CTLE offers personalized support to help you create engaging courses, master D2L, and refine your teaching practices. Visit <https://faculty.saintleo.edu/ctle/> to learn more about CTLE resources and connect with a CTLE team member today.

**SIMULATION NEWS**  
The Simulated Experience of Saint Leo is ever growing and changing. We're seeing some exciting partnership opportunities coming our way in the next academic year, and our social media and website are brimming with new and entertaining content. Be sure to check out our new YouTube channel. Don't forget! We and subscribe! <https://bit.ly/5E3L4dLU/>

**CTLE EVENTS**

<b>Tech Tip Tuesday</b>
October 22nd - 1:00 PM Topic: A D2L Module - CTLE
October 29th - 1:00 PM Topic: Building Course Modules with AI
November 5th - 1:00 PM Topic: Designing a Course - CTLE
November 12th - 1:00 PM Topic: AI in the Classroom
November 19th - 1:00 PM Topic: D2L Content & Tools
December 3rd - 1:00 PM Topic: AI in the Classroom

**CTLE TEACHING TIP**  
Tips for Building Classroom Community  
Ever feel like your students fall silent and are more interested in anything but your lesson? Here are some helpful tips!

- Use personal or topic-related stories to connect and build rapport.
- Encourage multiple perspectives to show students their thoughts are valued. Try asking, "What are some different ways we could solve this problem?"
- Create a safe space by rewarding honesty and respectful interactions. For instance, say, "Thank you for your honesty."
- Engage. Ask your students questions.

**CTLE Newsletter**  
Spring 2025

**Course Copy Reminder:**

- Deadline:** Any course updates you wish to make must be completed by **February 10th**, if you want them to be copied into your course for next term. (In this case, Spring-2)
- Frequency:** The course copy process occurs during **Week 5 of every term**. As we approach **Week 5 of the 2025SP1 term**, please take a moment to review and update your master courses. This is a useful practice to ensure your course content remains current and provides the best learning experience for your students.

**Join Other Faculty and Explore AI Together!**  
Faculty Learning Communities are places where faculty can explore and exchange ideas on a particular topic. As the title indicates, they are places where faculty can learn together. If you are interested in exploring and sharing AI ideas and practices, [please register](#).

We will continue sending a reminder during **Week 4** of each term to help you stay on track. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to excellence in education!

CTLs are great opportunities to explore innovative teaching practices, and to learn more about research-based instructional strategies. Most CTLs take an hour to complete and are self-paced. Our CTLs are open enrollment, so you can begin at any time! To enroll for any of the offerings, complete the [CTL Registration form](#).

**New Featured CTLs:**

- AI and Higher Education: What Professors Need to Know
- Ethical AI Prompt Writing

If you have any CTL questions as you work through the material, contact [issys.salazar@saintleo.edu](mailto:issys.salazar@saintleo.edu).

For more information on CTLs, visit <https://faculty.saintleo.edu/programs-services/ctle-courses/>.

**Teaching Tip**  
Are your students losing focus and struggling to make creative content connections? Try these two effective strategies to help them take ownership, think critically, and be active learners!

**Inquiry-Based Learning:** Start with a puzzle, problem, or question. Encourage students to work alone or in groups to solve it using course materials and outside research.  
[Inquiry-based Learning | Foundations of Education](#)

**Sprints:** Form teams of 2-4 students. Provide an open-ended challenge along with a briefing document containing problem details, essential information, goals, and materials. Students apply design thinking to collaborate and develop a solution within time-boxed phases over a specified period. [Introducing Students to Design Thinking Using a Design Sprint - EdTech Classroom](#)

**CTLE Offers Personalized Departmental Training**  
CTLE is pleased to announce that it will visit any department seeking personalized training on D2L, Creator+, or other teaching and technology topics. Let us empower you to have the tools and knowledge you need for effective and rewarding instruction and course development.

**Happy Easter**

**CTLE Newsletter**  
April 2025

**Call for Proposals**

The Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence is excited to announce **Fall 2025 Faculty Development Day, Next-Gen Teaching: Enhancing Course Design, Teaching, and Learning**.

Whether you are refining existing courses, building new ones, or exploring innovative ways of teaching and supporting students, this event offers a valuable opportunity to learn from and collaborate with your colleagues. The CTLE would like to extend the opportunity to submit a proposal for the upcoming Faculty Development Day event.

**Date:** August 20, 2025  
**Time:** 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
**Location:** In-person at university campus

**Proposal Deadline is Monday, April 28, 2025**  
[Submit a Proposal](#)

For more information, visit the [Faculty Development Day Fall 2025](#) page on our website to view a complete list of themed tracks. For questions, please contact the [CTLE at ctle@saintleo.edu](mailto:CTLE@ctle@saintleo.edu)

**Teaching Tip: Reignite Engagement with a Design Sprint!**  
Noticing your students tuning out, struggling with tough concepts, or giving lackluster peer feedback? It's time to shake things up with a Design Sprint! A design sprint is a fast-paced, collaborative process that helps students tackle complex problems, spark creativity, and test ideas in a structured, time-boxed format.

**Here's how to run one in ANY subject area:**

- Group up students and present a challenge or problem.
- Set clear objectives and emphasize quick, focused thinking—this is a sprint, not a marathon!

**Then, move through these 5 rapid-fire phases:**

- Brainstorm potential solutions.
- Select the best idea and create a draft.
- Develop a prototype of the chosen solution.
- Test & gather feedback from other groups.
- Refine & iterate based on insights.

**Every Tuesday!!**  
Learn something new in minutes with our Tech Tip Tuesday videos!

**Scan this QR code to check out all the CTLE has to offer!**

**CTLE Newsletter**  
May 2025

**Help Shape What Comes Next**

Your voice matters! The Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence uses your feedback to design the programs, resources, and events that support your work in the classroom and beyond. **Please take 10-15 minutes** to complete our [End-of-Year Survey](#) and let us know what's working and what we can do better. **All responses are anonymous**, and every insight helps us serve you better.

**Scan the QR code to get started.**

Thank you for being part of a community committed to excellent teaching!

**Great news!**  
We've extended the deadline for **submitting a proposal to Monday May 12, 2025** for Faculty Development Day Fall 2025 *Next-Gen Teaching: Enhancing Course Design, Teaching, and Learning*.

The Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence invites you to share with your fellow faculty your insights into practical tools to enhance your courses, improve student outcomes, and stay ahead of emerging educational and course development trends!

**Date:** August 20, 2025  
**Time:** 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
**Location:** In-person at University Campus  
**Event Format:** Opening remarks, and Keynote presentation followed by 2 blocks of concurrent sessions

**50-minute presentations – single presenter**  
**50-minute panel presentations – 2-3 presenters with a collaborative proposal**

**Extended Proposal Deadline is Monday, May 12, 2025**  
[Submit a Proposal](#)

For more information, visit the [Faculty Development Day Fall 2025](#) page on our website to view a complete list of themed tracks. For questions, please contact the CTLE at [ctle@saintleo.edu](mailto:ctle@saintleo.edu)

**Use Active Learning Techniques at Least Once Per Class Session.**  
Instead of only lecturing, integrate activities like think-pair-share, Interactive Quizzes and polls, debates, learning circles or problem-solving exercises. This helps students process information more deeply, improves engagement, and encourages collaboration—all critical for adult learners.

**Teaching Tip:**  
**Every Tuesday!!**  
Learn something new in minutes with our Tech Tip Tuesday videos!

**Check Out Our Redesigned AI Hub!**  
Our new [AI Hub](#) is your starting point for curated AI resources for Teaching and Learning, including AI Teaching Tools, AI tools for Course Design, Faculty AI Policy guidance, and a Student AI Guide — all organized to help you quickly find what you need.

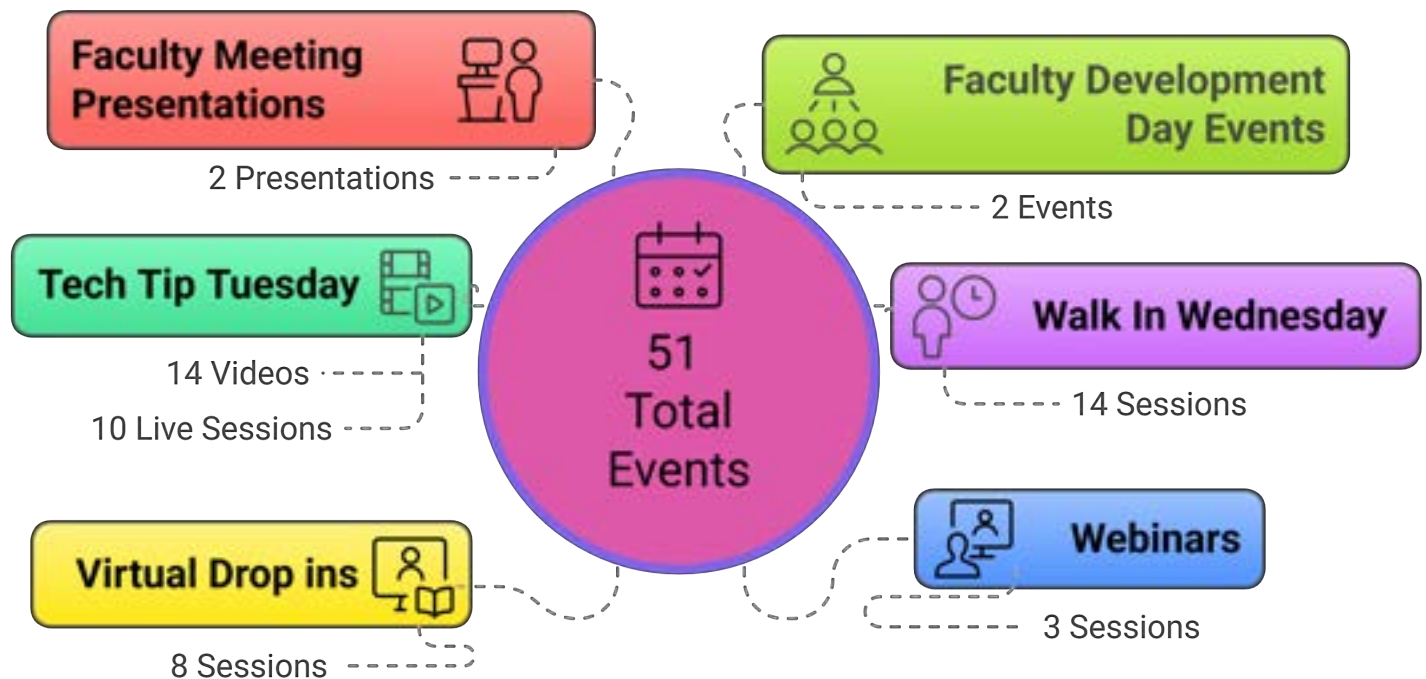
# Webinars, Trainings and Workshops

## Faculty Communications

Throughout the 2024–2025 academic year, the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence remained a vital resource for faculty and adjuncts by creating, hosting, and supporting 51 events focused on innovative teaching and faculty support. We produced 14 Tech Tip Tuesday videos, offering practical tutorials accessible anytime on our website. Additionally, 10 Live Tech Tip Tuesday sessions facilitated interactive discussions on emerging technologies. To provide personalized assistance, CTLE held 14 Walk-in Wednesday sessions for one-on-one help and launched 8 Virtual Drop-in sessions to extend support to remote and adjunct faculty.

CTLE staff also presented during two faculty meetings addressing the merger with Learning Design and the impact of artificial intelligence on teaching. Collaborations with campus departments resulted in three webinars open to all faculty and staff, available both live and virtually. Finally, CTLE organized two Faculty Development Day events in fall and spring, fostering professional learning and community. These efforts demonstrate CTLE's commitment to delivering accessible, responsive support that adapts to the evolving needs of faculty.

### CTLE Events Overview



# Thank A Professor

## Center Initiatives

CTLE's annual spring *Thank-a-Professor* initiative continues to grow, offering students a meaningful way to express gratitude to faculty who made a difference in their academic journey. Using a simple form accessed via link or QR code, students submitted messages of appreciation that were then shared directly with professors.

What began in 2023 with a few thank-you notes has grown to over **526** heartfelt messages sent to faculty. This growth was made possible through campus-wide collaboration. Student Services and Student Success promoted the initiative through newsletters, dorm bulletins, and cafeteria displays, while Learning Design featured it on the D2L dashboard. The university chatbot, Leona, provided timely reminders, encouraging participation across the student body.

Each message reflected and underscored the lasting impact our faculty members have on students' lives.

## Thank-a-Professor Initiative



## Faculty Feedback

*I want to thank Center for Teaching & Learning Excellence for truly understanding, and walking the walk. Colleagues need to feel SEEN, APPRECIATED, VALUED, and RECOGNIZED for what they do. Y'all went the extra mile this term, having a pop-up every single time we logged into our learning management system. I received FOUR of these wonderful messages today in my inbox, and I couldn't be more thrilled! You truly make a difference in our lives, thank you CTLE. It means the world! - Anonymous Faculty Member*

*Thank you so very much for sharing this wonderful message with me. We are here to support and encourage students to pursue their dreams. I am most fortunate to have had the opportunity and privilege to play a role in the life journey of some amazing young people. - Anonymous Faculty Member*

*Thank you so much for this initiative ("Thank a Professor") I think it is a great idea because it helps us keep motivated. This message did brighten my day!! - Anonymous Faculty Member*

# Partnerships Across the University

CTLE continues to thrive as a collaborative partner across the university, working closely with departments, faculty, and staff to support teaching and learning excellence. Since our merger with Learning Design, we have expanded our reach and streamlined our services, resulting in a more cohesive and responsive approach to faculty support. Our monthly meeting with the Department of Information and Technology helps us to stay informed on the university's technology developments and needs. These collaborative meetings also allow us to work together to achieve our collective goal of excellence in teaching and learning.

This year, CTLE staff contributed to faculty meetings on topics such as the evolving course design process and the growing influence of Artificial Intelligence in higher education. We also partnered with departments including Student Affairs and Student Success to offer university-wide webinars on AI. We partnered with the Skills Academy to support the development of a course focused on Generative AI for Business. Our Faculty Development Day events, webinars, and all resources are open to all faculty and staff, fostering community and professional growth. These efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to shared success and our readiness to strengthen collaboration even further in the year ahead.

