

HAPPY Thanksgiving

CTLE Newsletter
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Faculty Voices

For Dr. Patrick Sheridan, a chemistry professor at Saint Leo University, teaching is a creative and collaborative process—one that transforms complex content into moments of discovery and connection. Every class becomes an opportunity for students to engage deeply, think critically, and even have a little fun along the way.

Dr. Patrick Sheridan -
Associate Professor of Chemistry
Department of Natural Sciences
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"One of my favorite review activities is called Whip Around Pass," shared Dr. Sheridan. "All students stand, and we go around the room in order, with students providing a key term. I map these terms out on the board. Students stand until they cannot provide a term that has not already been listed. Once we cycle through and list all of the terms, we go back and start again. This time, students have to provide the structure for each of the terms that are mapped out on the board. This formative assessment encourages student engagement and lets students listen to and build on their peers' ideas."

Innovation and adaptability have also been central to Dr. Sheridan's teaching journey. "During the pandemic, I had to get creative by modifying my pedagogy so I could still deliver content that is largely based on being able to draw structures," he explained. "I modified my lab course time so that I could meet with small groups of students in an informal setting, guiding them through Padlet-based chemistry escape rooms. These activities distribute the cognitive load, allowing groups to simultaneously tackle multidisciplinary chemistry problems. This collaboration helps reduce anxiety by transforming complex problems into an engaging, shared intellectual challenge instead of a solitary high-stakes test."

When asked what message he would leave with students, Dr. Sheridan's advice was simple yet powerful: "Check the syllabus. Never give up!"

Check out our LinkedIn page and Community News for more about Dr. Sheridan.

Your turn! Do you have a story, lesson, or discovery that left a lasting impact on you and your students? Share your Voice with us—we'd love to feature you!

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