


HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Faculty Voices

The Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence is proud to highlight Dr. O'Brien, whose teaching emphasizes skill-building, confidence, and the power of constructive feedback. Across both qualitative and quantitative methods courses, her approach centers on modeling, empowerment, and helping students recognize their own capacity to succeed.

In her quantitative methods courses, Dr. O'Brien noticed that many sociology majors initially felt intimidated by statistics and computers. Students were required to complete lab exercises using SPSS and General Social Survey data, and her instinct at first was to demonstrate everything herself. Over time, however, her commitment to student empowerment led her to rethink that approach. Once she identified students who were catching on more quickly, she began inviting them to the podium to demonstrate how to complete assignments. This shift made a powerful difference. Seeing a peer succeed helped other students recognize that someone "like them" could do it too, and that they were capable of mastering the material themselves.

Read the full article: [Faculty Voices](#) 

Dr. Eileen O'Brien -

Associate Chair & Professor of Sociology
Department of Social Sciences



Newly Updated CTLs:

CTL 114 Beyond the Lecture: Building Active Learning Experiences. This self-paced course (about one hour) introduces faculty to foundations and techniques for designing engaging courses, with tips for adding interactive assignments.

CTL111 SMART Moves: Designing Effective Module Level Objectives. This course introduces faculty to creating clear, measurable module objectives and shows how they align with teaching goals to improve instruction.

Register Today

[Courses for Teaching and Learning](#)



Now Open! CTL 240: Assessment Strategies in the Age of AI

AI is transforming how we teach and assess learning. This practical, hands-on course will help you design assessments that either minimize AI use or harness its potential—while keeping student learning and critical thinking at the center.

Register Today

[Courses for Teaching and Learning](#)



AI Microtrainings

Learn AI skills in five minutes or less with CTLE's expanding collection of AI microlearning courses designed for busy faculty and staff. Start with short, practical trainings that will help you explore MS Copilot for creating lesson plans, rubrics, study aids, and much more. These focused experiences show you how to access SLU's Microsoft 365 Copilot, explore its features, and apply the Teach tools to build smarter lesson plans, rubrics, and study aids that support student learning while saving you time. Each microtraining is designed for quick wins you can immediately bring into your courses and many include the opportunity to earn a digital badge to showcase your growing AI skills.

[SLU AI Micro Training](#)



Teaching Tip: Try a "Pulse + Pathway" Check-In using a quick Microsoft Form.

In 3 minutes, students rate confidence and workload, name their biggest barrier (time, content, tech, life), and choose one action they will take before the next module to stay on track (attend office hours, schedule tutoring, use a weekly study plan, join a study group, review examples, contact advising, request an extension conversation). Add one short-answer prompt: "What do you need from this course (or from me) to succeed next module or in the course?" Close with an opt-in for follow-up and use branching so contact fields appear only if they request outreach. Small check-ins keep small problems from becoming withdrawals.