TEACHING & LEARNING COLLOQUIUM 2021
Twenty First Annual: Talking About Teaching – Creating Inclusive Classrooms at RPI

The Teaching and Learning Collaboratory and the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences are pleased to announce the 2021 Rensselaer Teaching and Learning Colloquium. The colloquium this year will be a virtual format offering seven discussions session that will run through April 2021. The sessions will kick off on January 20, 2021. Our focus for this year is to work on creating more inclusive classrooms at RPI. We are pleased to be working with experts on our campus who will share information on various topics. Below you will find the session topics.

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<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date and Time</th>
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| **What “works” for Rensselaer Students?**  
*Susan L. Smith*  
Lecturer, Cognitive Science | In Ken Bain’s book, “What the Best College Teacher’s Do”, Bain summarizes fifteen years of meetings, interviews, and surveys of students and professors to find out what “works” for college students. How do the best educators stimulate, engage, and challenge students? While Bain’s work is important and informative we know that students at Rensselaer are unique. What works for students at other institutions may not apply to our exceptional student body. This presentation will share feedback from students about their favorite classes and professors and the particular features of those classes and the way they are taught that contribute to a positive learning experience. Plenty of time will be devoted to discussion and sharing of individual experiences. | Wednesday, January 20th  
11:00am - 12:00pm |
| **Cultivating an inclusive classroom by using a trauma-informed approach**  
*Alicia Wolf*  
Senior Lecturer, Cognitive Science | Trauma-informed pedagogy is about being sensitive as an educator that your students may have experienced psychological trauma in their lives that is negatively impacting their performance. It has always been likely that a student experienced trauma or intense stress before they entered your classroom, but this is even more likely now after the last year of dealing with the pandemic and other immense changes and challenges. Recognizing these difficulties and including trauma-informed approaches in the classroom can promote inclusivity and community-building to support student’s educational goals. This discussion session will focus on presenting engaging trauma-informed tools that can be effortlessly incorporated into your existing courses whether they are in-person or remote. | Wednesday, February 3rd  
11:00am - 12:00pm |
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| Empathy, Environment, & Engagement (Eliminating Exclusion) *Miciah Yehudah*  
Assistant Director, Multicultural Affairs/Student Activities Rensselaer Union | This session entails the discussion & initial practicum of a leadership/facilitation method that requires of the educational facilitator authenticity, self & community awareness, and an intentional devotion to the carrying out of pedagogy that is multifaceted and differentiated enough so as to ensure that no student is left behind. | Wednesday, March 3rd  
11:00am - 12:00pm |
| Issues Facing LGBTQ+ Students in the Classroom *Lee Ligon*  
Associate Dean of Science for Academic Affairs, Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences | LGBTQ+ students face unique challenges in the classroom setting. This discussion session will help you understand what some of those issues are, and help you develop strategies to better support these students in your classroom. | Wednesday, April 7th  
11:00am - 12:00pm |
| Disability/Neural Diversity *Jaqualyn Iardella*  
Director, Disability Services for Students  
*Keith Anderson*  
Staff Psychologist and Outreach Coordinator | Neurodiversity is a concept that regards individuals with differences in brain function and behavioral traits as part of normal variation in the human population. As it is useful to understand the strengths and challenges of neurodiverse individuals, this presentation will provide attendees with the foundation, knowledge and essential skills for understanding, engaging with the neurodiverse population. In addition, this session will also cover topics including communication strategies, navigating relationships, self-regulation, and asking for accommodations. | Wednesday, April 14th  
11:00am - 12:00pm |
| Women in STEM *Jennifer Pazour*  
Associate Professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering  
*Helen Zha*  
Assistant Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering | This session will discuss the unique challenges that women students face in STEM fields and learning environments, as well as ways faculty can create a more inclusive classroom environment. | Wednesday, April 21st  
11:00am - 12:00pm |