



THE JOYS OF Teaching & Learning  
*cultivating community*

**Call for Proposals**  
**OPID's Annual Spring Conference on Zoom**

**Friday, April 22 & 29, 2022**  
**9 am to 3 pm + Fireside chats**

**Registration is free to all UW educators**  
***Proposal submission deadline: Monday, February 7, 2022***

*Cultivating community* is an ongoing practice in the University of Wisconsin System, with 13 universities sharing a common purpose of educating, uplifting, and mentoring our students to seek meaningful, productive, and transformative lives.

*Cultivating community* is one of the objectives, challenges, and joys of teaching and learning. It results from intentional and sometimes not-so-intentional practices. It may be guided by faculty and instructors, but also emerges organically among students. How do we cultivate environments and relationships that result in a sense of belonging among our students? How do we extend teaching and learning beyond four walls of a classroom? What are some innovative ways to cultivate community *online*? How do we cultivate community with our partners in non-profit organizations, businesses, K-12 schools, in prisons?

Although the lingering Covid-19 pandemic has strained our work, it also reveals how change can empower us to adopt and adapt new teaching and learning practices. These new practices may be more flexible, effective, and relevant for these times. How do we cultivate community and a sense of belonging among students, faculty, instructors, and colleagues and employers external to the university? What barriers or challenges have you encountered when trying to cultivate community?

We invite you to participate in *The Joys of Teaching & Learning / Cultivating community* by sharing your experiences, ideas, questions, failures, and accomplishments. We welcome innovative and interactive proposals that strengthen a sense of community among UW faculty, instructors, and students. We encourage proposals that cross university and disciplinary lines, and that are grounded in the scholarship of teaching and learning. We invite Wisconsin Teaching Fellows & Scholars alumni to reengage with SoTL. We challenge faculty and instructors to open up new spaces for approaching and understanding teaching and learning in

the UW System. Let's re-imagine, re-define, and re-vision new possibilities for cultivating community.

### **Suggested Formats**

- Break-out sessions – 30- or 60-minute presentations, panels, or roundtables
- Posters or papers
- Lightning rounds – 5-7-minute talks

### **Suggested Focal Points:**

- Equity-minded pedagogies
- Digital pedagogies
- Scholarship of Teaching & Learning
- Grading, ungrading, and alternative assessments
- High-impact experiential teaching and learning practices : First-year seminars and experiences, common intellectual experiences, learning communities, writing-intensive courses, collaborative assignments and projects, undergraduate research, diversity/global learning, ePortfolios, service- and community-based learning, internships, capstone courses.
- Proposed new HIPs
- Mental health and wellness for students and instructors
- Mindfulness and burnout
- Activism and resistance
- Online STEM labs
- Professional development for educators

We welcome:

- > Pre-recorded and live sessions.
- > Multi-speaker presentations and panels, ideally from more than one university.
- > Multi-media and performative presentations.
- > Inclusion of student voices.



Our 2022 Conference plenary speakers are seasoned educators who have, over time, put into practice theories and concepts of teaching that challenge and disrupt traditional hierarchies of education for the good of all students. We welcome their expertise at our conference.

***Dr. Carl Wieman***

Nobel Laureate in Physics

Professor of Physics, and Education

Stanford University

Author, *Improving How Universities Teach Science: Lessons from the Science Education Initiative* (2017). Harvard University Press.

***Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings***

Professor Emerita of Education

University of Wisconsin – Madison

Author, *Critical Race Theory in Education: A Scholar's Journey* (2021). Teachers College Press, Columbia University.

**Proposal submission deadline: Monday, Feb. 7, 2022 via the [online form](#).**

Proposals will be anonymously reviewed by faculty and instructors in [OPID's Advisory Council](#).

***Signature Programs Committee*** – Chair, *Sylvia Tiala* (UW-Stout); Members – *Verda Blythe* (UW-Madison), *Abhimanyu Goush* (UW-Stout), *Veronica Justen* (UW-River Falls), *Bryan Kopp* (UW-La Crosse), *Mary-Beth Leibham* (UW-Eau Claire), *Heather Pelzel* (UW-Whitewater), *Erin Speetzen* (UW-Stevens Point), *Jamie White-Farnham* (UW-Superior).

Questions – Contact *Fay Yokomizo Akindes*, Director, Systemwide Professional & Instructional Development, [fakindes@uwsa.edu](mailto:fakindes@uwsa.edu) or 608-263-2684.