Tri-C® Virtual Adjunct Faculty Conference

RESILIENCE AND RENEWAL:
Adapting to Inspire Success

Cuyahoga Community College®

Adjunct Services
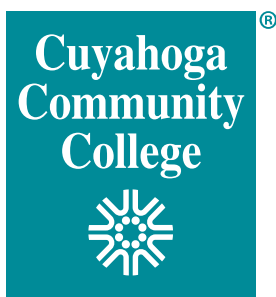
RESILIENCE AND RENEWAL:
Adapting to Inspire Success

The 2025 Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) Adjunct Faculty Conference committee welcomes faculty and staff from colleges and universities throughout Ohio and beyond for today's virtual conference. We are pleased to support professional development for college faculty as we "Adapt To Inspire Success."

This conference explores the teaching and learning landscape to find transformative ways to support students, faculty, staff and administration as they navigate continuous change. A special thank you to all of our presenters today. We sincerely appreciate your time and expertise.

We would also like to thank adjunct faculty for the vital role they play in student success across all institutions of higher education. We hope today provides you with the opportunity for professional and personal growth.

Sincerely,

2025 Adjunct Conference Committee

*"Our greatest glory is not in never falling,
but in rising every time we fall."*

— Confucius

RESILIENCE AND RENEWAL:
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9 – 9:20 a.m.	**Welcome and Opening Remarks**
	Angela Baker *Interim Director, Learning Commons and Adjunct Services Manager, Moderator*
	Michael A. Baston *President, Cuyahoga Community College*
	Karen Miller *Provost and Executive Vice President, Access, Learning and Success, Cuyahoga Community College*
	Todd Kitchen *Campus President, Eastern Campus*
9:20 - 10:05 a.m.	**Keynote Address**
10:15 – 11 a.m.	**Concurrent Session A**
11:15 a.m. – noon	**Concurrent Session B**
12:15 – 1 p.m.	**Concurrent Session C**

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2025 Adjunct Faculty Conference Committee

Angela Baker, Co-Chair	Kara DePaul
Dennis Joyce, Co-Chair	Mike Donato
Peter Anderson	Sonja Elekhtaby
Melanie Benington	Redelia House
Don Busi	Georgia Rothstein
Karen Cross-Hatten	Brad Scott
David Crowell	Leanne van Beers-Werneke

Special Thanks

Television and Video Production

Information Technology Services (ITS)

Adjunct Services

Marketing and Communications

Sessions at a Glance

Click the hyperlinked titles for session descriptions and links to join.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

9 – 9:20 a.m.   **Angela Baker**

Michael A. Baston

Karen Miller

Todd Kitchen

Keynote Address

9:20 – 10:05 a.m.   "Disrupt, En gage, Empower: Rethinking Education for Deeper Learning"

Dr. Candy Van Buskirk, *Assistant Superintendent, Career Academy Network of Public Schools, South Bend, Indiana*

Concurrent Session A

10:15 – 11 a.m.

A1   A Trauma-Informed Campus for All: Adjunct Faculty Edition

A2   AI-Powered Creativity: Igniting Innovation in the Classroom

A3   College Credit Plus Faculty Orientation

A4   Enhancing Reading Comprehension: Applying Cognitive Load Theory in Content Instruction

A5   Raising the Bar: Inspiring Academic Excellence Without Compromise

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Concurrent Session B

11:15 a.m. – noon

B1   Contemplative Pedagogy: Connecting With the Practice of Teaching

B2   Elevate Your Teaching: Building Dynamic Courses in Brightspace

B3   The Evolution of Accessibility in Higher Ed: Meeting Present Needs and Shaping the Future

B4   Well, That Didn't Go as Expected!

Concurrent Session C

12:15 – 1 p.m.

C1   Amplifying Student Voices by Fostering Genuine Connections

C2   Help Is Here: Mental Wellness and Suicide Prevention Resources

C3   Refresh and Renew: College Credit Plus Faculty Update and Development

C4   Resilient Classrooms: Rene~~wal~~ ... ~~through~~ Hybrid and Active Learning   **SESSION CANCELLED**

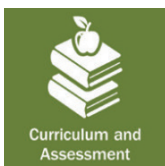**C5**   Sort it out: Using Sorts To Break Up Lessons and Build Resilience

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Presentation Pathways

Concurrent sessions are organized by Presentation Pathways, as described below.

Teaching and Learning Strategies

Engage and explore effective practices such as active learning, innovative teaching techniques and student engagement.

Curriculum and Assessment

Discuss opportunities to incorporate critical thinking in course design, learning outcomes and assessment strategies.

Faculty Scholarship and Engagement

Engage in reflective practices with peers to build and strengthen the teaching community, including the integration of Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL), personal growth and student development.

Technology for Teaching

Explore various technologies to support student learning.

Student Success

Identify and promote services, resources and success initiatives available to students.

Tri-C Specific

Sessions will discuss Tri-C-specific programs and/or policies.

Keynote Address

9:20 – 10:05 a.m.

Click the hyperlinked title to join the session.

About the Speaker

Disrupt, Engage, Empower: Rethinking Education for Deeper Learning

Dr. Candy Van Buskirk, *Assistant Superintendent, Career Academy Network of Public Schools, South Bend, Indiana*

This presentation explores why and how we must adapt and inspire our educational practices to disrupt the status quo, increase student agency, and enhance student engagement — ensuring that deeper learning takes place for all students.

About the Speaker

With two decades of experience spanning K-12 and higher education, Dr. Candy Van Buskirk is dedicated to transforming education through innovation, equity and student-centered learning. As the founder of Lead E2 LLC, an educational leadership consultancy, she focuses on advancing leadership practices that drive excellence and equity. She has been recognized as a women's basketball coach of the year at both the college and high school levels and founded Coach Camp Candy, a K-12 basketball camp. She helped collaborate and lead a grant-funded partnership between the Career Academy Network of Public Schools and the Boys & Girls Club of St. Joseph County, Indiana. Dr. Van Buskirk recently published her first book, *Learn Outside: Rising Together To Disrupt the Status Quo in Education*, which challenges and inspires educators to create more equitable and engaging learning environments.

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CONCURRENT SESSION A

10:15 – 11 a.m.

Click the hyperlinked title to join the session.

A1 | A Trauma-Informed Campus for All: Adjunct Faculty Edition

Learn about the impact of childhood trauma on the lives of adults by exploring how adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) may manifest in our students and negatively impact their academic performance, attendance and overall success. We will shift from asking, "What's wrong with you?" or "Why are you behaving that way?" to asking, "What happened to you?" We will discuss how our curiosity and empathy, inside and outside the classroom, may foster resilience and perseverance in our students, resulting in a greater probability of retention and graduation.

Sue Dieterich, *Adjunct Faculty, Counseling, Cuyahoga Community College*

Renee Kolecki, *Adjunct Faculty, Counseling, Cuyahoga Community College*

At the end of this session, attendees will be able to:

1. Acknowledge the story behind behaviors through ACES
2. Reflect on building resilience via empathic communication and the power of connection
3. Develop an understanding of a trauma-safe environment

A2 | AI-Powered Creativity: Igniting Innovation in the Classroom

Explore how artificial intelligence can be leveraged to spark creativity, enhance critical thinking, and engage students in innovative learning experiences. Participants will discover practical AI tools that foster interactive discussions, problem-solving and project-based learning. The session includes hands-on activities demonstrating AI-powered brainstorming, content generation, and adaptive learning techniques that help students develop resilience and adaptability. Attendees will leave with actionable strategies to integrate AI into their teaching, transforming traditional learning into an immersive and dynamic experience.
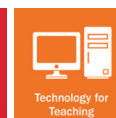
Tasha Wilburn, *Lecturer, Business Management, Cuyahoga Community College*

At the end of this session, attendees will be able to:

1. Utilize AI-powered tools to foster creative thinking and innovation in the classroom
2. Design interactive activities that enhance student engagement and adaptability using AI
3. Apply AI-driven strategies to personalize learning and improve student success

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A3 | College Credit Plus Faculty Orientation

Adapting college teaching practices and faculty expectations is critical for a strong start to an academic year. The College Credit Plus (CCP) New Faculty Orientation provides CCP adjunct faculty with information and strategies needed for success in their new role as members of the College's faculty. This session includes learning Tri-C's policies and navigating its systems, accessing classroom resources, promoting academic integrity, developing content and assignments that meet the rigor and pace of college classes, and fostering student engagement and success in college.

Matt Laferty, *Assistant Professor, English, Cuyahoga Community College*

Timothy Dorsey, *Dean, Student Affairs, Westshore Campus, Cuyahoga Community College*

Members of the Cuyahoga Community College CCP Advisory Committee

At the end of this session, attendees will be able to:

1. Access resources to develop course policies, syllabus components, instructional support, etc., for sections offered at off-site/high school locations that are equivalent to the course sections offered on campus
2. Develop instructional plans that comply with the College and state policies governing CCP and Tri-C
3. Build course sections and navigate the College's resources that enhance student learning, success and the academic experience

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A4 | Enhancing Reading Comprehension: Applying Cognitive Load Theory in Content Instruction

Understanding and managing cognitive load is essential for helping students navigate complex texts across disciplines. This session explores how cognitive load theory and the science of reading can enhance content instruction, particularly in reading-intensive courses. Participants will gain practical strategies to reduce cognitive overload, support student engagement with challenging material, and improve retention and comprehension. By applying evidence-based approaches, faculty can create more accessible, effective learning experiences that promote academic resilience and deeper understanding.

Jessica Hahn, *Adjunct Faculty, English, University of Cincinnati Blue Ash College*

At the end of this session, attendees will be able to:

1. Identify cognitive load factors that impact students' ability to process and retain complex written material
2. Apply strategies to reduce cognitive overload in reading-heavy assignments across disciplines
3. Design course materials and activities that promote better engagement, comprehension and retention of text-heavy content

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A5 | Raising the Bar: Inspiring Academic Excellence Without Compromise

Instructors strive to help their students achieve peak performance, yet well-meaning compromises can sometimes hinder this goal. These compromises may even lead to a decline in academic standards. This session will explore the reasons behind this issue and provide strategies to help students reach their highest potential.

Jason Moore, *Adjunct Faculty, Philosophy and Religious Studies, Cuyahoga Community College*

At the end of this session, attendees will be able to:

1. List practical strategies for raising standards of performance for their students
2. Describe various factors that may be contributing to low performance among students
3. Develop an enhanced teaching approach with strategies that balance empathy with the promotion of a growth mindset

CONCURRENT SESSION B

11:15 a.m. – noon

Click the hyperlinked title to join the session.

B1 | Contemplative Pedagogy: Connecting With the Practice of Teaching

Faculty nationwide are experiencing high levels of burnout in both K-12 and postsecondary education. Despite significant changes in educational institutions, little focus has been placed on teaching as a reflective practice. This presentation explores the psychological foundations of contemplative practices, including mindfulness and meditation, and their benefits for educators. Participants will learn practical strategies to reduce stress, enhance their teaching experience, and foster healthier learning environments for students.

David Paulik, *Assistant Professor, Psychology, Cuyahoga Community College*

At the end of this session, attendees will be able to:

1. Describe the psychological basis of contemplation

2. Explain how to connect with the vocational work of teaching

3. Implement strategies for using contemplative practice within and beyond the classroom

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B2 | Elevate Your Teaching: Building Dynamic Courses in Brightspace

This presentation introduces Brightspace, the new learning management system (LMS), to faculty and staff. It covers key features such as course creation, content organization and student progress tracking. Attendees will explore interactive tools that enhance engagement and discover the benefits of streamlined course management. By the end, participants will feel confident using Brightspace and inspired to maximize its capabilities, driving adoption across the institution.

Rebecca Wiggins, *Senior Instructional Designer, Instructional Design and Learning Excellence, Cuyahoga Community College*

Timothy Davis, *Project Manager, Information Technology Services, Cuyahoga Community College*

At the end of this session, attendees will be able to:

1. Have a clear understanding of Brightspace, its key features, and how it can enhance the teaching and learning experience

2. Demonstrate the interactive tools and resources available within Brightspace that promote engagement and collaboration among students and instructors

3. Demonstrate how Brightspace simplifies course management tasks, such as creating and organizing content, tracking student progress and managing grades

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B3 | The Evolution of Accessibility in Higher Ed: Meeting Present Needs and Shaping the Future

Accessibility in higher education is constantly evolving, requiring institutions to balance flexibility with academic integrity. This session will examine the current landscape of accessibility expectations, highlighting key challenges and opportunities. Participants will learn how adaptability and resilience drive accessibility efforts, ensuring equitable learning experiences while maintaining rigorous student outcomes.

Lydia Hickman, *Student Advisor, Student Accessibility Services, Cuyahoga Community College*

At the end of this session, attendees will be able to:

1. Identify matters of accessibility and accommodation
2. Use appropriate tools to refer students to accessibility resources
3. Speak knowledgeably on the influences affecting the future application of accessibility and accommodations


B4 | Well, That Didn't Go as Expected!

Data doesn't always tell the story we expect — but that's where real growth begins. In this interactive session, we'll explore a real-world case study to uncover how the Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycle can turn unexpected outcomes into opportunities for meaningful change. Learn how to align metrics with goals, implement corrective actions, and foster a culture of continuous improvement that drives measurable student success.

Kerri Caine, *Assistant Dean, Student Affairs and Academic Success, Cuyahoga Community College*

At the end of this session, attendees will be able to:

1. Foster the ability to reflect and act on failures to identify key lessons for improvement
2. Identify tangible Student Affairs metrics to align with program and initiative objectives
3. Apply the PDSA cycle to develop actionable strategies for enhancing impact through practical program evaluation

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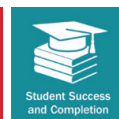
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CONCURRENT SESSION C

12:15 – 1 p.m.

Click the hyperlinked title to join the session.

C1 | Amplifying Student Voices by Fostering Genuine Connections

When students connect on a more human level, they begin to realize that other people have lives just as imperfect as their own. As students connect, they feel safer, leading to a greater sense of connection, empathy and camaraderie. Learn and experience some strategies beyond icebreakers to help students feel more comfortable speaking up in class and connecting. These strategies lead to powerful gains in later classroom interaction and fellowship.

Helen Bednarz, *Adjunct Faculty, English, Cuyahoga Community College*

At the end of this session, attendees will be able to:

1. Attest to the efficacy of these connection practices because they will have experienced them firsthand
2. Use simple, low-prep, no-cost strategies in their classrooms immediately
3. Build on the connections in these activities to enhance learning strategies already used in class by fostering a greater degree of interaction among their students

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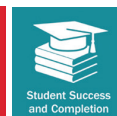
C2 | Help Is Here: Mental Wellness and Suicide Prevention Resources

There have likely been many times you wished you had mental wellness and suicide prevention resources for you and your students. Good news: Help Is Here! Join us for a discussion on destigmatizing mental health disorders and take a tour of what you can share with your students: online resources, a mobile app and helpful handouts. There are even premade Help Is Here activities you can use in class to ensure students become more familiar with the resources. Learn how you can inform students about our publicly accessible information and create a positive ripple effect on mental wellness.

Sue Dieterich, *Adjunct Faculty, Counseling, Cuyahoga Community College*

At the end of this session, attendees will be able to:

1. Build awareness of students' mental health needs and bridge the gap connecting students to the services they need to build resilience for their academic success
2. Explain what the Help Is Here program is and where to find the website, app and resource guides
3. Approach students more confidently who are suspected of, or who share they are, struggling with mental health by learning what to say or not say

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C3 | Refresh and Renew: College Credit Plus Faculty Update and Development

This session focuses on strengthening College Credit Plus (CCP) adjunct faculty teaching practices and will provide a refresher and update on instructional policies and practices. In addition to gaining access to instructional resources, a panel of veteran CCP faculty and members of the CCP Faculty Advisory Committee will share strategies for designing course experiences and promoting student success at their off-site or campus location. Associate deans will also provide tips on getting the most out of their relationships with deans, faculty coordinators and faculty mentors.

David Bernatowicz, *Associate Professor, History, Cuyahoga Community College*

Lorrie DiGiampietro, *Assistant Professor, English, Cuyahoga Community College*

Members of the Cuyahoga Community College CCP Advisory Committee

Various Deans, Administrators, Professors and Adjunct Faculty Panelists

At the end of this session, attendees will be able to:

1. Access resources and apply information to course plans and instructional approaches
2. Build mutually beneficial partnerships with academic faculty that enhance students' college experiences
3. Align their current course plans with the appropriate level of academic rigor and equivalency with other course section offerings

C4 | Resilient Classrooms: Renewing Engagement Through Hybrid and Active Learning

Explore how to create resilient classrooms using a hybrid model with active learning. We will examine how combining face-to-face instruction with digital resources can enhance student engagement by focusing on essential strategies. The presentation highlights key active learning practices and hybrid approaches that educators can immediately implement. Designed for busy instructors, this session delivers practical, easy-to-adopt techniques to transform your classroom into an adaptive, interactive space that inspires renewal and sustained academic success.

Melissa Resnick, *Adjunct Faculty, Psychology, Cuyahoga Community College*

At the end of this session, attendees will be able to:

1. Discuss hybrid and active learning principles, including their benefits and challenges in modern education
2. List actionable techniques to integrate hybrid and active learning into their classroom practices effectively
3. Describe dynamic, engaging learning spaces that adapt to evolving challenges and foster sustained student success

SESSION CANCELLED

C5 | Sort It Out: Using Sorts To Break Up Lessons and Build Resilience

Adding a simple sorting activity to a lesson creates an easy introduction, practice routine, or formative assessment while allowing students to work collaboratively and build resilience. In this session, we'll look at how to use sorts in lessons and what students say about them, discuss tech tools that can be used for sorts, and brainstorm ideas for sorts in your disciplines.

Amy Roediger, *Adjunct Faculty, Chemistry, Cuyahoga Community College and Lake Erie College*

At the end of this session, attendees will be able to:

1. Identify how using sorting activities can help build resilience in students
2. Identify ways to use sorting activities with and without technology in their lessons
3. Brainstorm sorting activities they can use in their own lessons

Information and Upcoming Events

Tri-C Adjunct Services Virtual Office Hours and Contact Information

- Eastern Campus: Fridays, Noon – 1 p.m. | Sonja Elekhtaby, Manager
- Metropolitan Campus: Fridays, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. | Karen Cross-Hatten, Manager
- Western Campus: Wednesdays, Noon – 1 p.m. | Angela Baker, Manager
- Westshore Campus: Mondays, Noon – 1 p.m. | Dennis Joyce, Manager

Adjunct Faculty Appreciation: Making a Difference Every Day

This Collegewide virtual event recognizing the dedication and teaching excellence of Tri-C's adjunct faculty for the 2024-2025 academic year will launch in April. In addition, be sure to stop by your Campus Adjunct Services office April 14 – 15 for special treats and giveaways. Watch for more details coming soon!

Faculty Development Calendar

Tri-C is committed to helping faculty grow and develop at every stage of their careers. The Office of Academic Professional Development (also known as Faculty Development) collaborates with several Collegewide and campus-based departments to support ongoing training and development needs for all full-time and adjunct faculty. Find upcoming faculty development opportunities here!

Adjunct Faculty Stipend Program

The Adjunct Faculty Stipend Program provides an opportunity for Tri-C adjunct faculty to enhance their success in the classroom and promote engagement in the Tri-C community while providing a financial incentive of $500. These stipend-eligible categories are designed to focus on interdisciplinary, pedagogy and technology competencies. Click here to find out more about the program.

Reminder: There is one more deadline for stipend submissions this semester: April 18.

AdjunctNation.com

Adjunct Services has subscribed to this professional development resource. Contact your respective Adjunct Services office for details.

SAVE THE DATE! Ohio Association of Two-Year Colleges (OATYC) Conference

The 2025 Ohio Association of Two-Year Colleges (OATYC) Annual Conference will be held on Friday, Oct. 10, at the Kent State University Tuscarawas Campus. Watch for more details coming soon!

Excellence in Teaching Award in Honor of Ralph M. Besse

The annual Excellence in Teaching Award in Honor of Ralph M. Besse recognizes Tri-C faculty collegewide for their commitment to academic integrity, stimulation of intellectual development and investment in students within and beyond the classroom.

Congratulations to the 2024 award winners!

2024 Adjunct Faculty Winners:

Amy Chan
Adjunct Professor, Mathematics, Metropolitan Campus

Eric Olson
Lecturer, Anthropology, Western Campus

Kristen Reiter
Lecturer, Biology, Western Campus

Not Pictured: **Diane Nickoson,** *Adjunct Professor, Mathematics, Eastern Campus*

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