

# Faculty FYI

November 5, 2019

Greetings, Faculty,

Only a turkey and 28 days stand between you and Dead Day. Are you ready?

In this email you will find information about:

- Kate Sierra, CETL's newest team member
- An opportunity to discuss sections of *How Humans Learn* by Josh Eyler during Spring 2020
- The updated IDEA survey tool (and links to training info)
- Presentation on undergraduate scholarships/tuition discounts
- Creating more transparent assignments

*By the way, if you tried to join yesterday's workshop virtually, you couldn't see or hear anything. That's because we goofed. The content is recorded – see below.*

Welcome Kate, CETL's New Instructional Designer!

Kate Sierra, who has been an adjunct professor of French at the University since 2015, has joined the CETL team as an instructional designer. Kate has experience teaching face-to-face and online courses at TxWes, and she has over 20 years' experience teaching in local ISDs. She will be competing at the national championships in fencing in 2020. She is already fluent in Blackboard and is currently completing Quality Matters training. You can contact her at [ksierra@txwes.edu](mailto:ksierra@txwes.edu) or by calling 817-531-5859.

Applying the Science from Josh Eyler's *How Humans Learn*

Follow-up on Josh Eyler's August keynote by applying information from his book *How Humans Learn* to your teaching practice. *How Humans Learn* is divided into five categories: curiosity, sociality, emotion, authenticity, and failure. The CETL Faculty Advisory Committee is developing a **menu of options** for faculty to engage with one or more sections of the book. Options will include participating in on-campus or virtual discussions, joining Josh Eyler for a follow-up conversation, reflective writing, and more. Participants will receive a free copy of *How Humans Learn*. About 20 faculty expressed interest in August. [Complete this form to add your name to the list.](#)

IDEA Survey Changes

The IDEA survey has not changed; however, the tool (Core Data) has. In the new system, you will be able to see real-time data about how many of your students have completed the survey, and you will be able to access your reports directly from the website. For an overview of the new tool, **go to the All Campus Faculty Organization** on Blackboard, **click on IDEA Training** on the Course Menu, and **watch the first video (13 min)**.

For additional information, watch the recording of Gwen's presentation on Tuesday, November 5. You will find the video in the IDEA Training section of the All Campus Faculty Organization.

Undergraduate Scholarships and Tuition Discounts

[John Veilleux made a short presentation to faculty on November 6, 2019, to explain the updated scholarships and to share examples of new ads the University has posted to digital channels.](#) The audio for the presentation is not very good, so if you watch, be sure to turn the volume on your computer or device all the way up.

## Create a More Transparent Assignment

If you haven't yet heard about TILT or transparent assignment design, check out [www.tilthighered.com](http://www.tilthighered.com). By making assignments more "transparent," faculty can help demystify college-level work. Students who receive more transparent assignments have an increased sense of belonging and academic confidence. Both characteristics are associated with improved academic performance. Use of transparent assignments can also increase the retention rate for incoming sophomores. Email [nmparker@txwes.edu](mailto:nmparker@txwes.edu) if you are interested in meeting with colleagues between Dec. 4 and Dec. 20 to workshop an existing assignment.

By the way, [previous Faculty FYIs are available online](#).

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