



JANUARY 2025 FLEX

- Zoom links are embedded in titles as well as provided with workshop descriptions.
- Please note that each session is tailored to: All Campus or Faculty.






Approved by the **Faculty Professional Development Committee** as student equity focused and qualifies as training required by AP7120.








Session led by JEDI Academy graduates incorporating practices for advancing student equity by fostering equitable, inclusive, and anti-racist practices.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025

- 8:30–9:00AM Gathering for coffee and pastry, provided by the Faculty Professional Development Committee (All Campus) | RM 2609
- 9:00–10:00AM  CPL Showcase: Developing Credit for Prior Learning at Cuesta (All Campus) RM 2609 | [Zoom](#)
- 10:15–11:45AM Supporting Student Completion with RSI and Making the Most of the CVC Course Exchange (All Campus) RM 2609 | [Zoom](#)
- 11:45AM–12:15PM Lunch
- 12:15–1:45PM From Campus to Canvas: Enhancing Student Success with Tutoring Tools (Faculty) | RM 2609 | [Zoom](#)
- 1:45–2:45PM MESA/LSAMP/SACNAS Student Voices (All Campus) | RM 2609 | [Zoom](#)
- 2:45–3:45PM Create AI-powered Tools Using Playlab AI (All Campus) | [Zoom](#)
- 3:45–4:45PM Embedded Tutors Panel (Faculty) | [Zoom](#)
- 5:00–5:30PM  Somatic Antiracism Book Club (All Campus) | [Zoom](#)
- 5:00–5:30PM  Book Club: Linda Hogan's *Mean Spirit* (All Campus) | [Zoom](#)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025

- 8:30–9:30AM  Is JEDI Right for Me? (Faculty) | RM 2609 | [Zoom](#)
- 9:30–11:30AM  Safe Zone Training (All Campus) | RM 2609 | [Zoom](#)
- 11:30AM–12:00PM Lunch sponsored by the Health Center **Please RSVP** by Friday, January 10, 2025
- 12:00–1:15PM  Serving our Pregnant and Parenting Students at Cuesta College (All Campus) | RM 2609 | [Zoom](#)
- 1:30–3:00PM  Culturally Responsive Teaching in Your Classroom (Faculty) | [Zoom](#)
- 3:00–5:00PM Division Meetings
- 5:00–5:30PM  Grading for Growth Book Club (Faculty) | [Zoom](#)

FORTHCOMING FLEX ACTIVITIES DURING SPRING 2025:

- Peer Observation Pool (POP) | (Faculty)
- The Human Library® | (All Campus)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025

Gathering for coffee and pastry, provided by the Faculty Professional Development Committee

8:30–9:00AM | (All Campus) | RM 2609

CPL Showcase: Developing Credit for Prior Learning at Cuesta | Zoom

9:00–10:00AM | (All Campus) | RM 2609

Alex Kahane and Dina Hallmark



Join us for a presentation showcasing Credit for Prior Learning (CPL). We will review the following topics around CPL: title 5 regulations, timeline for implementation, various types of CPL (including examples from other campuses), and a proposal for how we plan to develop/implement CPL at Cuesta.

Supporting Student Completion with RSI and Making the Most of the CVC Course Exchange | Zoom

10:15–11:45AM | (All Campus) | RM 2609

Cynthia Wilshusen

This workshop is designed for faculty, staff, and management to explore the latest updates and effective strategies for optimizing student success through Regular Substantive Interaction (RSI) and the California Virtual Campus (CVC) Course Exchange. Attendees will learn how aligning courses with the CVC OEI Rubric can enhance RSI standards and improve course visibility, ultimately increasing cross-enrollment opportunities.

This workshop will highlight the various tools faculty can use to ensure they are meeting RSI requirements in their online courses. Additionally, the workshop will present recent enrollment trends and showcase high-demand courses. We will also guide participants through the student journey, from discovering and enrolling in courses to accessing key resources such as financial aid and automated transcript processing, providing insights on how to better assist students in navigating the course exchange.

By the end of the session, participants will gain a deeper understanding of RSI, the CVC Course Exchange's role in supporting student success, and practical strategies to help students effectively complete their academic programs.

11:45–12:15PM | Lunch

From Campus to Canvas: Enhancing Student Success with Tutoring Tools | Zoom

12:15–1:45PM | (Faculty) | RM 2609

Cynthia Wilshusen, Wes Martin, Gladis Villalpando, Sam Mizutani and Megan Fay-Mitchell

This workshop is designed to equip faculty with the knowledge and tools to better support student success by integrating both Cuesta College's local resources and online support tools directly into their course materials. By understanding the variety of resources available and how to make these easily accessible to students, faculty can play a proactive role in addressing student needs. The workshop will also include a demonstration of the Tutorial Center website, newly created Canvas resource pages, and NetTutor; an online tutoring resource embedded within Canvas, which provides round-the-clock support in a range of subjects.

MESA/LSAMP/SACNAS Student Voices | Zoom

1:45–2:45PM | (All Campus)

Gabriel Cuarenta-Gallegos and Sara Sanchez

In this presentation, attendees will be introduced to MESA, LSAMP and SACNAS. A student panel will share their experiences with all the different programs and how we could keep supporting them.

Create AI-powered Tools Using Playlab AI | Zoom

2:45–3:45PM | (Faculty)

Kelli Gottlieb

Did you know you can create your own custom AI Chatbot? No programming experience necessary!

Perhaps you are someone with a wealth of knowledge on a topic and want to create a bot to answer those FAQs without having to reply to a lot of emails.

Maybe you'd like students to be able to get useful feedback on practice problems or essays but you can't commit to being available to do so 24 hours a day.

You could want an easy way of keeping track of Cuesta's priorities in all of its planning documents so you can quickly and what you are looking for while working on program review.

In this session, we'll look at examples of custom AI Chatbots for and then move on to best practices for AI Chatbot creation while making a chatbot in real time! No subscription to ChatGPT is necessary; PlayLab AI (an education-focused custom chatbot maker) has collaborated with The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and the UC Berkeley School of Education to provide access to CCC employees.

This session is open to anyone interested in how AI may be useful to them. While the presenter is an instructor, non-instructional uses for AI chatbots will be discussed.

Embedded Tutors Panel | Zoom

3:45–4:45PM | (Faculty)

Matthew Fleming, Jen Shellhorn, Lise Misfud, Lara Baxley, and Kerry Bailey

This discussion will explore the real benefits offered to all involved when embedded tutors participate in our courses. Hear from current faculty across a range of disciplines who can answer questions and discuss details of their experiences. Student Success Center Supervisors will join us to receive our feedback and answer any procedural questions.

Somatic Antiracism Book Club | Zoom

5:00–5:30PM | (All Campus)

Bailey Drechsler



This gathering approaches the reading of the novel, *The Water Dancer*, by Ta-Nehisi Coates, from an Antiracism/Somatic Abolitionism practice developed by racial trauma therapist, Dr. Resmaa Menakem. Unlike many traditional book clubs, completion of reading the novel is not a primary goal. Instead, we will lean into the role and value of creating spaces for experiential understanding and community building as necessary components of antiracism. Participants are first introduced to this particular antiracism practice before exploring the novel's themes of violence and persecution of black bodies, the legacy of slavery and inter-generational racial trauma, displacement, and the role of memory and storytelling as a wellspring for resilience. As a white-body facilitator/faculty member, antiracism practice within the white community will be emphasized; participants from all communities are welcome and invited to contribute. During this first gathering we will determine the schedule for when we will meet on Zoom for future gatherings throughout the Spring 2025 semester.

Book Club: Linda Hogan's *Mean Spirit* | Zoom

5:00–5:30PM | (All Campus)

Rachael Barnett



Please join us discussing Linda Hogan's *Mean Spirit*. This novel, a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 1991, is framed as a "murder mystery" focused on a series of murders of members of the Osage nation in the 1920's motivated by the discovery of oil. Hogan is a Chickasaw novelist and poet who traces the effects of the Boarding School movement and other genocidal policies that sought to "assimilate" Native nations.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025

Is JEDI Right for Me? | Zoom

8:30–9:30AM | (Faculty) | RM 2609

Rachael Barnett, Lara Baxley, Matthew Davis, Katy Dittmer, Victor Lucio and Sabrina Rock



Come hear about the JEDI Academy and the ongoing JEDI Community of Practice and learn about expectations for participants, how participation might positively affect your teaching, and have any of your questions about the program answered.

Safe Zone Training | Zoom

9:30–11:30AM | (All Campus) | RM 2609

Julia Thompson, SLO GALA Board President, and Lauren Phelps, SLO GALA In-house Therapist



Workshop facilitated by an experienced Safe Zone trainer to answer staff/faculty/management questions regarding the experiences of 2SLGBTQIA+ students and provide best practices for supporting this student population. Participants will have the opportunity to become certified as campus safe zone trainers.

Sponsored by Equity and Student Success and Affinity Center

11:30 | Lunch sponsored by the Health Center

Please [RSVP here](#) by Friday, January 10, 2025

Serving our Pregnant and Parenting Students at Cuesta College | Zoom

12:00–1:15PM | (All Campus) | RM 2609

Elise Caloca, Michele Gordon Johnson, Melina Simonds, Lisa DeFraga, Hunter Perry, and Lucy Rodriguez



Join us for a panel discussion to raise awareness about student-parents at Cuesta College, where you'll learn about campus programs, support services, community resources, and Title IX protections. Together, we can explore ways to ensure our student-parents feel seen and welcomed, fostering a more inclusive environment that supports their academic goals.

Culturally Responsive Teaching in Your Classroom | Zoom

1:30–3:00PM | (Faculty)

Lara Baxley



How can culturally responsive practices transform your teaching and support student success?

Join us for an interactive workshop led by chemistry instructor Lara Baxley, who recently completed a sabbatical project exploring and applying culturally responsive teaching methods in a general chemistry course. Culturally responsive teaching leverages students' cultural backgrounds and experiences to create more engaging and inclusive learning environments. By making students feel seen, valued, and empowered to address social inequities, this approach has the potential to enhance both learning outcomes and classroom community.

During this workshop, we will break down the core principles of culturally responsive teaching and discuss practical strategies to adapt and implement them in a variety of disciplines. Participants will have the chance to share insights, collaborate, and leave with actionable ideas to bring back to their own classrooms.

3:00–5:00PM | Division Meetings

Grading for Growth Book Club | Zoom

5:00–5:30PM | (Faculty)

Erin Naegle



Have you ever wondered how you could get more students to shift from saying 'I give up, I can't learn this' to 'I'm stuck, what can I do to learn this better?' Or to switch from asking 'What do I need to do to get a B?' to 'I'm really excited about learning more!!'? Join the Grading for Growth book club! Participants will be provided with a copy of *Grading for Growth* by Clark and Talbert. We'll read and discuss how to better design and implement grading practices that motivate students to learn using equity-based principles. The text includes different frameworks for a variety of class settings as well as a workbook that scales from making small but significant changes to holistically reworking a course. The group will determine the meeting schedule for discussing the book during the session.

FORTHCOMING FLEX ACTIVITIES DURING SPRING 2025:

Peer Observation Pool (POP)

Erin Naegle | (Faculty)

The Peer Observation Pool (POP) is an informal structure for faculty to learn from each other by spending time in colleagues' classrooms/DE courses. POP is entirely independent of the formal evaluation process. Participating practitioners will be placed in a POP Pod, a group of 3–4 faculty with common interests, such as engendering a sense of belonging, ways to engage students, and strategies for teaching online. Faculty commit to: 1) observing 2–3 other faculty teach/course (DE), 2) being observed by 2–3 faculty, 3) meeting with their POP Pod once or twice during the semester and 4) gathering for a celebratory dinner at the end of the semester. If you are interested in participating in a POP Pod during the Spring 25 semester, please complete the POP Pod Poll by Friday January 24th. Dean Naegle will communicate with the group the week of January 27th with details about Pod placements and gatherings. Contact [Dean Erin Naegle](#), if you have questions.

Register Here: [POP Pod Poll](#)

The Human Library®

(All Campus)

The Human Library® is coming Spring 2025 to Cuesta College! Email [Nicole Johnson](#) or [Carina Love](#) to learn about The Human Library® concept at [humanlibrary.org](#) and how it can impact you and your students, as well as how you can participate in the event. It will be held on the SLO Campus in March 2025 in collaboration with the Student Health Center and the Cuesta Library. By engaging in dialogues with "human books" the event challenges attendees to shed stereotypes and rethink judgements.