

AGENDA
6th Annual Adjunct Faculty Teaching & Learning Conference
Friday, September 27, 2019
Wojcik Conference Center

12:30 p.m. – 1:20 p.m. Check-in & Adjunct Faculty Lunch

1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. Welcome

1:45 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Keynote

They Aren't the Only Ones: Mental Bandwidth & Faculty Success – Dr. Tina Bhargava, Associate Professor, Kent State University

- It is clear that students with different stressors arrive at college with varying levels of availability of cognitive resources—or “mental bandwidth”—needed for success. They aren't the only ones. Faculty also need mental bandwidth to fulfill their responsibilities and thrive in the demanding environment of higher education. Faculty who are part-time, in particular, are often dealing with concerns related to job security, decision-making processes, advancement, and commitments to multiple institutions—circumstances that may drain their available cognitive resources. In this presentation, Dr. Tina Bhargava will discuss the concept of mental bandwidth and its potential impact on faculty success and satisfaction, as well as share practices to help faculty maximize their bandwidth to improve the success and well-being of both their students and themselves.

2:30 – 3:15 p.m. Breakout Sessions 1

What Really Matters? Bandwidth Demands & Well-Being – Dr. Tina Bhargava, Associate Professor, Kent State University

- In this session, Dr. Bhargava will describe and explain changes that can be made to course design and pedagogical practices that can help to free availability of mental bandwidth for both students and faculty. Assignment designs across disciplines will be briefly reviewed in regards to bandwidth demands, and recommendations will be provided for how to optimize teaching and learning activities in order to meet student learning objectives, while also curbing the potential for bandwidth exhaustion among faculty. As time allows, session participants will have a chance to discuss how they might adjust assignment design in their own courses to streamline bandwidth demands.

Choosing Technology Without Losing Your Mind – Janet Woods, Instructional Technology Specialist, Academy

- In the ever-expanding EdTech market, how do you choose from all of the cool, new tools without feeling overwhelmed? This session will focus on the thoughtful application of easy-to-use tech tools that can be used to complement your teaching practice and increase student engagement. You will leave this session with an idea of practical tools and ideas that can be implemented in time for your next lesson or activity. You will also learn how the Academy for Teaching Excellence can support the integration of technologies into courses to improve the learning experience for both you and students.

Carrying the (Cognitive) Load for Students – Josh Sunderbruch, Professor, English

- In this session, participants will explore how to package their teaching so that students are able to focus their working memory on learning the content that matters most. Likewise, we will try to look at how as teachers we are frequently forced to choose where we devote our own resources, and we will examine ways to break down the work at hand into chunks that are more manageable. It all comes down to whether we exhaust ourselves and our students overcoming obstacles or if we find ways to clear those obstacles ahead of time, letting all of us focus on teaching and learning more productively.

3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Breakout Sessions 2
(same as above)

4:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Closing Remarks, Raffle & Giveaways (*must be present to win*)