**Starting the Semester Strong**

**Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning**

**8/23/22**

**Introductions—self and classes**

* What classes are you teaching?
  + What do you love about teaching the course? How long have you been teaching? What is your favorite thing about teaching it?
  + What is your research agenda and how does it relate to the course? (if applicable)
  + Personal details that you feel comfortable sharing, such as pronouns, place of birth, family details, hobbies and interests, future plans.
  + *Do you convey the responses to these questions to your students on the first day? How do you do it? How can you envision doing it?*

**What are your plans for the first day of class? What are you excited about, what are you worried about?**

**4 things for first week of class—what are your current practices? What would you like to try?**

1. Establish the foundation of a welcoming environment that fosters a sense of belonging for all members
2. Make visible the connection between your pedagogy and the student learning outcomes and the relevance of those outcomes (what, why, how)
3. Assess what the students already know about the topic—to establish a baseline understanding of the students’ starting point and to see where there may need to differentiate instruction to some degree; to have an understanding of the knowledge and experience students are bringing into the classroom; to have a way to demonstrate to students the learning they did in the course
4. Engage them in active learning on the first day!

* A first day survey is one way to collect information about your students.
  + Name and pronouns
  + Context (hours spent working, childcare responsibilities, etc.)
  + Interest/Motivation/Skill/Learning Inventory
  + Technological proficiency
  + Personal goals for taking course
  + Academic and/or professional goals
  + What is your greatest academic strength?
  + What is one thing you hope to do or learn during this course?
  + What previous experience do you have \_\_\_\_\_\_?
  + What challenges do you anticipate in this course?
  + What study, learning, writing, composing, etc. strategies have worked for you in the past? What strategies haven’t worked?
  + What elements and actions contribute to a productive learning environment?
  + What else should I know in order to best support you in this course?