



**CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL
INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE
(CEIE)**

InspirED Teaching

THE CEIE NEWSLETTER



Volume 1, Issue 1

February 2025

InspirED Teaching is a quarterly newsletter published by the Center for Educational Innovation and Excellence (CEIE) at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. Included you will find information on recent and upcoming events, updates on current initiatives, teaching strategies, and more!

Contact us! | ceie@njit.edu



In Case You Missed It: CEIE Kick-Off Event

A Bold Step Toward Educational Innovation

On January 13, 2025, NJIT celebrated the launch of the Center for Educational Innovation and Excellence (CEIE), marking a major milestone in advancing teaching, student success, and transformative educational technologies. This initiative, aligned with NJIT's Strategic Plan 2030, brought together students, faculty, staff, and leadership to explore how CEIE will serve as a hub for pedagogical innovation.

NJIT Provost John A. Pelesko set the tone for the event, highlighting the CEIE's role in elevating education:

"At NJIT, we're a community of learners, students, faculty, and staff, all committed to the pursuit of knowledge and to the success of one another. The CEIE will serve as the heart of that commitment. Through its three pillars—Pedagogical Innovation, Educational Technology, and Education Research—it will provide the tools, resources, and community faculty need to elevate their teaching and help our students reach their fullest potential."

CEIE isn't just a center—it's a movement, driven by NJIT's legacy of innovation.

The Tech Playground: AI Edition was a highlight of the event, offering faculty hands-on experiences with cutting-edge AI tools:

- AI-Generated Audio & Images – Tools like NotebookLM and Suno create custom audio content to reinforce course concepts, while Adobe Firefly allows faculty to design mascots and avatars for courses and organizations.
- Generative AI for Course Content – AI-powered writing assistants showcased how educators can create and refine lesson plans, quizzes, and syllabi with greater efficiency.
- Coding with AI – Faculty explored how AI can streamline coding tasks, assist with debugging, and boost productivity.
- AI in Creative Projects – From video editing to generative design, AI tools are expanding creative possibilities in education.

Beyond the tools, the Tech Playground sparked ideas about how AI can enrich learning experiences and support faculty innovation.

CEIE Director Nikki Bosca shared an inspiring vision for the center as a space where faculty experiment fearlessly and support one another in their teaching:

"My hope is that the work I do with the CEIE will help our educational community cultivate environments that are challenging and supportive—courses where students aren't afraid of being wrong, but invited to be curious, and classrooms that feel like coming home."

The CEIE launch was more than an event—it was a call to action. As education evolves, the CEIE will empower NJIT faculty with resources and support to embrace change, think creatively, and lead the future of teaching and learning.

Please check out the highlight reel of the CEIE Kick-Off Event below!



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The CEIE Website is Officially Launched!

If you haven't already, please visit the new [CEIE](#) website and bookmark the [events](#) page! This will always provide up-to-date information on CEIE workshops, events, presentations, and more!



New pages will continue to be added as content is developed, resources are curated, and events and opportunities for engagement are announced. The first-annual CEIE summer conference will be posted soon, so keep your eyes peeled for a call for [proposals](#) to present!

CEIE AI Curriculum Grant Initiative: Tier 1 Awards!

Thank you to everyone who submitted a proposal for the Learning with AI Spark Grants. The following applicants have been awarded for their Tier 1 proposals:

- Dr. Yanxiao Feng for CET423- Construction Safety, "Enhancing Construction Safety Education with Beginner-Friendly AI and Sensing Technologies."
- Dr. Andrew Pole for MATH447- Applied Time Series Analysis, "Understanding and Communicating Math: Help from LLMs."
- Dr. Jaskirat Sodhi, Dr. Sam Lieber and Mr. Joseph Beshay for MET450-Mechanical Design Capstone Project, "Integrating AI into a senior design project course."
- Dr. Jaskirat Sodhi, Dr. Sam Lieber and Mr. Majd Awad for MET415- Automatic Control Systems, "Integrating AI into an automation course."
- Dr. Jaskirat Sodhi, Dr. Sam Lieber, Dr. Sahidur Rahman, Mr. Daniel Orlos and Mr. Mark Lanfrank for MET103- Engineering Graphics and Introduction to CAD, "Integrating AI into a first year engineering design course."

- Dr. Kathleen Naasz for ENTR210-Intro to Entrepreneurship, “Accelerate your Startup Plan with AI.”
- Dr. Lou Kondic for MATH451H- Methods of Applied Mathematics II (Capstone II), "From Structure To Performance Of Porous Media Using Image Processing, Topological Data Analysis And Machine Learning."
- Dr. Aneliia Chatterjee for COM313-Technical Writing, “AI Writing Assist: Enhancing Technical Communication with Notebook LM, Grammarly, and Integrated Research Tools.”
- Melissa Valoura for CIM215- Concrete Applications II, “AI-Powered Concrete: Mix Design Through Intelligent Technology.”
- Dr. Chang Yaramothu for BMET320- Applied Biomedical Data Acquisition, “LLM Assisted Creation of Imitation Human Phantoms.”
- Dr. Joseph Micale for ACCT335- Managerial Accounting II, “Implementing AI in the Accounting Curriculum: Evidence from the Cost-Volume-Profit Relationship.”
- Dr. Wenbo Cai for IE459-Supply Chain and Production Planning, “AI-Drive Excel Models for Robust Supply Chain Management Solutions.”

Don't forget that Tier 2: AI Pilot Seed Grant proposals are due on [February 14th](#)!

Spring 2025 Events: Teaching and Learning

The CEIE may have just kicked-off in January, but we are already filling the [calendar](#) with events for instruction! Full details, dates, and additional information for all CEIE events can be found on our website on the [events page](#). Read more below for a preview of some upcoming events sponsored by CEIE and our cooperating partners on campus.

Donuts and Discussion

A returning favorite from the former Institute for Teaching Excellence, this informal discussion series provides a chance for faculty and instructors to connect with colleagues and share teaching strategies throughout the semester. Please join us for coffee, a donut, and conversations about education, pedagogy, best practice, current trends, and more! No registration is needed. Just show up and join the conversation!

Audience: Faculty, Instructors, Instructional Staff, TAs.

Location: All events for Spring 2025 will take place in **Campus Center (CTR) 235**

Coming up:

“Reimagining the Final Presentation: Introducing the Digital Pitch Poster,” lead by Kathy Naasz- February 18th, 12:30pm. [Add it to your calendar!](#)

“Strategies to Support and Strengthen Learning for Underprepared Students,” lead by Megan LeLay- March 4th, 12:30pm. [Add it to your calendar!](#)

Spring Symposium

This semester, the Center for Educational Innovation and Excellence and the [Office of Inclusive Excellence](#) are co-hosting “Inclusive Teaching in Action: Practical Approaches for Faculty,” an instructional workshop focused on inclusive teaching strategies to improve learner experiences and student success. The event will take place at 12:30pm on March 12th.

Instructional Technology Training

We are happy to share that our cooperating departments, like the Office of Digital Learning, also have a slew of instructional technology-related events and training to offer this spring. Below are some highlights for the month of February, but be sure to check out their [full event calendar](#) and register! For any questions regarding instructional technology or Office of Digital Learning events, email digitallearning@njit.edu.

- [Canvas Assignments](#)- February 10th, 2pm.
- [Canvas Classic Quizzes](#)- February 13th, 2pm.
- Google Gemini for Faculty- February 19th, 10am. [In- person](#) and [virtual](#).
- [Canvas Grading](#)- February 20th, 10am.
- [Canvas Conquerors](#)- February 21, 10am.
- [Canvas New Quizzes](#)- February 24, 11am.
- [eXperience Workshop](#)- February 28, 10am.

For registration and additional details, please click on the links above for each event.

Open Affordable Textbook Program

The CEIE and the NJIT Library are collaborating to re-launch the [Open Affordable Textbook \(OAT\) Program](#). This program supports faculty in adopting, adapting, or creating Open Educational Resources (OER) to replace costly textbooks—enhancing student success while maintaining high-quality instruction. The 2025 re-launch will include a range of awards for selected applications, with opportunities for both individual instructors and course coordinators. Please be on the lookout for emails and announcements about the Call for Proposals, which will be announced soon!

Try-One-Thing Challenge:

The One-Minute Exit Ticket

Looking for a quick and easy way to check if your students are actually learning what you think they are? Try this simple, low-effort strategy—no technology required!



How It Works

At the end of class, ask students to take one minute to answer two questions. Whether you ask students to simply write on a piece of paper or submit their response digitally is based on your personal preference. Digital submissions can be collected and analyzed more easily (think a Google Form, or Poll Everywhere), but paper requires no set-up!

Questions:

1. What was the most important concept you learned today?
2. What's one question you still have?

They drop their responses on your desk as they leave the room (or submit online), and you scan a few before the next class.

If you've been teaching for years, you already know what students should take away from your lecture. But what if they're leaving with a completely different understanding than you intended? Or worse, no real grasp at all?

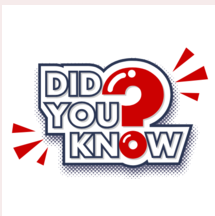
This one-minute exercise:

- Reveals misconceptions before they snowball into bigger issues.
- Gives you real-time feedback on what's sticking and what's not—without formal assessments.
- Takes almost no class time but makes students more reflective and engaged.

Worried About Extra Work?

Good news—you don't have to read every response. Just skim a handful to spot patterns. If five students wrote the same lingering question, it's worth addressing next class. If most students got the key takeaway right, great! You move forward with confidence.

Try it once this semester. You might be surprised at what your students actually take away from your lectures!



Did You Know? Students Learn Better After a Short Walk

Just five minutes of light movement before class can boost attention and memory. Standing, stretching, or even a quick stroll helps wake up the brain.

♂ Source: Hillman, C. H., Pontifex, M. B., Raine, L. B., Castelli, D. M., Hall, E. E., & Kramer, A. F. (2009). The effect of acute treadmill walking on cognitive control and academic achievement in preadolescent children. *Neuroscience*, 159(3), 1044–1054.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroscience.2009.01.057>



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