

# 16th Annual Innovations in Teaching and Learning Conference

## Strategic Teaching

### Request for Proposals and Reviewers

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Stearns Center invites George Mason University faculty of all ranks and types, staff, administrators, graduate and postdoctoral students to submit proposals to present on their teaching and teaching-focused research at the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Innovations in Teaching and Learning Conference. This year's conference is hybrid. The virtual sessions (Teaching Talks) will take place on **September 19, 2024**. The in-person sessions (Interactive Sessions) will take place on **September 20, 2024**. In addition, access to the On Demand resources will begin in the weeks leading up to the in-person sessions.

**The Extended Deadline for Proposals was Friday, March 15, 2024**

### SESSION TYPES

Please see the [ITL 24 Session Proposal Guide](#) for details on session types to help you create your proposal.

#### Interactive Sessions

*50-minute panel presentations (in-person)*

Interactive Sessions allow presenters to actively engage participants as they share a teaching strategy, innovation, curricular initiative, technique or tool. Facilitated by 1-3 presenters, these sessions feature interaction with attendees and provide takeaways that participants can use in their own teaching practice or curricular development.

#### Teaching Talks Sessions

*10-minute individual presentation (via Zoom)*

Teaching Talks Sessions allow individuals to share an aspect of their own teaching practice in a more concise format. In 10 minutes or less, participants present a teaching strategy, innovation, technique or tool used in your course or SoTL research based on a course. Three individual, 10-minute Teaching Talks will be grouped together in a 50-minute Teaching Talks Session around a common theme. Stearns Center staff will facilitate engagement and manage the Q&A session.

### **On-Demand Resources**

*Asynchronous teaching resources (online repository)*

On Demand Resources allow individuals to share teaching artifacts from their courses. These teaching artifacts include assignments, in-class activities, lecture notes/slide decks, syllabi or other supplementary teaching materials plus a statement that provides context on their use, including how it is aligned with the course's student learning outcomes and how it relates to the student's life beyond the course. On Demand Resources will be showcased on the Stearns Center's website in the weeks prior to the conference and can be accessed by attendees after the conference through Open Science Framework (OSF). Once uploaded, participants will be able to track engagement with their materials through download counts.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

#### **Looking for advice on your proposal idea?**

Contact the 2024 ITL Conference Director, Crystal Anderson (cander8@gmu.edu).

#### **Questions about submitting your proposal?**

[Visit our FAQ page](#) or contact us at [stearns@gmu.edu](mailto:stearns@gmu.edu) with "2024 ITL" in the subject line.

#### **Questions about the conference?**

If you have general questions about the conference, please email us at [stearns@gmu.edu](mailto:stearns@gmu.edu) with the subject line "2024 ITL."

## 2024 ITL On Demand Resources

On Demand Resources allow individuals to share teaching artifacts from their courses. These teaching artifacts include assignments, in-class activities, lecture notes/slide decks, syllabi, or other supplementary teaching materials plus a statement that provides context on their use, including how it is aligned with the course's student learning outcomes and how it relates to the student's life beyond the course. On Demand Resources will be showcased on the Stearns Center's website in the weeks prior to the conference and through [Open Science Framework \(OSF\)](#). We also created a Sway presentation to feature all our On Demand resources in one place:

Check them out below!

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/KYuRyGzgx84IIA5B?ref=Link&loc=play>

*We look forward to having you at this year's ITL. Be sure to register by September 17, 2024, if you haven't already!*

Link to archived Sched page for 2024 IFL:

[https://2024iflconferencemason.sched.com/?\\_gl=1\\*1svpwbd\\*\\_gcl\\_au\\*MTExNDc3MTQ3OC4xNzQ4ODc2NTIgx\\*FPAU\\*MTExNDc3MTQ3OC4xNzQ4ODc2NTIgx](https://2024iflconferencemason.sched.com/?_gl=1*1svpwbd*_gcl_au*MTExNDc3MTQ3OC4xNzQ4ODc2NTIgx*FPAU*MTExNDc3MTQ3OC4xNzQ4ODc2NTIgx)

AT-A-GLANCE PROGRAM

Please check your session title for accuracy. A request for changes can be made using the [2024 ITL Presenter Changes form](#) through August 12 only. (Please note: Edits will not be made in real-time. All requested edits will be made after August 12).

**Thursday, September 19 Teaching Talk Sessions via Zoom:**



**Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> 2024 Teaching Talks Sessions via Zoom**

Time	Session Titles	Session Titles	Session Titles
9:30-9:45am	Welcome		
10:00-10:50am	<b>Harnessing Technology to Ignite Student Engagement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anatomege Table: Dynamic Teaching Strategy</li> <li>Learning to Program Progression</li> <li>Game-based Mathematics Curriculum</li> </ul>	<b>Innovative Methods to Enhance Student Engagement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporating Photovoice in Classroom Learning</li> <li>Peer-Led Team Learning</li> </ul>	<b>Dynamic Classroom Activities for Engaged Learning Experiences</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Figure Facts" to Understand Research</li> <li>Key Decision Makers in Classroom</li> <li>From Curiosity to Inquiry: "This is about Skyrim?" Part 1</li> </ul>
11:00-11:50am	<b>Integrating VR and Game Design for Transformative Learning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Virtual Reality Crime Scene</li> <li>SQL Murder Mystery</li> <li>Improving Game Programming Reading Comprehension</li> </ul>	<b>Implementing Inclusive Teaching Strategies for Diverse Learners</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Classroom Inclusion Military Family Learners</li> <li>Expanding Inclusiveness with Deadline Extensions</li> <li>Promoting a Positive Class Atmosphere</li> </ul>	<b>Pedagogical Support for Various Learners</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inclusive professional development strategies for Military Family Learners</li> <li>From Curiosity to Inquiry: "This is about Skyrim?" Part 2</li> <li>Writing Respectfully about Race and Racism: Using the Writing Center's Resources</li> </ul>
12:00-12:50pm	<b>Navigating Curriculum Development for Impactful Learning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Curriculum Mapping Perspectives</li> <li>Promoting Diversity Across the Curriculum</li> <li>Mindset, Curiosity, Connections, Creating Value</li> </ul>	<b>Cultivating Professional Growth for Faculty and Graduate Students</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scaffolding Intercultural/Civic Engagement Goals</li> <li>Training for Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs)</li> </ul>	<b>Expanding Horizons in Online Educational Environments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experiential Learning</li> <li>Honorlock</li> </ul>

**Friday, September 20 Interactive Sessions In-Person**

# INNOVATIONS in Teaching & Learning conference

## Friday, September 20, 2024 In-Person Interactive Sessions

Time		Inclusive Teaching Track	Online and Technology-Enhanced Teaching Track	Writing Track	Engaged Learning Track	Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL) Track	
9:00-9:30am Light Breakfast 9:30-9:45am Opening Remarks							
10:00-10:50am		Community Based Learning: Challenges and Opportunities Panel	Weeklong Plan for Cultivating Classroom Respect		Developing Assignments that Foster Critical Literacies when Using Generative AI	Grading Conversations: Insights from the Grading Process Task Force	
11:00-11:50am		Ungrading: Challenges and Opportunities in Undergraduate Teaching	Using AR to Help Foster Belonging in Co-Curricular Spaces		Everything You Need to Know About Teaching a Mason Core Course	SoTL: Conducting Classroom-Based Research Projects at Mason	Instructional Design Lab
12:00-1:00pm Lunch							
1:00-1:50pm		Collaborative Discussion Guides: Scaffolding Socialization and Learning Community Belonging	Grading 100s of Exams (the Easy Way) with GradeScope	Popping the Bubble: Self-Study to Enhance Writing Intensive Courses	Volts, Wires, and Waves: Charging Up, Building Connections, Breaking Through		Instructional Design Lab
2:00-2:50pm		The Practice of Full Spectrum Listening	How Can We Use AI as a Catalyst for Learning?		Should Your Department Offer a Course on How to be a Successful Graduate Student?	OTEA Panel: Transforming Our Online Teaching Strategies in New LMS	
3:00-4:00pm Reception & Raffle							

[Conference Registration](#) | [Presenter Information](#) | [Program](#) | [On Demand Resources](#)

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The 2024 Innovations in Teaching and Learning Conference will be hybrid, with Teaching Talks via Zoom on Thursday, September 19, 2024, and Interactive Sessions in the Johnson Center at George Mason University on Friday, September 20, 2024.

#### **Below are frequently asked questions about the conference.**

##### ACCESSIBILITY

**How can I request accommodations?** When you register for the conference, you will be asked if accommodations are needed as part of the ticketing process. Stearns Center staff will use the information provided to reach out to make arrangements. The Stearns Center is committed to providing equitable experiences for ITL participants and will try to accommodate access needs as best we can. Note: It can take 48-72 hours to process requests. Email [stearns@gmu.edu](mailto:stearns@gmu.edu) if you have additional accommodation requests or questions with the subject line "2024 ITL Accommodations Request." Mason Pond is the closest visitor parking deck to the Johnson Center. For more information, please visit the GMU Parking website [here](#).

##### ATTENDEES

#### **How can I make a personalized conference schedule in Sched?**

You can add sessions to your personal schedule by clicking the "add to schedule" button found in each session entry. We appreciate you taking the time to make a personalized schedule. It helps the presenters anticipate session attendance. If you wish to receive any follow up emails from the presenters, you must add the session to your personalized schedule.

### **How do I access the online Zoom sessions?**

For the Thursday Teaching Talks sessions, the Zoom link will be made available in Sched 10 minutes before the session start time. You can access your online Zoom session via Sched in two ways: 1) click on the yellow “Open Zoom” button on your schedule/chosen session entry or 2) manually enter the Zoom meeting code and passcode at the end of each session abstract. If you are affiliated with Mason, information about setting up your Zoom account can be found at <https://its.gmu.edu/>. If you are not affiliated with Mason, you will need to download/access the Zoom app. ITS (703-993-8870; [its.gmu.edu](https://its.gmu.edu/)) can help you with general Zoom access questions. **NOTE:** *Only Teaching Talks sessions are presented through Zoom on Thursday, September 19, 2024.*

### **What opportunities are there to connect beyond the conference?**

We encourage participants to Tweet, tagging us @StearnsCenter and using #MasonITL. You can also view participant profiles in Sched to reach out with questions, comments, and further conversation. You may also continue learning about teaching strategies and connecting with fellow educators through [Stearns Center professional development opportunities](#). **NOTE:** *You can adjust your privacy settings with Sched if you prefer not to be visible.*

### **How can I report a Code of Conduct violation or express any Code of Conduct Concerns?**

Please alert the online session host or in-person presenter about any incident or issue happening in a session. If you are in a breakout group, click on the “Ask for Help” button on the Zoom tool bar. Feel free to stop by the ITL registration desk throughout the conference, which will be continuously staffed on Friday, September 20, to respond to concerns you may have.

### TECHNOLOGY

**Having trouble accessing Zoom?** If you have trouble accessing Zoom, please restart your computer and make sure you have the latest version on your device. Please visit [its.gmu.edu](https://its.gmu.edu/) for additional Zoom set up information or call ITS at 703-993-8870 for Zoom issues.

### **What do I do if an online session ends unexpectedly?**

In some rare situations, we may have to end a session early or restart a session or there may be a technical delay launching the session. If this happens, we plan to relaunch the session as quickly as we can. Please retry the original Zoom link in Sched a few minutes after the disconnection. **NOTE:** *If this occurs with less than 30 minutes remaining in a 50-minute session, we plan to end the session at that time and try to get supplementary materials posted for the session after the conference. Thank you for understanding.*

### **Sometimes there are problems with virtual events—what should I do when X happens?**

If you are having difficulty using the conference scheduling app (Sched) to access Zoom links, finding the ITL event in the downloaded version of the Sched App, or connecting with Zoom, please contact Stearns Center staff at [stearns@gmu.edu](mailto:stearns@gmu.edu)

### **What do I do if I have trouble accessing Sched?**

When you register, you should receive an **email from Sched confirming your registration** (please check spam, clutter, and junk folders). Please email Sched at [support@sched.com](mailto:support@sched.com) if you have received this confirmation email, but still cannot access Sched.

### **Will Teaching Talk sessions be recorded?**

Teaching Talks sessions will not be recorded.

**Teaching Talk Presenters: Please contact your assigned moderator for any issues beyond technology ones during the online conference on Thursday, September 19, 2024.**

**Where will my On Demand Resources go?** If your On Demand Resource is selected, you will upload your teaching artifact to the Open Science Framework platform in August. In the weeks leading up to the conference, we will share your abstract and link to your resource on the Stearns Center website and social media. Links to your resource will also appear in Sched, our conference app, and in the conference program.

## CONFERENCE POLICIES

### **Code of Conduct**

The Innovations in Teaching & Learning conference is an annual event for Mason instructors, GTAs, administrators, staff, and our local community members to forge a sense of community around teaching and learning. All presenters, sponsors, attendees, and volunteers are required to follow our Code of Conduct. The ITL conference planning team will enforce this code throughout the event.

Our goal is to create a space where everyone feels welcome to participate, engage in conversation, and ask questions. We ask that all participants help us to create safe and positive experiences for everyone. ITL is committed to providing a harassment-free environment for everyone and will not tolerate harassment of any participant, attendee, guest, or volunteer, in any form. Sexual misconduct and discriminatory conduct (language, imagery) are not appropriate at any time during the conference (e.g. on screen, in public or private chat; in Q&A, during presentations, or in breakout sessions; on social media platforms or online media).

Expected behavior:

- All participants, attendees, and ITL staff/volunteers are treated with respect and consideration. We value diverse thoughts and opinions.
- Please be respectful, considerate, and try to collaborate during conflict.
- Remember to critique ideas rather than individuals.
- Please use preferred pronouns.
- Respect the rules and policies of this conference and various systems (i.e., Zoom, Sched), in main meeting rooms, as well as in breakout rooms or social gatherings/postings.

Unacceptable behavior: Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to, inappropriate verbal/written comments related to gender, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race,

religion, or national origin; inappropriate use of nudity and/or sexual images and links on screen, in chats, or in live Q&A:

- Personal attacks directed toward presenters, attendees, sponsor representatives, ITL staff/volunteers, and any University staff that provide support to the conference.
- Discriminatory, demeaning or harassing actions/words.
- Disruption of presenter, attendee, or session host talk/leadership during the session or social events

Consequences and reporting unacceptable behavior: Anyone requested to stop unacceptable behavior is expected to comply immediately. ITL staff/volunteers may take appropriate action, including immediate removal from the session and/or the conference for any remaining sessions. ITL reserves the right to prohibit any attendance at any future conference or related event. Individuals are subject to consequences set forth by [George Mason University](#).

If you experience or witness unacceptable behavior, please notify an ITL staff member or volunteer immediately. The “Announcement” page in the Sched app will list ITL staff contact information.

How do Sched and Zoom protect my data?

The Sched Schedule App collects and processes personal data from you only for lawful reasons, such as our legitimate interests, your consent, or to fulfill our legal or contractual obligations. For additional information, view Sched’s full [privacy statement](#). Zoom is committed to protecting your personal data. We use reasonable and appropriate technical and organizational measures to protect personal data from loss, misuse and unauthorized access, disclosure, alteration and destruction, taking into due account the risks involved in the processing and the nature of the personal data. For additional information, view Zoom’s full [privacy statement](#).

For all other questions during the conference please contact the Stearns Center ([stearns@gmu.edu](mailto:stearns@gmu.edu)) on September 19 and visit the ITL registration desk in front of Dewberry Hall on September 20.

Registration for 2024 ITL conference is CLOSED. The following information is only for archival purposes:

[ITL Home](#) | [Presenter Information](#) | [Program](#) | [On Demand Resources](#) | [ITL FAQ](#)

*Register Early! Online conference registration closes at midnight September 17, 2024.*

Those who miss the registration deadline:

- for Thursday, you will need to email [stearns@gmu.edu](mailto:stearns@gmu.edu).
- for Friday, you will need to come to the Registration desk where we will do on-site registration.

*Click the button below to register for the 2024 ITL Conference:*

**Register now!**

Registration is required in order to attend. Presenters must register prior to August 12, 2024.

Please contact the Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning at [stearns@gmu.edu](mailto:stearns@gmu.edu) with any questions.

Welcome ITL 2024 Session Presenters!

**This is your one-stop destination for information about presenting at this year's hybrid ITL conference.**

Thursday, September 19, 2024 – Teaching Talk sessions will be held via Zoom

Friday, September 20, 2024 – Interactive Sessions will be held in-person in the Johnson Center

**Below you will find details about:**

- Registration
- Program
- On Demand Resources
- Key Dates
- General Session Information
- Session Tips

**If you still have questions, check out our [ITL FAQ](#) page or email our Conference Director, Crystal Anderson, [cander8@gmu.edu](mailto:cander8@gmu.edu).**

## **REGISTRATION**

All presenters must [register](#) for the conference. Registration is FREE! Registration in Sched gives you access to the virtual and in-person program (including room numbers!), details on your session and the ability to plan other sessions you would like to attend. You can also:

- Update your personal information so attendees can learn more about your qualifications
- Update your photo
- View session information
- See who plans to attend your session

- Send messages to registered attendees

Registration also allows you to sign up for a light breakfast, lunch and reception. You will also have access to all virtual and in-person sessions and On Demand resources.

**ALL PRESENTERS SHOULD REGISTER BY AUGUST 12.**

## **PROGRAM**

Please see the [Conference Program page](#) for details.

## **ON DEMAND RESOURCES**

On Demand presenters must upload their materials to the [Open Science Framework \(OSF\)](#) by August 12. OSF hosts our conference proceedings, including On Demand as well as supplemental materials from other presenters. This is a user-friendly, self-serve system. Simply visit [24 ITL at OSF](#), enter your personal information, and upload your materials using the following naming convention: LastName\_Title. If you have more than one document, include a file number (e.g.: LastName\_Title\_1).

You can make changes after you upload. The OSF website includes directions on how to do so.

**ALL ON DEMAND MATERIALS ARE DUE AUGUST 12.**

## **KEY DATES**

- August 12: Deadline to [register](#) for presenters
- August 12: Deadline to [submit changes](#) to the program
- August 12: Deadline to [submit On Demand materials](#)
- September 19: Teaching Talk Virtual Sessions
- September 20: Interactive Sessions

## **GENERAL SESSION INFORMATION**

**Room assignments (Interactive Sessions only).** Room assignments will be made available at the conference check-desk outside Dewberry Hall on Friday, September 20th. All Interactive Session presenters are required to check in prior to your session to receive your room assignment and nametag.

**Available technology (Interactive Sessions only).** All rooms will be equipped with PowerPoint presentation capabilities (projectors, etc.) and laptop hookups as well as microphones.

**Zoom links (Teaching Talk Sessions only).** You will receive Zoom links for your session from your session moderator. Attendees will be able to access information for your session when they register but Zoom links will only become visible 10 minutes before the session.

**Accommodations.** You will be asked about necessary accommodations during registration. If there is anything else you would like us to know, please reach out to us at [stearns@gmu.edu](mailto:stearns@gmu.edu).

**Expected attendance.** It is impossible for us to say exactly how many attendees you will have at your session. You can view a list of people who have added your session to their schedule in Sched, which may give you an approximate idea of what to expect.

**Changes to the program.** After August 12, we will not be accepting changes to the program. We also cannot accommodate changes to session times once the program is finalized. If you can no longer participate in the conference for any reason, please let us know as soon as possible. You can email the Stearns Center ([stearns@gmu.edu](mailto:stearns@gmu.edu)) or Crystal Anderson ([cander8@gmu.edu](mailto:cander8@gmu.edu)).

## SESSION TIPS

**Interaction Sessions.** Interactive Sessions allow presenters to actively engage participants as they share a teaching strategy, innovation, curricular initiative, technique, or tool. Facilitated by 1-3 presenters, these

sessions feature interaction with attendees and provide takeaways that participants can use in their own teaching practice or curricular development.

Examples of interaction include:

- Pre-planned, guided discussion on a specific topic related to the session
- An activity where participants may practice a strategy or technique
- A brief writing activity where participants reflect on a topic related to the session
- An activity where participants collaborate to answer a question or apply a strategy or technique

**Teaching Talk Sessions.** Teaching Talks sessions allow individuals to share an aspect of their own teaching practice in a more concise format. In 10 minutes or less, participants present a teaching strategy, innovation, technique, or tool used in your course or SoTL research based on a course. Individual Teaching Talks will be grouped together in a 50-minute Teaching Talks session around a common theme. Stearns Center staff will facilitate engagement and manage the Q&A session.

**On Demand Resources.** On Demand Resources allow individuals to share teaching artifacts from their courses. These teaching artifacts include assignments, in-class activities, lecture notes/slide decks, syllabi, or other supplementary teaching materials plus a statement that provides context on their use, including how it is aligned with the course's student learning outcomes and how it relates to the student's life beyond the course. On Demand Resources will be showcased on the Stearns Center's website in the weeks prior to the conference and through Open Science Framework (OSF). Once uploaded, participants will be able to track engagement with their materials through download counts.