

# Center for Teaching and Learning



## Welcome Back!

The Center for Teaching and Learning is back on campus full time. We are here for virtual or in-person consultations or just a visit if you would like to stop by. We are excited to see everyone return to campus.

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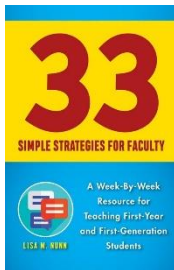
## Welcome Assistant Director, Michelle Corvette, Ph.D.



Please welcome Dr. Michelle Corvette as the new Assistant Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning where she is honored to support the efforts of Kent State's faculty. Prior to joining us, Dr. Corvette actively served in professional development as an assistant director at a large public research university as well as being a tenured faculty member in higher education for over twenty years. She is a proud alumnus of the University of London, Goldsmiths where she completed her second Ph.D. in theoretical Visual Arts Research. Her first empirical Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in Educational Psychology focused on creativity research. Her academic interests are at the intersection of inclusive teaching, early career faculty development, creativity in the classroom, and

advocating for student-centered instruction.

## Student Belonging Project



### Student Belonging Project

A strong sense of belonging has a significant impact on both student success and well-being (*College Belonging*, Nunn, 2021) and our own institutional data tell us that a key reason that students consider leaving Kent State is that they lack a sense of belonging. The Student Belonging Project aims to provide instructors and academic units with strategies to support student belonging, while recognizing and celebrating the successes that our gifted faculty have already implemented. Many of the recommendations that will be shared can be found in Lisa Nunn's books *College Belonging* and *33 Simple Strategies for Faculty: A Week by Week Resource for Teaching First-Year and First-Generation Students*. Please see the list below for suggested strategies and [add details of your own strategy here](#).

We will celebrate and highlight the instructors and departments who are champions of belonging. All submissions will be entered for a monthly prize drawing and grand prizes will be awarded at the end of the academic year.

### Beginning of Semester Strategies:

- Introduce yourself in class as a living, breathing human being rather than your professional self.
- Be available *and* perceived as available to your students. This may occur in student interactions in class, in the syllabus, and during office hours.
- Get to know your students through informal surveys, assignments, and activities.
- Require office hours (individual or group) early in the semester can help break the ice and decrease the barrier to attending in the future.
- Explain successful learning strategies for your course early and often in the first few weeks.

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### Student Belonging Resource to Share with Your Students

# FAMILY-FRIENDLY STUDY HOURS

Study while your kids play, read books, or join in a lesson led by a Kent State student volunteer.

RSVP at least 24 hours  
in advance.



[kent.edu/cavs/studyhours](https://kent.edu/cavs/studyhours)



**WEDNESDAYS** FROM  
**4-7 P.M.**

6TH FLOOR OF THE LIBRARY

**THURSDAYS** FROM  
**4-7 P.M.**

WOMEN'S CENTER

**KENT STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

Center for Adult and  
Veteran Services  
Division of Student Affairs

[RSVP for Family Friendly Study Hours](https://kent.edu/cavs/studyhours)

# Faculty Reading and Writing Groups

## Deadline to Register

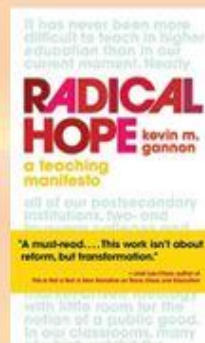
Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Center for Teaching  
and Learning



## Faculty Reading Group

Faculty reading groups help connect KSU educators interested in building community and developing their teaching through cross-disciplinary conversations. Please register on our website: <https://www.kent.edu/ctl> by Wednesday, Sept. 8th, 2021. To facilitate interaction, this reading group will be offered synchronously via Teams. Space is limited. A confirmation email, Teams link, and a copy of the book will be sent to all participants before the first meeting.



*Radical Hope: A Teaching Manifesto* by Kevin M. Gannon, 2020, West Virginia University Press; 1st edition.

In his book, *Radical Hope*, Dr. Gannon aims to help educators understand the idea of student “success” as moving from traditional viewpoints to more holistic and inclusionary approaches including well-being, thriving, belonging, and overall resilience.

## Faculty Writing Group

Faculty writing groups help faculty maintain as well as increase writing productivity and help faculty overcome writing barriers (Jensen, 2017; Sword, 2017; Geller & Eodice, 2013). Informal, yet dedicated Faculty Writing Groups are formed each semester. These groups are for faculty looking for a quiet space for writing as well as support at any phase in writing that moves you from idea to publication. Please see our upcoming newsletter for further information on how to sign up.

[Complete the survey for Faculty Writing Groups](#)

[To Register for Faculty Reading Groups](#)



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## Virtual Keynote

### Maha Bali, PhD

# *Creating an Equity and Care Ecosystem in Education*



Maha Bali is Associate Professor of Practice at the Center for Learning and Teaching at the American University in Cairo. She has a PhD in Education from the University of Sheffield, UK. She is co-founder of [virtuallyconnecting.org](https://virtuallyconnecting.org) (a grassroots movement that challenges academic gatekeeping at conferences) and co-facilitator of [Equity Unbound](#) (an equity-focused, open, connected intercultural learning curriculum, which has also branched into academic community activities (Continuity with Care and Socially Just Academia). She writes and speaks frequently about social justice, critical pedagogy, and open and online education.

This session will focus on the importance of centering both equity and care in educational institutions, and will unpack the intersections and levels of both. In order to center care and equity in classrooms, we need to create ecosystems of care and equity within our institutions, and this session will explore ways of doing so and encourage participants to suggest solutions for their own context. For more information please visit our [website](#).

[To register for Keynote](#)

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Virtual 27th UTC Conference on College Teaching  
*Student Centered Teaching During the  
Pandemic and Beyond*

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CELEBRATING COLLEGE  
**TEACHING**  
27<sup>th</sup> Annual UTC Conference

Student Centered  
Teaching During the  
Pandemic and Beyond

**October 22, 2021**  
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.  
*Virtual Conference*



[View Schedule of Events and Register](#)

[To go to Registration](#)

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## Featured Faculty



Jean Engohang-Ndong, PhD  
Biological Sciences



Ruth Leslie, PhD  
Chemistry and Biochemistry



Karen Mascolo, PhD  
College of Nursing

### **Dr. Jean Engohang-Ndong, Department of Biological Sciences, Tuscarawas Campus**

Dr. Engohang-Ndong is being recognized for his ongoing efforts to help all students succeed. Jean carefully considers all aspects of instruction, seeking and implementing evidence-based instructional strategies that foster student engagement in their own learning. As a Teaching Scholar with the Center for Teaching and Learning, he initiated research to understand the role of completing pre-class reading assignments on student participation in class. Jean is especially attentive to the needs of first-generation college students. In the past year, he has intentionally engaged with students on a human level, demonstrating great care for their well-being. Dr. Engohang-Ndong will also serve as a panelist in the Dialogue with Scholars at the upcoming Celebration of College Teaching being held on October 22, 2021.

### **Dr. Ruth Leslie, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Kent Campus**

Dr. Leslie is being recognized for her commitment to student learning in the remote environment. One of her primary goals was to keep students engaged in their own learning, using extensive polling and problem-solving during synchronous sessions. She incorporated multiple techniques to help students understand difficult concepts that often rely on understanding 3-dimensional molecules, such as using both 3D molecular modeling applications and physical models. In addition, she provided students with recorded videos to further illustrate important topics and to supplement synchronous sessions. Finally, she created a supportive community of learning where students were able to ask questions and receive immediate feedback. Her students praised her for her patience and diligence in answering their questions in ways that made them feel supported. This student quote sums it up "...made me feel comfortable enough in class to even ask questions, and not make me feel like an idiot. I was just thinking the other day that I'm going to feel sad when this class ends. That's the first time ever for me and it was ochem."

### **Dr. Karen Mascolo, College of Nursing, Kent Campus**

Dr. Mascolo is being recognized for her commitment to the holistic professional development of nursing students. Since coming to Kent State as a Non-Tenure Track professor, she has focused her attention on developing teaching strategies that engage the Millennial

Generation student. Dr. Mascolo has served as a Teaching Scholar with the Center for Teaching and Learning, has participated in the Faculty Academy for Student Success and recently received a Summer Teaching Development Grant from the University Teaching Council. Her current efforts focus on developing curricular approaches that will address and mitigate incivility in the healthcare sector. Her goal is to help students successfully navigate challenging inter-personal situations in clinical settings both as students and beyond college as practicing healthcare professionals.

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## Teaching Recognition Awards



The [Teaching Recognition Awards Program](#) recognizes actions that enhance teaching and learning at Kent State University. The program allows instructors to earn tiered awards (bronze, silver, gold & platinum) for their efforts to learn about, implement, evaluate and investigate evidence-based instructional practices. **All instructors at Kent State, including graduate students and faculty of all appointment types (TT, NTT, adjunct) are eligible to participate.**

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### Congratulations to [Bronze Award](#) Recipients:

Greta Polites, Jeanne Smith, Melissa Owen, Jennifer McCullough, Elizabeth Devore, Erin Bailey, Joanna Tzeciak Huss, Mary Russell, Lawrence Marks, Lisa Mittas, Debra Warstler, Scott Tobias, Kelly Dragomir, Ben Montesano, Donald Gerbig, R. Dirk Remley, Steven Walters, Michael Testa and Mariann Harding

### Congratulations to [Platinum Award](#) Recipients:

Richard Ferdig and Tracy Dodson

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## Further Learning Opportunities at KSU

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Join us for a

# Peace Education Conference

*Celebrating International Day of Peace*



September 17 & 18, 2021

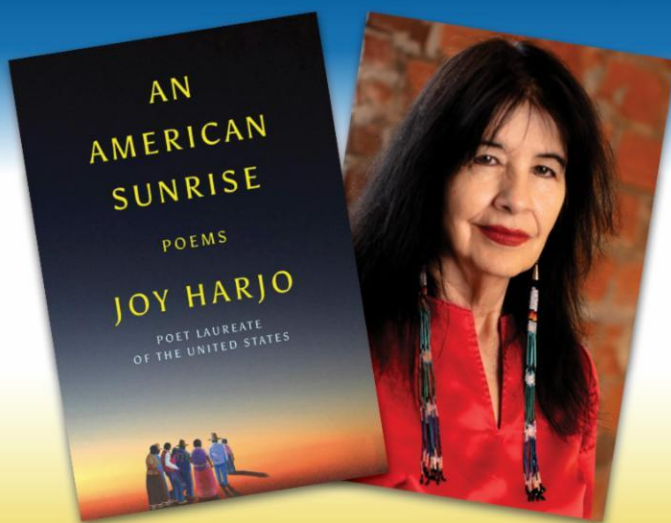
**Kent State University Hotel & Conference Center**

The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly. Two decades later, in 2001, the General Assembly unanimously voted to designate the Day as a period of non-violence and cease-fire. The theme for this year's [International Day of Peace is 'Peace Education for an Equitable and Sustainable World: Local and Global Perspectives'](#). As part of our contribution to the Day of Peace, Kent State University will be holding a keynote talk and reception and a one-day workshop on Friday, September 17 and Saturday, September 18.

For more information or to [register for the conference](#), visit the [International Day of Peace website](#).

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# NEA BIG READ NORTHEAST OHIO



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the **ARTS**  
**BIG READ**  
Managed by Arts Midwest  
[arts.gov/neabigread](http://arts.gov/neabigread)

Join us for our community kick-off event on  
**TUESDAY, OCT. 12**

For information on the program, events and activities, visit:  
**LIBRARY.KENT.EDU/NEABIGREAD**

[Visit the NEA Big Read Website](http://www.kent.edu/neabigread)

## Connect with Us:

CTL is here to support you; whether it is teaching face-to-face, remote, or a combination of both. Email [ctl@kent.edu](mailto:ctl@kent.edu) with your questions and/or set up a consultation time to better support you.

**Kent State University**

[ctl@kent.edu](mailto:ctl@kent.edu)  
<http://www.kent.edu/ctl>

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