

**Friday, December 15, 2023**

### **Penn State Faculty Digest**

Finals are nearly behind us and the semester break looms. All of us in the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs thank each of you for all you've done on behalf of the university this past year and wish you a restful and rejuvenating semester break. We look forward to seeing you in 2024!

The Faculty Digest provides faculty and instructors with relevant news and information about programs and resources that promote faculty success. Watch for these emails on the last Friday of every month (or earlier when there is a campus closure).

### **LATEST NEWS**

#### **Assessment of Teaching Effectiveness Updates**

A self-reflection on teaching will be a part of the annual review process, beginning with calendar year 2023. Self-reflections are expected to range between 250-1,000 words. See the [self-reflection webpages](#) for additional information and resources. You can also reach out to your academic unit leader (director of academic affairs, department head, school director, division head) to learn more about unit expectations. Faculty will be able to submit these self-reflections via Activity Insight.

Do you have questions about the new student feedback instrument ([SEEQ](#)) or how to prepare for the [self-reflection](#) expected for your faculty annual review for 2023? Contact The Schreyer Institute for teaching Excellence at [site@psu.edu](mailto:site@psu.edu).

Grants for academic units: The Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence offers grants to support academic units as they update their [peer review guidelines](#) as part of the new Faculty Assessment of Teaching Framework. These grants are intended to support conversations about possible changes to unit peer review of teaching guidelines, including integration of the [Elements of Effective Teaching](#). Requests for support may come from a committee, committee chair, or academic unit head at any Penn State location. Collaborators may include faculty, students, and administrators. Units may request funds for materials, lunches, or resources on peer review of teaching, as well as facilitation by a Schreyer Institute faculty consultant. We expect requests to be about \$20-\$25 per participant. Please send a brief description (300 words) of what the unit plans to do, how it will advance revision of unit peer review guidelines, and specific budget request to [site@psu.edu](mailto:site@psu.edu)

#### **November Faculty Senate Meeting**

Student mental health and food insecurity were among the topics discussed at the [final Faculty Senate meeting of the year](#) on November 28.

#### **PSEAL Program Faculty Members Recognized**

The Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs has recognized a select group of faculty members for [completing the Penn State Emerging Leaders \(PSEAL\) program](#).

The [PSEAL program](#), a collaborative effort between Faculty Affairs and Penn State Human Resources Talent Management, is designed to elevate the leadership potential of faculty.

### **Sustainability Program Discussions**

Faculty interested in learning more about [plans to establish a university-wide program in sustainability](#) can attend virtual discussions on [December 18](#) from 2:00-3:30 p.m. and [January 5](#) from 10:00-11:30 a.m. Both sessions will be held via Zoom.

### **Penn State's End-of-Year Video**

Watch the Nittany Lion's End-of-Year video [here](#).

## **FACULTY OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Provost Endorsement Program**

The Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost and the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs have announced the [launch of the Provost Endorsement Program](#), which aims to make current large-scale professional development opportunities more easily discoverable and accessible to faculty across the University and to promote the growth of rich professional development opportunities. More information is available [here](#).

### **Global Penn State Awards**

Penn State Global is now accepting nominations for the [2024 Advancing a Global Penn State Awards](#). The deadline to submit nominations is January 8, 2024, and full application packages are due January 12.

### **Applications accepted for innovative translational science research projects**

The National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences' (NCATS) Clinical & Translational Science Award (CTSA) program supports a national network of medical research institutions that work together to speed the translation of research discovery into improved patient care. Eight CTSA institutions, [including Penn State](#), have now joined together to form the Consortium of Rural States (CORES). In an effort to promote multi-institutional collaboration across the CTSA consortium, this [pilot program is soliciting applications](#) from faculty members at all career levels for translational science pilot projects that aim to exemplify the CTSA mission of "understanding a scientific or operational principle underlying a step of the translational process to develop generalizable principles to accelerate translational research."

### **Open Educational Resources Course**

A new professional development course, ["Integrating Open Educational Resources into Your Course,"](#) will help online instructors incorporate free or low-cost learning, teaching, and research materials into their curricula. The course will be offered online in February, June, and October by Penn State World Campus Online Faculty Development. Registration is open now on the [Online Faculty Development website](#).

## **EVENTS AND TRAINING**

### Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities for Teaching

- The Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence (SITE), Penn State's university-wide teaching center offers a variety of services and programs. All instructors are welcome to request a [teaching consultation](#) with a faculty consultant. Instructors may be particularly interested in these events and resources:
  - Request a workshop on any teaching topic or choose from these [commonly requested topics](#)
  - [Addressing Course Disruptions in the Moment](#) (resources)
  - [Election Day Asynchronous Instruction Guidance](#) (resource)
  - Do you have questions about the new student feedback instrument ([SEEQ](#)) or how to prepare for the [self-reflection](#) expected for your faculty annual review for 2023? Contact us at [site@psu.edu](mailto:site@psu.edu).
- Penn State's [Teaching and Learning with Technology](#) (TLT) units, [Creative Learning Initiatives](#) and the [Learning Design Team](#), along with [IT Learning and Development](#) offer workshops, programs, and individual consultations for faculty looking to enhance their teaching and learning through technology. Faculty new to Penn State may be particularly interested in these events:
- Provost Endorsement: [Embracing Teaching and Learning with Technology for Faculty New to Penn State](#), registration open until January 3, 2024
- [Prep & Practice: Preparing your Penn State Syllabus](#), 1/4/24 at 1:30 or 3:30 p.m.
- [Prep & Practice: Introduction to Canvas](#), 1/3/24 at 1 p.m. or 1/5 at 10 a.m.
- SITE and TLT offer many continuous learning opportunities and professional development resources for Penn State faculty: [Faculty Professional Development Opportunities -Continuously Updated.docx](#)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

To obtain comprehensive, updated information at any time, please review:

- The Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs [website](#)
- The University's comprehensive [COVID-19 resources](#)
- Previous issues of this [Digest](#)