

Capital University's Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching Fall 2026 Professional Development Calendar

Sessions and activities will be added during the semester. Professional development activities for staff and faculty also are listed on the [SharePoint Academic Resources Calendar](#). Room assignments might change – check the weekly CELT emails for session updates.

Lunch with the Provost | Make time for conversation and comestibles with colleagues. We meet in the Main Dining Room (MDR) in the Student Union by the north windows. Come when you can, leave when you must. Provost will buy you lunch!

Tuesday, September 1
Noon – 1 pm
MDR North Windows, Student Union

AAUP Meeting | Members and non-members alike are invited to discuss faculty governance, ongoing campaigns for contingent faculty improvements, and AAUP state and national advocacy efforts.

Wednesday, September 2
10 – 10:50 am
CMC 220

Signature Learning | Join the campus conversation about Signature Learning—Capital's general education program and a cornerstone of the student experience. This semester, we'll work together to shape the future of Signature Learning by defining and bringing to life Signature Learning Pathways. Your ideas and perspectives will help ensure these pathways are meaningful, intentional, and impactful for our students.

Wednesday, September 2
4 – 4:50 pm
Blackmore Library 110

Ethics and Society Community of Practice | How do we prepare students to engage thoughtfully, ethically, and respectfully with people and ideas across cultures, religions, and identities? One of Signature Learning's core learning outcomes challenges us to do exactly that. Join faculty and staff from across campus for a collaborative conversation about how students develop these capacities in UC 170, 270, and 370 courses—and how co-curricular experiences and learning within students' majors deepen and extend this work. Together, we'll share strategies, surface opportunities, and strengthen pathways that help students grow as engaged, inclusive members of a global community.

Wednesday, September 9
4 – 4:50 pm
Blackmore Library 110

Pre-health Advising Community of Practice | This group brings together faculty and staff who support students pursuing careers in the health professions to share advising strategies, stay informed about evolving pathways, and strengthen educational opportunities for pre-health students. From pre-medicine and pre-dentistry to pre-physical therapy, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, and beyond, participants collaborate to better guide students as they prepare for competitive, meaningful careers in healthcare.

Thursday, September 10
10 – 10:50 am
Battelle 218

Gallery Reception: *Shutter and Sound: The Jazz Photography of Bob Willoughby* | Bob Willoughby is perhaps best known for his candid photographs of famous Hollywood actors, but before taking photos on film sets, he captured many images of jazz musicians. Working in difficult lighting and crowded conditions, the images in *Shutter and Sound: The Jazz Photography of Bob Willoughby* are jazz improvisation made manifest: They give the viewer a sense of vibrant intimacy as he captured wistful singers, jamming musicians, and enthusiastic audiences.

Thursday, September 10
5 pm – 7 pm
Schumacher Gallery, Blackmore Library, fourth floor

Criticism and Culture Community of Practice | How do students learn to interpret creative expression, understand cultural context, and engage meaningfully with human cultures? One of Signature Learning's key learning outcomes focuses on these essential questions. Join faculty and staff from across campus to explore how students develop these skills through Fine Arts cognate courses, UC 220 and 320 classes, and co-curricular experiences within their majors. Together, we'll share ideas, identify connections, and strengthen Signature Learning Pathways that help students engage deeply with culture, creativity, and the human experience.

Wednesday, September 16
4 – 4:50 pm
Blackmore Library 110

Promotion and Tenure Discussion with Faculty Evaluation Committee | This is an opportunity for faculty in the College and Seminary to learn about the promotion and tenure process.

Friday, September 18
10 – 10:50 am
Blackmore Library 110

Signature Learning | Join the campus conversation about Signature Learning—Capital's general education program and a cornerstone of the student experience. This semester, we'll work together to shape the future of Signature Learning by defining and bringing to life Signature Learning Pathways. Your ideas and perspectives will help ensure these pathways are meaningful, intentional, and impactful for our students.

Wednesday, September 23
4 – 4:50 pm
Blackmore Library 110

Callicott Lecture Series: *The Purple Yam Way: Embodied Pedagogies for our Composted Futurities* by Rev. Dr. Baiju Markose | How do we learn, live, and imagine otherwise in an era of ecological collapse? Drawing inspiration from the poetic metaphor of the purple yam (ube), new materialist thought, subaltern ecosensibilities, and transformative theological imaginations, this six-part lecture series invites a radical rethinking of our relationship with the earth. Structured across three dynamic movements, Yamming, Stemming, and Rewilding, the series explores embodied pedagogies for composted futurities, guiding us toward collective ecological healing and renewal.

This is the first in the six-lecture series.

Thursday, September 24
4 – 5 pm
Blackmore Library 110

The Five Ws of Canvas Outcomes | Connect deans and chairs to learn about assessment in Canvas: Canvas Outcomes and key foundational concepts.

Monday, September 28
3 – 3:50 pm
RSVP with Gaby Robinson

AAUP Meeting | Members and non-members alike are invited to discuss faculty governance, ongoing campaigns for contingent faculty improvements, and AAUP state and national advocacy efforts.

Wednesday, September 30
10 – 10:50 am
CMC 220

Using AI to Support Student Learning | Have you been wanting to learn about some of the AI tools available to instructors to create classroom content? In this workshop you will be introduced to a few AI tools some of the faculty at Capital are already using to enhance the learning taking place in their courses. Examples of AI prompts and results will be presented, with a focus on MagicSchool, an AI platform specifically for educators. As part of our time together you will be given the opportunity to experiment with AI to create content for your own course.

Wednesday, September 30
3 – 3:50 pm
Zoom

Data and Scientific Thinking | How do students learn to make sense of data, ask meaningful questions, and understand the world through science and social inquiry? Two core Signature Learning outcomes focus on exactly these skills: using quantitative and qualitative information to solve real problems, and understanding the principles, methods, and societal impact of the natural and social sciences.

This conversation invites the campus community to explore how quantitative reasoning, social science, science and society, and lab science cognates help students build these essential skills—and how learning beyond the classroom, including co-curricular experiences and major-specific courses, deepens that development. Join us as we collaborate to design new Signature Learning Pathways that connect these outcomes to purposeful, engaging student experiences across Capital.

Wednesday, September 30
4 – 4:50 pm
Blackmore Library 110

CELT Book Group: [*Follow Your Bliss and Other Lies about Calling*](#) by **Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore** | *What does it mean to pursue a calling? According to Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore, it may mean ambiguity, uncertainty, and even suffering--but that's what makes it worthwhile. The common understanding of calling is often simplistic. You simply need to follow your bliss, or God's will. Miller-McLemore dives into the complex reality of what it means to pursue a calling, challenging the deceptive and destructive idea that a well-lived life is simple, with one perfect career, partner, or summons from God. Instead, she argues, to truly grapple with calling, we must consider how it evolves amid the constraints of life. Callings are often accompanied by loss, regret, failure, impediments, frustration, overload, and conflict, challenges that are an important part of a balanced life. Intertwining faith, philosophy, and pragmatism, Miller-McLemore engages unflinchingly with the ways we find purpose in our lives, and how we make meaning of the search for a calling, no matter how rough the road it leads us down.*

Tuesday, October 6
3:30 – 4:30 pm
Blackmore Library 119

First Year Seminar Community of Practice | This is an opportunity for everyone teaching a First Year Seminar class to discuss what they are experiencing in their classes and what they can do to enhance learning in a student's first year at Capital.

Wednesday, October 7
4 – 4:50 pm
Blackmore Library 110

Pre-health Advising Community of Practice | This group brings together faculty and staff who support students pursuing careers in the health professions to share advising strategies, stay informed about evolving pathways, and strengthen educational opportunities for pre-health students. From pre-medicine and pre-dentistry to pre-physical therapy, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, and beyond, participants collaborate to better guide students as they prepare for competitive, meaningful careers in healthcare.

Thursday, October 8
10 – 10:50 am
Battelle 218

Lunch with the Provost | Make time for conversation and comestibles with colleagues. We meet in the Main Dining Room (MDR) in the Student Union by the north windows. Come when you can, leave when you must. Provost will buy you lunch!

Thursday, October 8
Noon – 1 pm
MDR North Windows, Student Union

Callicott Lecture Series: *The Purple Yam Way: Embodied Pedagogies for our Composted Futurities* by **Rev. Dr. Baiju Markose** | How do we learn, live, and imagine otherwise in an era of ecological collapse? Drawing inspiration from the poetic metaphor of the purple yam (ube), new materialist thought, subaltern ecosensibilities, and transformative theological imaginations, this six-part lecture series invites a radical rethinking of our relationship with the earth. Structured across three dynamic movements, Yamming, Stemming, and Rewilding, the series explores embodied pedagogies for composted futurities, guiding us toward collective ecological healing and renewal.

This is the second in the six-lecture series.

Thursday, October 8
4 – 5 pm
Blackmore Library 110

Academic Advising Fundamentals | Effective academic advising is more than helping students choose courses—it's an opportunity to build relationships, support student success, and help students navigate their college experience with confidence. In this interactive session, new faculty will explore the fundamentals of effective advising, including understanding their role, having meaningful conversations with students, connecting students to campus resources, and knowing when and how to make referrals.

Friday, October 9
10 – 10:50 am
Blackmore Library 110

Signature Learning | Join the campus conversation about Signature Learning—Capital's general education program and a cornerstone of the student experience. This semester, we'll work together to shape the future of Signature Learning by defining and bringing to life Signature Learning Pathways. Your ideas and perspectives will help ensure these pathways are meaningful, intentional, and impactful for our students.

Wednesday, October 14
4 – 4:50 pm
Blackmore Library 110

Ethics and Society Community of Practice | How do we prepare students to engage thoughtfully, ethically, and respectfully with people and ideas across cultures, religions, and identities? One of Signature Learning's core learning outcomes challenges us to do exactly that. Join faculty and staff from across campus for a collaborative conversation about how students develop these capacities in UC 170, 270, and 370 courses—and how co-curricular experiences and learning within students' majors deepen and extend this work. Together, we'll share strategies, surface opportunities, and strengthen pathways that help students grow as engaged, inclusive members of a global community.

Wednesday, October 21
4 – 4:50 pm
Blackmore Library 110

Gerhold Lecture Series in the Humanities: [Jodi Kantor](#) | Best-selling author and prizewinning investigative reporter whose work reveals hidden truths about power, law, gender, technology and culture. Over the years, Jodi Kantor's reporting has led to a now ubiquitous invention that helps new mothers; paternity leave for workers at Amazon, the second-largest U.S. employer; and a global reckoning that shifted legal, corporate and social standards for treatment of women. For the past two years, she has been working to shed light on one of our most critical, powerful, and least-understood institutions: the Supreme Court. Kantor became a journalist by dropping out of law school— and never looking back. She has been the recipient of many awards and honors, including the Columbia Alumni medal, the George Polk Award, and Time Magazine's list of 100 most influential people of the year. Her work has earned praise across the political spectrum.

Wednesday, October 21

Capital Student Q&A
3 pm
Bridge of Learning, Ruff Learning Center

Lecture
7:30 pm
Huntington Recital Hall

Callicott Lecture Series: *The Purple Yam Way: Embodied Pedagogies for our Composted Futurities* by Rev. Dr. Baiju Markose | How do we learn, live, and imagine otherwise in an era of ecological collapse? Drawing inspiration from the poetic metaphor of the purple yam (ube), new materialist thought, subaltern ecosensibilities, and transformative theological imaginations, this six-part lecture series invites a radical rethinking of our relationship with the earth. Structured across three dynamic movements, Yamming, Stemming, and Rewilding, the series explores embodied pedagogies for composted futurities, guiding us toward collective ecological healing and renewal.

This is the third in the six-lecture series.

Thursday, October 22
4 – 5 pm
Blackmore Library 110

Assessment Planning Crash Course | Deans and chairs review the assessment planning process and collect assessment plans for each program. Revisit curriculum maps.

Monday, October 26
3 – 3:50
Ruff Learning Center 103

AAUP Meeting | Members and non-members alike are invited to discuss faculty governance, ongoing campaigns for contingent faculty improvements, and AAUP state and national advocacy efforts.

Wednesday, October 28
10 – 10:50 am
CMC 220

Criticism and Culture Community of Practice | How do students learn to interpret creative expression, understand cultural context, and engage meaningfully with human cultures? One of Signature Learning's key learning outcomes focuses on these essential questions. Join faculty and staff from across campus to explore how students develop these skills through Fine Arts cognate courses, UC 220 and 320 classes, and co-curricular experiences within their majors. Together, we'll share ideas, identify connections, and strengthen Signature Learning Pathways that help students engage deeply with culture, creativity, and the human experience.

Wednesday, October 28
4 – 4:50 pm
Blackmore Library 110

Signature Learning | Join the campus conversation about Signature Learning—Capital's general education program and a cornerstone of the student experience. This semester, we'll work together to shape the future of Signature Learning by defining and bringing to life Signature Learning Pathways. Your ideas and perspectives will help ensure these pathways are meaningful, intentional, and impactful for our students.

Wednesday, November 4
4 – 4:50 pm
Blackmore Library 110

Callicott Lecture Series: *The Purple Yam Way: Embodied Pedagogies for our Composted Futurities* by Rev. Dr. Baiju Markose | How do we learn, live, and imagine otherwise in an era of ecological collapse? Drawing inspiration from the poetic metaphor of the purple yam (ube), new materialist thought, subaltern ecosensibilities, and transformative theological imaginations, this six-part lecture series invites a radical rethinking of our relationship with the earth. Structured across three dynamic movements, Yamming, Stemming, and Rewilding, the series explores embodied pedagogies for composted futurities, guiding us toward collective ecological healing and renewal.

This is the fourth in the six-lecture series.

**Thursday, November 5
4 – 5 pm
Blackmore Library 110**

CELT Book Group: [*Follow Your Bliss and Other Lies about Calling*](#) by Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore | *What does it mean to pursue a calling? According to Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore, it may mean ambiguity, uncertainty, and even suffering—but that's what makes it worthwhile. The common understanding of calling is often simplistic. You simply need to follow your bliss, or God's will. Miller-McLemore dives into the complex reality of what it means to pursue a calling, challenging the deceptive and destructive idea that a well-lived life is simple, with one perfect career, partner, or summons from God. Instead, she argues, to truly grapple with calling, we must consider how it evolves amid the constraints of life. Callings are often accompanied by loss, regret, failure, impediments, frustration, overload, and conflict, challenges that are an important part of a balanced life. Intertwining faith, philosophy, and pragmatism, Miller-McLemore engages unflinchingly with the ways we find purpose in our lives, and how we make meaning of the search for a calling, no matter how rough the road it leads us down.*

**Tuesday, November 10
3:30 – 4:30 pm
Blackmore Library 119**

Lunch with the Provost | Make time for conversation and comestibles with colleagues. We meet in the Main Dining Room (MDR) in the Student Union by the north windows. Come when you can, leave when you must. Provost will buy you lunch!

**Wednesday, November 11
Noon – 1 pm
MDR North Windows, Student Union**

Data and Scientific Thinking | How do students learn to make sense of data, ask meaningful questions, and understand the world through science and social inquiry? Two core Signature Learning outcomes focus on exactly these skills: using quantitative and qualitative information to solve real problems, and understanding the principles, methods, and societal impact of the natural and social sciences.

This conversation invites the campus community to explore how quantitative reasoning, social science, science and society, and lab science cognates help students build these essential skills—and how learning beyond the classroom, including co-curricular experiences and major-specific courses, deepens that development. Join us as we collaborate to design new Signature Learning Pathways that connect these outcomes to purposeful, engaging student experiences across Capital.

**Wednesday, November 11
4 – 4:50 pm
Blackmore Library 110**

AAUP Meeting | Members and non-members alike are invited to discuss faculty governance, ongoing campaigns for contingent faculty improvements, and AAUP state and national advocacy efforts.

Wednesday, November 18
10 – 10:50 am
CMC 220

First Year Seminar Community of Practice | This is an opportunity for everyone teaching a First Year Seminar class to discuss what they are experiencing in their classes and what they can do to enhance learning in a student's first year at Capital.

Wednesday, November 18
4 – 4:50 pm
Blackmore Library 110

Callicott Lecture Series: *The Purple Yam Way: Embodied Pedagogies for our Composted Futurities* by Rev. Dr. Baiju Markose | How do we learn, live, and imagine otherwise in an era of ecological collapse? Drawing inspiration from the poetic metaphor of the purple yam (ube), new materialist thought, subaltern ecosensibilities, and transformative theological imaginations, this six-part lecture series invites a radical rethinking of our relationship with the earth. Structured across three dynamic movements, Yamming, Stemming, and Rewilding, the series explores embodied pedagogies for composted futurities, guiding us toward collective ecological healing and renewal.

This is the fifth in the six-lecture series.

Thursday, November 19
4 – 5 pm
Blackmore Library 110

Programmatic Accreditation Social/Peer Connections | Facilitate peer-to-peer networking across disciplines, share best-practices for documentation and succession planning, and gather common data and assessment support needs to inform future priorities from the Director of Assessment.

Monday, November 30
3 – 3:50 pm
Blackmore Library 110

Signature Learning | Join the campus conversation about Signature Learning—Capital's general education program and a cornerstone of the student experience. This semester, we'll work together to shape the future of Signature Learning by defining and bringing to life Signature Learning Pathways. Your ideas and perspectives will help ensure these pathways are meaningful, intentional, and impactful for our students.

Wednesday, December 2
4 – 4:50 pm
Blackmore Library 110

Callicott Lecture Series: *The Purple Yam Way: Embodied Pedagogies for our Composted Futurities* by Rev. Dr. Baiju Markose | How do we learn, live, and imagine otherwise in an era of ecological collapse? Drawing inspiration from the poetic metaphor of the purple yam (ube), new materialist thought, subaltern ecosensibilities, and transformative theological imaginations, this six-part lecture series invites a radical rethinking of our relationship with the earth. Structured across three dynamic movements, Yamming, Stemming, and Rewilding, the series explores embodied pedagogies for composted futurities, guiding us toward collective ecological healing and renewal.

This is the last in the six-lecture series.

Thursday, December 3
4 – 5 pm
Blackmore Library 110

Lunch with the Provost | Make time for conversation and comestibles with colleagues. We meet in the Main Dining Room (MDR) in the Student Union by the north windows. Come when you can, leave when you must. Provost will buy you lunch!

Monday, December 7
Noon – 1 pm
MDR North Windows, Student Union

Signature Learning | Join the campus conversation about Signature Learning—Capital's general education program and a cornerstone of the student experience. This semester, we'll work together to shape the future of Signature Learning by defining and bringing to life Signature Learning Pathways. Your ideas and perspectives will help ensure these pathways are meaningful, intentional, and impactful for our students.

Wednesday, December 9
4 – 4:50 pm
Blackmore Library 110

CELT Book Group: [Follow Your Bliss and Other Lies about Calling](#) by Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore | *What does it mean to pursue a calling? According to Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore, it may mean ambiguity, uncertainty, and even suffering--but that's what makes it worthwhile. The common understanding of calling is often simplistic. You simply need to follow your bliss, or God's will. Miller-McLemore dives into the complex reality of what it means to pursue a calling, challenging the deceptive and destructive idea that a well-lived life is simple, with one perfect career, partner, or summons from God. Instead, she argues, to truly grapple with calling, we must consider how it evolves amid the constraints of life. Callings are often accompanied by loss, regret, failure, impediments, frustration, overload, and conflict, challenges that are an important part of a balanced life. Intertwining faith, philosophy, and pragmatism, Miller-McLemore engages unflinchingly with the ways we find purpose in our lives, and how we make meaning of the search for a calling, no matter how rough the road it leads us down.*

Tuesday, December 15
3:30 – 4:30 pm
Blackmore Library 119
