







# AUGUST 2025 FLEX

- Zoom links are embedded in titles as well as provided with workshop descriptions.
- Please note that each session is tailored to: All Campus or Faculty.



Approved by the **Faculty Professional Development Committee** as student equity focused and qualifies as training required by AP7120.

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2025

- 8:45–9:45AM  Supporting Neurodivergent College Student Success (All Campus) | [Zoom](#)
- 10:00–11:00AM Star Signal (Faculty) | RM 2609 | [Zoom](#)
- 11:15AM–12:15PM Teaching in the Age of AI: A Discussion on Clarity and Academic Honesty (Faculty) | RM 2609 | [Zoom](#)
- 12:30–2:00PM  Equity-Driven Strategies in Dual Enrollment Instruction  
Lunch will be provided between 12:30 and 1 PM. **Please RSVP Here by Monday, August 4, 2025 at 12:00 Noon.** (Faculty) | RM 2609 | [Zoom](#)
- 2:15–3:45PM  Culturally Responsive Teaching (Faculty) | RM 2609 | [Zoom](#)
- 4:00–5:00PM North County Data Roundtable (All Campus) | RM NI007 | [Zoom](#)
- 5:00–5:30PM  Book Club:  
Grading for Growth Community (Faculty) | [Zoom](#)

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2025

- 8:45–9:15AM Welcome Gathering | **Please RSVP Here by Monday, August 4, 2025 at 12:00 Noon** (All Campus) | RM 2609
- 9:15–9:45AM Wellness Workshop: Fall Rewards and Healthy Equity Events (All Campus) | RM 2609 | [Zoom](#)
- 10:00–11:30AM Introduction to Lucid in Canvas (Faculty) | RM 2609 | [Zoom](#)
- 11:45AM–1:15PM How Librarians Can Support Your Teaching (Faculty) | [Zoom](#)
- 1:30–3:00PM How the Writing Center Can Support Your Students (Faculty) | [Zoom](#)
- 3:00–5:00PM Division Meetings

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2025

#### Supporting Neurodivergent College Student Success

8:45–9:45AM | (All Campus) | [Zoom](#)

Mercedes Rutherford-Patten and Luna Nombrano



Neurodivergent students bring unique strengths and perspectives to the college environment, yet they often encounter barriers that impact their academic success and well-being. This presentation will provide faculty with practical strategies for fostering an inclusive learning environment that supports neurodivergent students. Topics will include understanding neurodiversity, implementing accessible teaching practices, designing equitable assessments, and creating a classroom culture that values diverse ways of thinking and learning. Faculty will leave with actionable insights to better support neurodivergent students in their courses and contribute to a more equitable educational experience.

#### Star Signal

10:00–11:00AM | (Faculty) | RM 2609 | [Zoom](#)

Araceli Espinoza-Wade and Alex Kahane

STAR (Strategic and Tailored Assistance for Retention) Signal is Cuesta College's referral process, facilitated through Cuesta Connect. This tool is designed to proactively ensure students are connected to resources and support before challenges escalate. In this session, we will provide an overview of the STAR Signal process, including how instructors can effectively utilize it to foster student retention and promote successful completion.

#### Teaching in the Age of AI:

##### A Discussion on Clarity and Academic Honesty

11:45AM–12:15PM | (Faculty) | RM 2609 | [Zoom](#)

Alex Kahane, Steve Leone, and Isaac Valdez

As generative AI tools become increasingly accessible, instructors face new challenges in setting clear expectations around their use in coursework. This interactive session, hosted by the AI in Relation to Academic Honesty Taskforce, will equip faculty with strategies to communicate AI usage guidelines effectively, recognize potential misuse, and thoughtfully address situations when expectations aren't met.

We'll introduce the newly adopted AI Usage Syllabus Policy options—Restricted, Conditional, and Open—and explore how to include additional information to tailor them to your course needs. The session will also cover best practices for each option, including student guidance and training, approaches for recognizing AI-generated work, and fostering a culture of academic integrity.

Join us for a presentation followed by a panel discussion featuring faculty perspectives and assistance from our Student Support Resolution Coordinator, Isaac Valdez.

#### Equity-Driven Strategies in Dual Enrollment Instruction

12:30–2:00PM | (Faculty) | RM 2609 | [Zoom](#)

Mario Espinoza-Kulick and Kristina Vastine



Join us for a Flex session designed for current, new, and prospective dual enrollment instructors and faculty designees. Together, as a community of practice, we will explore how dual enrollment serves as a powerful equity tool to open doors to higher education for high school students, especially those from historically underserved communities.

Faculty will learn about the status and Cuesta College models of dual enrollment and envision their role in supporting student success. Whether you're actively teaching dual enrollment, serving as a faculty designee, or simply passionate about educational access, this session will share insights and provide practical strategies for making a lasting impact in students' journeys. Lunch will be provided between 12:30 and 1 PM. **Please RSVP Here by Monday, August 4, 2025 at 12:00 Noon.**

#### Culturally Responsive Teaching

2:15–3:45PM | (Faculty) | RM 2609 | [Zoom](#)

Lara Baxley



How can culturally responsive practices transform your teaching and support student success?

Join us for an interactive workshop led by chemistry instructor Lara Baxley, who recently completed a sabbatical project exploring and applying culturally responsive teaching methods in a general chemistry course. Culturally responsive teaching leverages students' cultural backgrounds and experiences to create more engaging and inclusive learning environments. By making students feel seen, valued, and empowered to address social inequities, this approach has the potential to enhance both learning outcomes and classroom community.

During this workshop, we will break down the core principles of culturally responsive teaching and discuss practical strategies to adapt and implement them in a variety of disciplines. Participants will have the chance to share insights, collaborate, and leave with actionable ideas to bring back to their own classrooms.

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### North County Data Roundtable

4:00–5:00<sub>PM</sub> | (All Campus) | RM N1007 | [Zoom](#)

Sean Boling and Jodi Meyer

In Spring 2025, a series of faculty roundtables were conducted among North County Campus Faculty, based on North County enrollment data, to generate ideas for enhancing the student academic experience on the NCC. Our Fall Flex activity will not only share the results of those roundtables, and the data that drives them, but solicit further observations and suggestions.

### Book Club: Grading for Growth Community

5:00–5:30<sub>PM</sub> | (Faculty) | [Zoom](#)

Erin Naegle



Have you ever wondered how you could get more students to shift from saying “I give up, I can’t learn this” to “I’m stuck, what can I do to learn this better?” Join the Grading for Growth book club! Participants will be provided with a copy of *Grading for Growth* by Clark and Talbert. We’ll read and discuss how to better design and implement grading practices that support learning using equity-based principles. The text includes different frameworks for a variety of class settings as well as a workbook that scales from making small but significant changes to holistically reworking a course. Whether you are new or returning to the group, you are welcome! We will determine the schedule of Fall 25 Zoom gatherings during the session.

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2025

### Welcome Gathering

8:45–9:15<sub>AM</sub> | (All Campus) | RM 2609

Gathering for light breakfast and coffee sponsored by the Wellness Committee and the Faculty Professional Development Committee. To ensure enough food and beverage, [please RSVP Here by Monday, August 4, 2025 at 12:00 Noon](#)

### Wellness Workshop: Fall Rewards and Healthy Equity Events

9:15–9:45<sub>AM</sub> | (All Campus) | RM 2609 | [Zoom](#)

Elisabeth DeSwart

Join our Wellness Program for ALL employees and students! Learn how to enter to win prizes for enjoying self-care activities, Wellness events, and community connection.

### Introduction to Lucid in Canvas

10:00–11:30<sub>AM</sub> | (Faculty) | RM 2609 | [Zoom](#)

Cynthia Wilshusen and Vanessa Cicero, Lucid Teaching and Learning Consultant

This engaging session will demonstrate how to add dynamic learning activities inside Canvas using the new Lucid for Education integration. Participants will learn how to brainstorm, annotate, collaborate, scaffold, and best of all explore hundreds of ready-to-use templates!

Through Canvas, two Lucid tools are available:

**Lucidspark** and **Lucidchart**.

- **Lucidspark** is a digital whiteboard designed to foster collaboration and enhance student engagement during class activities.
- **Lucidchart** is a powerful diagramming and graphic organizer tool that also supports advanced technical diagramming needs.

If you would like to participate in the hands-on exploration during the session, please bring a device!

### How Librarians Can Support Your Teaching

11:45<sub>AM</sub>–1:15<sub>PM</sub> | (Faculty) | [Zoom](#)

Carina Love, Sharon Haupt, and Michelle Hopper

Wondering what the library has to offer you and your students? This workshop will be an overview of library services and resources. Topics include free access to news and journal articles; databases; embedding these resources into Canvas; reserve textbooks; custom research guides for your assignment/course; embedded librarians; scheduling information instruction; ethical use of AI, and more. Time for hands-on practice and questions at the end. We will also have a Padlet that can be used to continue our conversation during the semester.

### How the Writing Center Can Support Your Students

1:30–3:00<sub>PM</sub> | (Faculty) | [Zoom](#)

Matt Fleming and Amelia Marini

Do you use writing assignments in your courses to assess students? Are you ever concerned that your students may not have the support they need to be successful with the creation of original written work? If so, please consider attending this roundtable session, the purpose of which is to share how Cuesta’s Writing Center can help serve your students and your courses even (and especially!) if you don’t teach English. In this session we’ll be hearing from faculty and student tutors about services like embedded tutoring, virtual tutoring, Connect Thursdays, and other Writing Center sponsored programming intended to offer community and support for our students across disciplines as they become stronger writers.

### 3:00–5:00<sub>PM</sub> | Division Meetings