

Fall Faculty Workshop Breakout Sessions 2026

Room	Session A (1:45 – 2:30pm)	Session B (2:45 – 3:30pm)
PBLD 103	Students' Experiences in Awards Competitions — Kenneth Nehrbass and Kayli Trieu	Are Students Seeing What We Intend? Exploring Student Perceptions of Academic Faith Integration — Staci Mizell and Grace Brown
PBLD 104	Scholar. Author. Writer: Exploring Academic Writing Identity — Dretona Maddox	Measuring the Impact of AFI through the Kingdom Professional Model — Dretona Maddox, Maritza Bojorquez, and Erica McIntosh
PBLD 123	Canvas Blueprints: Supporting Curriculum Consistency and Faculty Personalization — Elisa Shepard	Canvas Blueprints: Supporting Curriculum Consistency and Faculty Personalization — Elisa Shepard
PBLD 124	Canvas Essentials: Syllabi, Media, Links & Grades — Shannon Reynolds	Canvas Essentials: Syllabi, Media, Links & Grades — Shannon Reynolds
PBLD 125	AI, Critical Thinking, Human Formation, and Our Future: A Panel Discussion — Robert Shields, Brian Bovee, and panelists	
PBLD 202	From Proposal to Return: A Faculty Conversation on Sabbatical — Erin Smith; Krystal Hays, David Toledo, and Susan Duemer	Ask Me Anything: Research, Grants, and Faculty Funding — Erin Smith
PBLD 203	Preparing Students for Real-World EBP: Building Live Simulations Across Disciplines — Mercy Homer	Unforced Grace: Leading with Limits — Christine Lee Smith
PBLD 204	Grading with AI: Becoming a Better Evaluator, Not a Faster One — Ted Murcray	The Trust Collaborative: What We've Learned and What's Next — Ted Murcray
PBLD 250	From Faculty Member to Academic Leader: A Conversation with the Provost — Dr. Charles Sands	Mentoring Our Own: Addressing Faculty Shortages with Alumni Recruitment — Mary Ann Stahovich, Michelle Budd, and Cassidy Hoogeveen
PBLD 251	The Institute for Great Commission Research: The Why	Exploring AI Use in Student Learning: A Cross-Disciplinary Conversation — Elizabeth Morris

	and How of Research Partnerships — Matthew Niermann	
PBLD 252	Canvas Media & Engagement: Annoto and Kaltura — Shawn Richter	Canvas Media & Engagement: Annoto and Kaltura — Shawn Richter
Hawkins Music Building Room 101		The Performance of Teaching: Lessons from the Stage and the Classroom — Andres Jaramillo

Breakout Sessions

Sessions A Offering (1:45 – 2:30 pm)

Students' experiences in awards competitions

Presenters: Kenneth Nehrbass, Kayli Trieu

Room: PBLD 103

Come learn about the value of competition based learning (CnBL). Use the findings from this study to assess the value of regional and national competitions that your students could participate in.

At CBU, students compete to win recognition for (to name a few): artificial heart designs, business plans, magazine layouts, concrete canoes, steel bridges, and chemical, battery and gas-powered cars. Competition based learning (CnBL) has been shown to increase motivation and engagement, academic performance, persistence, career interest and soft skills. However, critics argue that competitions may lead to less engagement, as the rules restrict students' autonomy.

And while competitions may motivate high-achieving students, they may demotivate the struggling ones. Mixed opinions on the value of CnBL may stem from the fact that there is so much variety in the types of competitions in which college students can participate. Some involve a high level of teamwork; some are individual. Many require preparation; others are retrospective. Some include opportunities for networking; others do not. Based on interviews with 20 students at CBU (who participated in competitions), we found that they view these competitions as opportunities for self-improvement as the process provides them with 1) practical applications of their academic work, 2) networking opportunities, and 3) validation their skills and ideas.

Scholar. Author. Writer: Exploring Academic Writing Identity

Presenter: Dretona Maddox

Room: PBLD 104

Through scholarly inquiry and dissemination, faculty contribute to the broader body of knowledge within their disciplines, inform evidence-based practice, and advance their professional growth. Recent studies suggest, however, that faculty may hold complex and sometimes conflicting views about their scholarly identities, particularly as they navigate competing responsibilities related to teaching, service, faith integration, leadership, or other institutional expectations. In this collaborative space, structured as a unique participatory action research (PAR) project, participants will be invited to reflect on, explore, and describe their scholarly identity (e.g., researcher, scholar, author, practitioner-scholar, teacher-scholar, artist-scholar, etc.) and examine the intersections among their scholarly work, prior research and writing experiences, social identities, disciplinary contexts, and faculty roles.

Canvas Blueprints: Supporting Curriculum Consistency and Faculty Personalization

Presenter: Elisa Shepard

Room: PBLD 123

This session is designed for program leaders who want to think strategically about how Canvas can support consistent, high-quality curriculum across courses and sections. We'll explore how Canvas Blueprints can serve as a central source for shared program curriculum, automatically distribute content to course sections each term, support ongoing updates through syncing, all while still allowing faculty to personalize their sections with their own expertise, examples, resources, communication, and teaching presence. The session will also introduce broader program-level considerations around consistency of the student experience, Outcomes and assessment, and how Canvas can help programs maintain and improve curriculum over time.

Canvas Essentials: Syllabi, Media, Links & Grades

Presenter: Shannon Reynolds

Room: PBLD 124

This practical workshop will cover essential Canvas tools faculty need to effectively set up and manage their courses. Learn best practices for adding and displaying your syllabus, embedding media from Kaltura or other platforms, linking to course content and files within Canvas, and setting up Assignment Groups and weights for accurate final grade calculations. Along the way, we'll discuss helpful Canvas features and simple techniques that can make building and updating your course easier.

AI, Critical Thinking, Human Formation, and our Future: A Panel Discussion

Moderators: Robert Shields, Brian Bovee

Panelists: Carnell Borden, Nathan Iverson, Jin-Sil Mock, Sam Welbaum

Room: PBLD 125

Artificial intelligence is reshaping how students learn, think, and work. As AI assumes more intellectual tasks, what becomes the distinctive purpose of Christian higher education? Join faculty from across disciplines as they explore how AI challenges educators to cultivate faithful human agency, critical thinking and judgment, ethical discernment, and a deeper understanding of what it means to honor God and engage the world meaningfully in an AI-integrated future.

From Proposal to Return: A Faculty Conversation on Sabbatical

Moderator: Erin Smith

Panelists: Krystal Hays, David Toledo, and Susan Duemer

Room: PBLD 202

What does a successful sabbatical actually look like? Hear from faculty who have experienced the full sabbatical journey as they reflect on applying, planning, carrying out their projects, and returning to their teaching and service responsibilities. Through stories, lessons learned, and practical advice, panelists will help demystify the process and provide guidance for colleagues considering a future sabbatical.

Preparing Students for Real-World EBP: Building Live Simulations Across Disciplines**Presenter:** Mercy Homer**Room:** PBLD 203

A highly interactive workshop and sequel to *“Flipping the Classroom in the Age of AI: Ensuring Learning While Embracing Fair & Ethical AI,”* this session will help faculty learn how to design live, cross-disciplinary simulations that use evidence-based practice (EBP) to prepare students for real-world decision-making in the age of AI. Participants will experience a short simulation themselves, see discipline-specific examples from health sciences, education, and other professional fields, and walk away with a ready-to-adapt simulation plan for one of their own courses.

Grading with AI: Becoming a Better Evaluator, Not a Faster On**Presenter:** Ted Murcay**Room:** PBLD 204

The promise of AI grading is tempting, especially when faculty face growing demands on their time. Yet grading is more than assigning scores. It is one of the primary ways instructors learn what students understand, where they struggle, and how teaching needs to adapt. This interactive workshop explores what AI should and should not do in the grading process, focusing on practical ways to use AI to develop stronger rubrics, identify patterns in student work, clarify performance expectations, and improve assessment practices without replacing professional judgment.

From Faculty Member to Academic Leader: A Conversation with the Provost**Presenter:** Dr. Charles Sands**Room:** PBLD 250

Transitioning into an academic leadership role brings new opportunities, responsibilities, and challenges. Designed for faculty who have stepped into administrative leadership within the past one to three years, this interactive conversation with Dr. Sands, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, will explore the leadership skills, competencies, and perspectives that contribute to success in higher education administration. Through candid reflections and open discussion, participants will have the opportunity to learn from Dr. Sands' experience, ask questions, and consider practical approaches to leading people, programs, and institutions.

The Institute for Great Commission Research: *The Why and How of Research Partnerships***Presenter:** Matthew Niermann**Room:** PBLD 251

The most consequential research rarely happens alone. This session introduces the work of the Institute for the Great Commission Research and uses it as a case study for building meaningful research partnerships across disciplines, institutions, and global contexts. Together, we will explore why collaborative research matters, what makes partnerships successful, and how CBU faculty can contribute their expertise to research serving the global church and the Great Commission.

Canvas Media & Engagement: Annoto and Kaltura**Presenter:** Shawn Richter**Room:** PBLD 252

Discover how Kaltura and Annoto can help you make video content more engaging and interactive in Canvas. This hands-on overview will introduce the basics of accessing, uploading, embedding, and sharing Kaltura media, along with an introduction to Annoto's interactive commenting and engagement features. We'll explore practical ways to integrate both tools into Canvas pages and course activities to create a more connected learning experience.

Session 2 Offering (2:45 – 3:30pm)

Are Students Seeing What We Intend? Exploring Student Perceptions of Academic Faith Integration

Presenters: Staci Mizell, Grace Brown

Room: PBLD 103

Last year, participants in the First Year Faculty Experience (FYFE) collaborated on a research study examining how students perceive academic faith integration. In this session, two of those faculty researchers will share preliminary findings from the project, including what students identify as meaningful faith integration, what they would like to see more of in their courses, and whether perceptions differ among students with varying faith commitments. Grounded in the Christian Vocation Model (Sherr et al., 2007), the study offers valuable insights for faculty seeking to engage students in authentic connections between faith, learning, and vocation.

Measuring the Impact of AFI through the Kingdom Professional Model

Presenters: Dretona Maddox, Maritza Bojorquez, Erica McIntosh

Room: PBLD 104

This presentation explores the use of the Kingdom Professional Model (Jacobs & White, 2022) to assess evidence of academic faith integration in student reflection journals. Researchers analyzed journal responses from the same students across two semesters to determine the extent to which the model's components were reflected in students' written reflections. Findings provided insight into student development over time and the potential impact of intentional faith integration efforts.

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Ask Me Anything: Research, Grants, and Faculty Funding**Presenter:** Erin Smith**Room:** PBLD 202

Have questions about developing a research agenda, applying for an Internal Research Grant or extramural funding, completing Institutional Review Board (IRB) applications, securing funding for conference attendance or presentations, or navigating the Faculty Development Committee process? Join Dr. Erin Smith, Fletcher Jones Endowed Professor of Research, for an informal, participant-driven conversation designed around your questions. There is no formal presentation. Instead, bring your ideas, challenges, and questions, and Dr. Smith will offer guidance, share resources, and help connect you with the information you need. If she does not have an answer immediately, she will help you find it.

Unforced Grace: Leading with Limits**Presenter:** Christine Lee Smith**Room:** PBLD 203

In this experiential faith-integration session, participants will engage in a guided prayer practice centered on the biblical concept of human finitude — and what it means to lead from that place. Drawing on examples of Jesus' own humble leadership of the disciples, the session invites reflection on how embracing our limitations rather than hiding them may be the most honest and effective form of classroom leadership. A facilitated prayer time opens space for personal encounter, followed by whole-group discussion in which participants share what they discovered and consider what it might look like to accept their own humanity as an invitation — not an obstacle — to leading well in the classroom and beyond. Please bring something to write with and on.

The Trust Collaborative: What We've Learned and What's Next**Presenter:** Ted Murcay**Room:** PBLD 204

What helps students trust their instructors? What damages trust, and how can it be repaired when it is broken? This session will highlight key findings from two recent CBU studies on trust in the classroom and introduce the Trust Collaborative, an international network of scholars investigating trust in teaching and learning. Faculty are invited to learn about the project, engage with the findings, and consider joining the next phase of this growing international research effort.

Mentoring Our Own: Addressing Faculty Shortages with Alumni Recruitment

Presenters: Mary Ann Stahovich, Michelle Budd, Cassidy Hoogeveen

Room: PBLD 250

Faculty shortages continue to challenge a growing number of disciplines, including healthcare, education, STEM, business, and other professional fields. One strategy gaining attention is the recruitment of program alumni into faculty roles. This session will explore the factors contributing to faculty shortages, examine the potential benefits of hiring graduates as faculty members, and discuss the unique challenges institutions may encounter when onboarding their own alumni. Participants will engage in conversation about program culture, mission alignment, mentoring, diversity of perspectives, retention, and long-term faculty development, leaving with a deeper understanding of how alumni recruitment can serve as part of a broader strategy for strengthening the academic workforce.

Exploring AI Use in Student Learning: A Cross-Disciplinary Conversation

Presenter: Elizabeth Morris

Room: PBLD 251

As artificial intelligence continues to shape higher education, faculty across disciplines are navigating questions about appropriate, ethical, and effective AI use in student assignments. This session will introduce CBU's Academic Affairs AI Usage Scale, a five-level framework ranging from no AI use to full AI-supported learning.

Rather than serving as a policy presentation, this session is designed as a collaborative brainstorming and knowledge-sharing opportunity. Participants will explore how the AI Usage Scale might be applied within different academic disciplines, discuss opportunities and challenges associated with each level, and share examples of assignments, assessment strategies, and instructional practices that promote student learning while maintaining academic integrity.

Canvas Media & Engagement: Annoto and Kaltura

Presenter: Shawn Richter

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Discover how Kaltura and Annoto can help you make video content more engaging and interactive in Canvas. This hands-on overview will introduce the basics of accessing, uploading, embedding, and sharing Kaltura media, along with an introduction to Annoto's interactive commenting and engagement features. We'll explore practical ways to integrate both tools into Canvas pages and course activities to create a more connected learning experience.

The Performance of Teaching: Lessons from the Stage and the Classroom

Presenter: Andres Jaramillo

Room: Hawking Music Building (HMUS) 101

Great performances are engaging, memorable, and meaningful in their own right. They also offer powerful opportunities for teaching and learning. In this master class, Dr. Andres Jaramillo demonstrates how performance can be used to illuminate key concepts, deepen understanding, and create lasting connections with learners. Featuring examples from his recent musical performances, this session explores the intersection of artistry and pedagogy while offering insights that educators from any discipline can apply to their own teaching.

