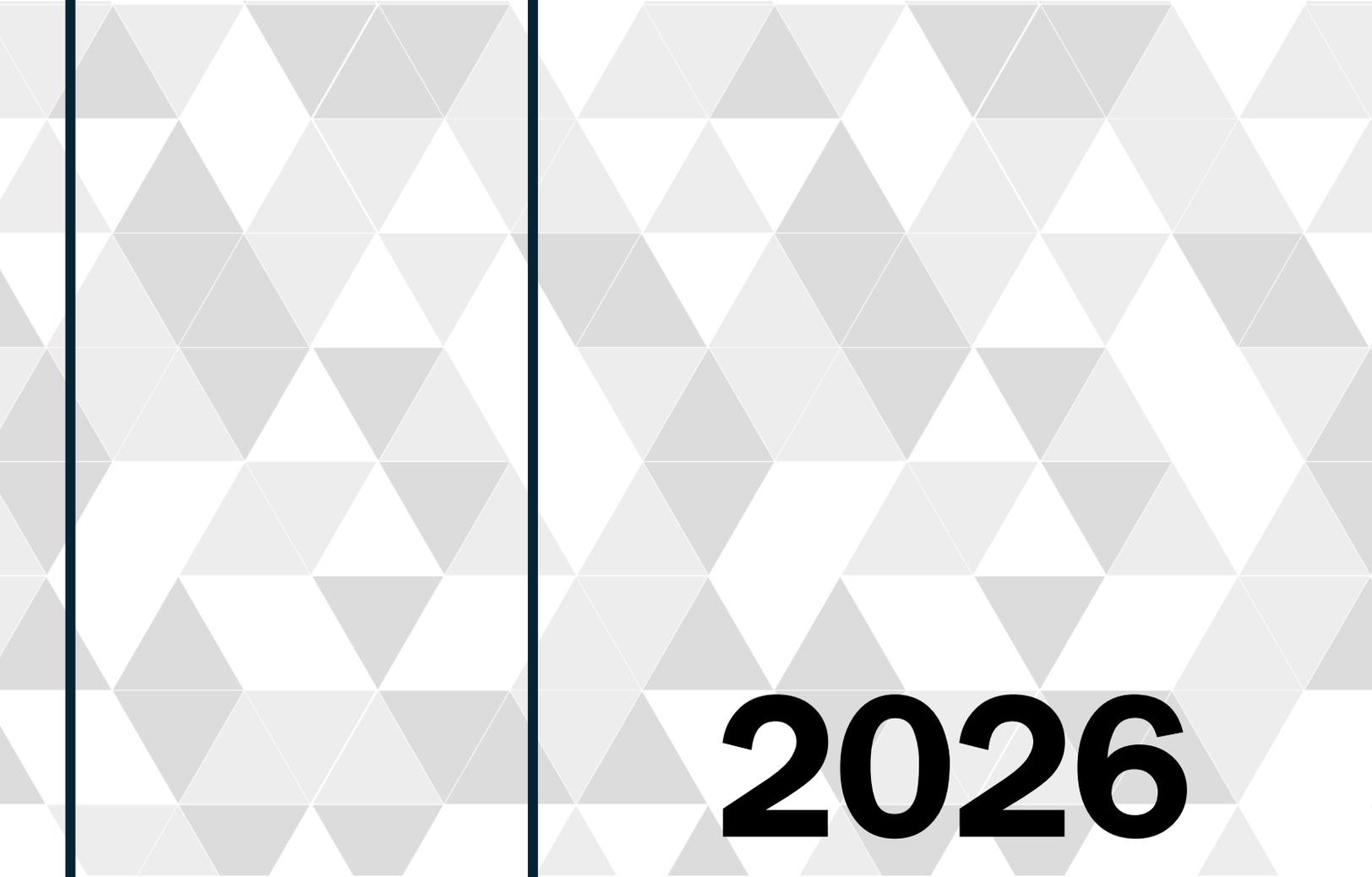




PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE TOGETHER



2026

BRISTOL

Lash Center for
Teaching & Learning

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

Time	Topic	Location
8:30 – 9:00 AM	Registration & Light Breakfast	Margaret L. Jackson Arts Center (H Building)
9:00 – 9:05 AM	Welcome & Program Overview Kristin Wakefield, Ed.D., Lash Center for Teaching & Learning	
9:05 – 9:15 AM	Opening Remarks Dr. Sedgwick Harris, Bristol President	
9:15– 10:15 AM	Keynote Address Dr. Maria Cormier, Columbia University	
10:30 – 11:45 AM	Concurrent Workshops - Session One	Various Locations – See Below
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Lunch, Networking, & Poster Session	Commonwealth College Center (G Building)
1:00 – 2:15 PM	Concurrent Workshops - Session Two	Various Locations – See Below
2:30 – 3:45 PM	Wellness Workshops - Session Three	Various Locations – See Below
4:00 – 4:30 PM	Closing Reception (optional)	Art Gallery

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



***Aligning Learning with Opportunity:
Advancing High-Value Career Pathways at
Bristol Community College***

Maria Cormier, Ph. D

***Senior Research Associate
Community College Research Center,
Teachers College, Columbia University***

Dr. [Maria Cormier](#) studies workforce development programs at community colleges. She currently leads the Virginia Workforce Recovery project and contributes to national evaluations of workforce initiatives, including the Strengthening Community Colleges Grants Program. Her research focuses on how community colleges align credit and noncredit programs, respond to technological change, and prepare students for high-value careers. Cormier holds an M.A. and Ph.D. in Educational Policy Studies from the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

Time	Title	Location
10:30 – 11:45 AM	SESSION ONE	
	Adult Learners and the Enrollment Pipeline	L-119
	Bristol Librarians as your AI Allies	L-205
	Building and Reviewing Strong Resumes	E-209A
	Commonwealth Honors Program: Journeys for Accessibility	L-207
	Discussion on Promoting the Success of General Studies Health and Life Sciences Students	L-102
	Dual Enrollment - Classroom Management & Success	L-206
	Implementing Real World Projects into Your Lessons	L-107
	Onboarding with Impact	L-106
	Story, Art, and Community: Community-Based Learning Project Connecting Bristol Students and Local Schools	L-105
	The Skill Journey - How does this all work?	L-103
	Using Gallery Exhibitions as Cross-Disciplinary Teaching Laboratories	L-120
	Using In-class Technology (Podium)	L-208
	Where You Fit: Identifying Opportunities for Impact Across Faculty & Staff Roles (<i>Keynote</i>)	L-101
1:00 – 2:15 PM	SESSION TWO	
	Aligning Math and Science: Strengthening Conceptual Connections Across Disciplines	L-120
	Books that Change Lives	L-119
	Building Smarter Canvas Sites	L-106
	Credit for Prior Learning at Bristol	L-105
	Data for Workforce Alignment: Connecting Academics to Opportunity	L-102
	Design Studio: High-Impact Practices & Community Engagement in Art & Design	L104

	Digital Accessibility: What It Is and How to Check Your Course Materials	L-101
	Economic Impact Report	L-103
	How Student Experience and Program Culture Fuel Achievement	L-206
	If They Can't Find It, They Can't Use It: Improving Resource Access for Busy Students	E-209A
	Navigating the AI Landscape: Technologies, Limitations, and Human Oversight	C-111
	Partnering with Advancement: Development and Alumni Resources to Help You Build a Better Future	L-107
	Social Media Accessibility - Quick Tips and Best Practices	L-207
	The Hiring Process at Bristol	L-208
	The Jackson Theatre and FRC Media presents "How to put on an event (or a podcast!)"	Theatre
	<i>WEEEEEEE</i> Want to be Scaffolded into Your Assignment! Information Literacy for every Discipline, Rubric Included!	E-208a
2:30 – 3:45 PM	SESSION THREE: WELLNESS	
	Connection Over Communication: What Today's Students Need from Us to Stay Engaged	L-105
	Conversation Across Difference	B102
	Cooking High Protein, Low Calorie Healthy Foods	Grady Dining Room
	Creating a Respectful Workplace	L-102
	Fitness in the Office and Classroom	Fitness Center
	Leave Guidance for Supervisors (FMLA & PFML)	D-107
	Let's Talk Coaching	D-105
	Stress Reduction & Resilience Building	L-103
	Supporting Well-Being for Yourself and Your Students: Practical Self-Regulation Strategies for Faculty and Staff	D-108
	Teaching for All Minds: Supporting Neurodiverse, Behavioral, and Emotional Learning Needs – Faculty Strategies and Roundtable Discussion	D-106

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

SESSION ONE

Adult Learners and the Enrollment Pipeline (L-119)

Dr. Kate Ashworth, Admissions Coordinator

This session will present my dissertation research findings on the experiences of adult learners in the community college context, with particular attention to the enrollment and onboarding process from recruitment through registration. Using qualitative data from adult learners, the session will explore four key themes: (1) From Self-Doubt to Determination, highlighting the internal barriers and resilience adult learners bring to the enrollment process; (2) Financial Aid Made It Possible, emphasizing the critical role of clear, accessible financial support information; (3) Just Keep Clicking, which captures the complexity and persistence required to navigate online systems and institutional processes; and (4) Navigating the Journey: Finding Your Crew, underscoring the importance of relationships, belonging, and support networks. Together, these findings offer insight into how community colleges can create more inclusive, transparent, and supportive enrollment experiences for adult learners.

Bristol Librarians as your AI Allies (L-205)

Laura Hogan, Reference Librarian | Teresa Maceira, Reference Librarian

The Library Learning Commons will present tools for faculty to use with students around AI literacy and academic integrity, as well as address privacy issues around AI for faculty and students.

Building and Reviewing Strong Resumes (E-209A)

Ryan Burdick, Strategy Manager, Talent Acquisition & Retention

This presentation provides a practical overview of how to build a clear, effective resume that highlights skills, experience, and accomplishments aligned with employer expectations. It also explains how resumes are reviewed and vetted by recruiters and hiring systems, offering insight into common screening practices and how to stand out in the selection process.

Commonwealth Honors Program: Journeys for Accessibility (L-207)

Kimberly Newton, Professor of Biology

Please join us to learn more about the benefits of the Commonwealth Honors Program for our students, and how we're working to make the program more accessible to all eligible students. We'll be looking at how honors pathways are developed, how to assist honors students in your (existing) courses, as well as using tools like Journeys in both Navigate 360 and through the Commonwealth Honors Program to help advise students along their individual pathways to success.

Discussion on Promoting the Success of General Studies Health and Life Sciences Students (L-102)

Dr. Adrienne Foster Scharf, Dean of STEM | Dr. Mike Sipala, Professor of Biology

The General Studies Health and Life Sciences program is one of the largest programs at Bristol. Unfortunately, a number of students get "stuck" in the program and fail to graduate or transfer. This workshop will discuss potential solutions to support the success of these students, including the concerns with the program, potential solutions for the program and how to best support our students.

Dual Enrollment - Classroom Management & Success (L-206)

Louis Culotta, Adjunct Faculty History

This session will investigate effective techniques for working with dual-enrollment high school students, with a focus on maintaining attention, supporting appropriate classroom management, and ensuring successful assignment completion.

Implementing Real World Projects Into Your Lessons (L-107)

Sam Martino, Adjunct Faculty Computer Science

Join Sam Martino as he shares his experiences developing a real video game project with a development schedule that follows the school semester. He'll discuss how to include your students directly into the process as well as building out teaching subjects directly from these projects.

Onboarding with Impact (L-106)

Cassie Wilcox, Strategy Manager, Employee Development

Emmanuel Ecchevarria, Chief Human Resources Officer

Effective onboarding is a shared responsibility that begins prior to an employee's first day and extends through their integration into the department. This session highlights practical steps supervisors and departments can take to set new employees up for success before they start, support them during their transition, and in the months that follow. We will also review Bristol-specific onboarding procedures that help ensure a consistent, and welcoming experience.

Story, Art, and Community: Community-Based Learning Project Connecting Bristol Students and Local Schools (L-105)

Brian McGuire, Associate Professor of English | David Graves, Professor, Art & Graphic Design

Erin Smith, Civic Engagement Coordinator

This workshop highlights a collaborative community-based learning project connecting Bristol students with elementary classrooms in the Fall River Public Schools. In ENG 102, students adapt traditional fables into original stories designed to support Social Emotional Learning (SEL) for young readers. Through a cross-disciplinary partnership with Bristol's Art and Design program, these stories are then illustrated by Bristol art students alongside drawings created by second-grade students. Co-facilitated by faculty from English and Art & Design, the session will explore how storytelling, illustration, and community partnership can create meaningful active learning experiences while connecting classroom learning to real audiences beyond the college.

The Skill Journey - How does this all work? (L-103)

Dr. Andrew Fisher, Vice President, Academic Affairs/Chief Academic Officer | Tim Hathaway, Director, Curriculum Engagement | Dr. Christine Hubbard, Executive Dean, Academic Affairs

How can Bristol design degree programs for jobs? In this interactive session Tim, Christine, Andrew and Ian will walk through the skill alignment process that links learning outcomes to labor expectations. We'll map out how we create LERs from the perspective of faculty, students, and employers. If you don't know what an LER is...then this session is for you!

Using Gallery Exhibitions as Cross-Disciplinary Teaching Laboratories (L-120)

Kathleen Hancock, Director Art Gallery

This session introduces practical methods for integrating rotating gallery exhibitions into non-art coursework. Participants will explore structured observation frameworks that support critical thinking, descriptive precision, evidence-based reasoning, and collaborative interpretation. Faculty will leave with adaptable assignment models suitable for disciplines including but not limited to English, Communication, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, Biology, Languages, ESL, and Social Sciences. The gallery is presented not as content to be mastered, but as a temporary laboratory for practicing transferable intellectual skills.

Using In-class Technology – Podium (L-208)

Kayla Desrosiers, Interim Associate Director, Client Technology | Jackie Lopes, EDP Systems Analyst I

This workshop provides a practical, hands-on overview of the technology found in Bristol's classrooms. Attendees will learn how to operate the podium system, use the Ladibug document camera, and connect personal devices for presentations. The session covers common troubleshooting, what to avoid when using classroom equipment, and how to quickly get technical assistance when needed. The goal is to ensure instructors feel confident, prepared, and supported when using classroom technology.

Where You Fit: Identifying Opportunities for Impact Across Faculty & Staff Roles (L-101)

Dr. Maria Cormier, Community College Research Center - Columbia University

Participants explore how community colleges can strengthen pathways to high-value careers by aligning academic and workforce programs, building employer partnerships, and supporting students through integrated credit and non-credit pathways. Her talk will highlight research-informed examples from colleges across the country and invite the Bristol community to consider how we can build a stronger future together for our students and region.

POSTER SESSION

The Work on the Walls: A Gallery of Advising & Success Initiatives (G Lobby)

Sean Fortney, Director, Advising & Success | Aaron Riobe, Associate Director, Curricular Advising & Case Management | Jayme Botelho, Associate Director, Advising & Success | Laine Clements, Project & Technology Specialist

This interactive poster session invites participants to explore Advising & Success initiatives through both technology and practice. Experience Navigate 360 from a student's perspective, including tools such as self-service scheduling, reminders, and career exploration that support student progress. In addition, a gallery-style display will highlight key initiatives from the past two years, showcasing their purpose, outcomes, and next steps. Designed as a lobby-based, drop-in experience, this session encourages conversation, exploration, and reflection on strategies that enhance student engagement and success.

SESSION TWO

Aligning Math and Science: Strengthening Conceptual Connections Across Disciplines (L-120)

Dr. Adrienne Foster Scharf, Dean of STEM

This session creates space for math and science faculty to identify the core mathematical concepts shared across their disciplines and to examine how course sequencing supports student learning. Participants will discuss where students encounter key skills, where gaps or overlaps occur, and how departments can better coordinate expectations to improve student success.

Books that Change Lives (L-119)

Debra Anderson, Professor of English | Denise DiMarzio, Professor of English | Brian McGuire, Associate Professor of English | Nancy Benson, Professor of English | Farah Habib, Professor of English

What books have changed your life? Join members of the English Department in a discussion of how books have shaped us personally and professionally. Participants are encouraged to discuss books that have impacted their lives, as well. Come learn about the Bristol Reads column in the Weekly and the Student Affairs Newsletter and get inspired to promote the value of reading across our academic community.

Building Smarter Canvas Sites (L-106)

Asawnie Moorehouse, EDP Systems Analyst I | Tahais Real-Martins, Coordinator Academic Computing

Designed for faculty who are comfortable with Canvas basics, this workshop focuses on building smarter, more efficient Canvas course sites. Participants will learn how to organize content using sequenced modules, manage dates and assignment settings, apply prerequisites and requirements appropriately, and use Simple Syllabus to support clear course expectations.

Credit for Prior Learning at Bristol (L-105)

Dr. Anna Battye, Associate Dean for Credit for Prior Learning

This workshop will introduce Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) at Bristol, highlighting why it matters and how students earn CPL. We will cover changes in these processes and discuss how we can all support CPL initiatives.

Data for Workforce Alignment: Connecting Academics to Opportunity (L-102)

Jade Vieira, Director, Strategic Analytics | Scott Francis, Assistant Director, Survey & Forms Administration | Julia Arcisz, ITS Specialist, Project Management & Operations

This interactive session explores how academic programs can align intentionally with regional workforce needs by using data-informed insights on student success, labor-market demand, and program outcomes. Participants will analyze real Bristol program profiles, engage with external labor-market tools, and develop actionable strategies.

Design Studio: High-Impact Practices & Community Engagement in Art & Design (L104)

David Graves, Professor, Art & Graphic Design

ART 292, Design Studio, is a course where Art & Design students are able to work with real clients and each other in a studio setting, creating professional portfolio work while engaging and enriching the community.

Digital Accessibility: What It Is and How to Check Your Course Materials (L-101)

Rachel Rebello, Coordinator Academic Computing | Alex Saurette, EDP Systems Analyst I

This session explains what it means to make course materials accessible and why accessibility matters for students. We will also demonstrate several tools that faculty can start using immediately to check the accessibility of their course content.

Economic Impact Report (L-103)

Dr. Andrew Fisher, Vice President, Academic Affairs/Chief Academic Officer

Brianne McDonough, Interim Vice President, Economic & Business Development

In this session Brianne and Andrew will take time and review the recent Economic Impact Report that was completed by Hanover Research. We will also make space for deep conversations about non-credit to credit transition work and the role that skill alignment plays in developing programs that meet the needs of employers and students.

How Student Experience and Program Culture Fuel Achievement (L-206)

Nancy Labonte, Director of Adult Education | The Adult Education Team

Each year, more than 50 Adult Education students transition into Bristol's degree and certificate programs—driven by a program culture built on belonging, high expectations, and meaningful support. In this session, hear from AE staff and students about how clear pathways, rigorous college- and career-ready instruction, and High-Impact Practices (HIPs) work within a supportive, student-centered environment. Learn how personalized guidance, strong relationships, and a strengths-based approach build confidence, persistence, and momentum. Discover how an intentional culture of connection and accountability prepares students not just for their next step—but for lasting success. Join us to examine how a supportive, student-centered culture—combined with purposeful pathway design—creates the conditions for sustained academic momentum and long-term success.

If They Can't Find It, They Can't Use It: Improving Resource Access for Busy Students (E-209A)

Stefanie Gouveia, Academic Coordinator

We know our learners come from many different backgrounds, and generally have multiple identities (ex: student, parent, and employee), so it is no surprise that when they need help the most, it is outside of normal business hours. This presentation aims to share ways students can get the information they need when they need it.

Navigating the AI Landscape: Technologies, Limitations, and Human Oversight (C-111)

Dr. Steven Frechette, Professor of Cybersecurity

This presentation introduces the foundational concepts of artificial intelligence, distinguishing AI from machine learning and deep learning while highlighting real-world applications. It explores the evolution of modern AI systems, the limits of narrow AI, and the essential role of human judgment, ethics, and responsibility in designing and guiding intelligent technologies.

Partnering with Advancement: Development and Alumni Resources to Help You Build a Better Future

Dr. Dariel "DT" Henry, Director of Foundation and Community Affairs (L-107)

Jenn Harris, Director of Advancement and Strategic Giving

Advancement at Bristol Community College is more than fundraising—it is a strategic partner in helping the college community bring ideas, programs, and initiatives to life. This session will introduce faculty, staff, and alumni to the many ways the Advancement Office can support their work, from identifying and pursuing grant opportunities to planning events and strengthening community partnerships. This workshop will provide an overview of how our team collaborates with departments across the college to secure funding, connect with donors, engage alumni, and elevate impactful initiatives. Participants will learn how to work with Advancement to develop grant proposals, coordinate donor-supported projects, and design events that strengthen Bristol's mission and community impact. Attendees will leave with a clearer understanding of how the Advancement Office can serve as a resource and partner in advancing ideas that support student success and help build a better future for Bristol—together.

Social Media Accessibility - Quick Tips and Best Practices (L-207)

Olivia Robinson, Staff Associate | Kendall Furtado, Video & Social Content Specialist

Accessibility matters, especially on social media! This workshop introduces social media accessibility quick tips and best practices aligned with the American Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II regulations and WCAG 2.1 AA standards. During this session, you will learn several simple, actionable approaches to making your social media content more accessible, including alt text, color contrast, captioning, and more! Open to all, with a special focus on administrators of Bristol social media accounts.

The Hiring Process at Bristol (L-208)

Ryan Burdick, Strategy Manager, Talent Acquisition & Retention

Emmanuel Ecchevarria, Chief Human Resources Officer

This interactive workshop will review recent strategic improvements to Bristol Community College's hiring process, including skills-based hiring, job leveling, and enhancements to the full-time hiring workflow. Participants will also explore best practices for interviewing and equitable hiring, as well as their role in supporting effective part-time hiring processes. Through discussion and practical examples, the session will provide guidance on how employees can contribute to strong hiring practices that support Bristol's commitment to fair, consistent, and effective recruitment.

The Jackson Theatre and FRC Media Presents "How to put on an event (or a podcast!)" (Theatre)

Teressa L'Heureux, Theatre Operations Supervisor | Steve Rys, Assistant Director/Television Services

A fascinating romp through the process of holding an event at the theatre and the resources available to the college community and podcasting!

WEEEEEEE Want to be Scaffolded into Your Assignment! Information Literacy for every Discipline, Rubric Included! (E-208a)

Emily Brown, Coordinator Library Services | Kolby Peixoto & Laura Hogan, Reference Librarians

This workshop will provide full and adjunct faculty a guided tour of the Library Learning Commons' new Information Literacy Assignment Bank Website and Information Literacy Rubric. Faculty will discuss different approaches to incorporating research skills into their course and using our Rubric based on the Association of College and Research Libraries Framework to score their assignments. This workshop is especially important for courses that have Information Literacy as a Gen Ed, or for those who hope to incorporate Information Literacy.

SESSION THREE - WELLNESS

Connection Over Communication: What Today's Students Need from Us to Stay Engaged (L-105)

Thomas Morgan, Director of Student Engagement and Belonging

Student engagement is often associated with events, clubs, and co-curricular programming, but for today's students, engagement extends far beyond traditional involvement. It shapes how students attend class, respond to communication, navigate institutional processes, and ultimately decide whether to persist. This session explores how student engagement and belonging have evolved in the post-COVID landscape, with a particular focus on the realities of Bristol students, including those balancing work, family responsibilities, and online learning. Drawing on national research, practitioner insights, and Bristol student voices, the session will examine what motivates students to engage, where engagement breaks down, and how institutional structures can either support or hinder connection.

Conversation Across Difference (B102)

Dr. Ande Diaz, Vice President for Special Projects, Tree of Light Consulting Guild

In times of heightened political polarization, differences in identities, experiences, and perspectives can surface in classrooms, advising conversations, meetings, and campus spaces. Workshop participants reflect on how identity, experience, and media environments shape viewpoints, recognize dynamics that can escalate conflict, and practice strategies for responding constructively to challenging moments. Through discussion and scenarios, participants will build skills for engaging diverse perspectives and supporting respectful dialogue across differences in a community college setting.

Cooking High Protein, Low Calorie Healthy Foods (Grady Dining Room)

Esteban Martinez, Associate Professor of Culinary Arts | Mia Dobies, Instructor of Culinary Arts

This workshop explores the latest dietary guidelines released by the Department of Health and what they mean for everyday eating. The session includes a live cooking demonstration and tasting of high-protein, low-calorie dishes designed for general wellness, and long-term health.

Creating a Respectful Workplace (L-102)

Patricia Raskin, Program Director Raskin Resources Productions

Integrity and respect in workplace interactions help cultivate a positive and successful environment that enhances the bottom line. This program will introduce communication skills and other behaviors that promote respectful, open ways of relating, settling differences and working effectively as a team.

Fitness in the Office and Classroom (Fitness Center)

Kieran Murray, Administrative Assistant II – Athletics & Recreation | Lynette Gomes, Fitness Center Staff

Gym attire recommended! We will offer an overview of why fitness is important for students, faculty, and staff and what the Fitness Center has to offer. This will be followed by a tour with targeted equipment demonstrations. We will finish the session with a shortened Fitness class where Lynette will guide them through movements and stretches that can be done anywhere including the office and the classroom.

Leave Guidance for Supervisors: FMLA & PFML (D-107)

Alicia Lewis, Strategy Manager, Employee Wellness | Pamela Legg, Director, Employee Services

This session will cover essential guidance for supervisors for supporting employees who request or take leave. You will learn about the types of leave available, confidentiality requirements, communication expectations, and when to partner with Human Resources.

Let's Talk Coaching (D-105)

David Cozzens, Leadership Coach, Your Next Path LLC.

Ever wonder why some leaders bring out the very best in their teams? In this interactive session, executive coach Dave Cozzens will share how coaching can transform the way we lead, collaborate, and deliver results. We'll explore what coaching really means, how it's different from giving advice or mentoring, and simple but powerful techniques—like asking better questions and really listening—that you can start using right away. Through real-world examples and practical tools, you'll discover how coaching helps people unlock their potential, tackle challenges, and achieve lasting success. Whether you're leading projects, managing teams, or simply looking to grow as a professional, this session will leave you with fresh insights and strategies you can put into practice tomorrow.

Stress Reduction & Resilience Building (L-103)

Shannon Savoy, Administrative Assistant II – Taunton Center

This session introduces practical, science-based strategies for a balanced, busy life. Participants explore common stress triggers, learn evidence-based coping skills, and practice quick techniques proven to support emotional, mental, and physical well-being. The workshop concludes with a brief personal balance plan grounded in behavioral science to guide everyday habits and strengthen overall wellness.

Supporting Well-Being for Yourself and Your Students: Practical Self-Regulation Strategies For the Classroom (D-108)

Dr. Constance Messier, Professor Occupational Therapy Assistant

This workshop equips faculty with classroom ready self-regulation strategies that support student engagement, learning readiness, and persistence. Grounded in occupational therapy principles, it explores how arousal, sensory processing, and stress influence attention, behavior, and participation, particularly for today's diverse community college learners. Faculty will examine how both top-down strategies (such as cognitive framing, routines, and explicit regulation supports) and bottom-up strategies (including sensory, movement, and body-based approaches) can be embedded into everyday teaching practices. Drawing from evidence informed frameworks like the Alert Program and the Zones of Regulation, participants will learn to proactively support regulation rather than reactively manage behavior. Through brief hands-on activities, reflection, and applied examples, faculty will gain practical tools to create inclusive, responsive learning environments that support all students, especially those experiencing stress, neurodiversity, trauma, or competing life demands.

Teaching for All Minds: Supporting Neurodiverse, Behavioral, and Emotional Learning Needs – Faculty Strategies and Roundtable Discussion (D-106)

Dr. Kelli Hiller, Professor of Medical Laboratory Technology and Phlebotomy

Join a faculty and staff roundtable discussion focused on strategies for supporting students with neurodiverse, behavioral, and emotional learning needs and more. Participants will share some of their practices, challenges, and ideas for fostering inclusive learning environments while supporting the entire classroom.

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