# 2023 Summer Conference

Explore and Embrace Equitable Assessment Practices

Lory Student Center Theater

May 17 – May 18

## Conference Overview

### Wednesday, May 17

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### Thursday, May 18

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Linda Adler-Kassner is Associate Vice Chancellor for Teaching and Learning and Professor of Writing Studies at UC Santa Barbara. In her capacity as accreditation liaison officer, she is in the end stages of a collaborative two-year equity-focused study of students’ navigation through majors at UCSB.

Adler-Kassner’s research focuses on how different parties involved in education — faculty, students, administrators, community members — define “good learning,” and the implications of those definitions for teaching, learning, assessment, and public policy. She is author, co-author, or co-editor of 14 books and dozens of articles and book chapters, including Naming What We Know: Threshold Concepts in Writing and Literacy (co-authored/edited with Elizabeth Wardle). Her latest book (also with Wardle and published by the WAC Clearinghouse) is Writing Expertise: A Research-Based Approach to Writing and Learning Across Disciplines.

Adler-Kassner has taught undergraduate and graduate composition courses for more than 30 years. She is a former chair of the Conference on College Composition and Communication, composition’s largest disciplinary association, and former President of the Council of Writing Program Administrators.
2023 Summer Conference Schedule

Wednesday, May 17

**Breakfast | 8:00 – 8:45 am | LSC Theater**

Networking & Mini Workshop
Introduction to the conference and the Feedback and Assessment domain of the Teaching Effectiveness Framework. If you plan to attend breakfast, please be sure to register for this session.

Register
Breakfast Registration, May 17

Visit [tilt.colostate.edu/summercon](https://tilt.colostate.edu/summercon) in May for an updated program with Zoom links.

Zoom Link: Please use the link for the Keynote Address below.

**Keynote Address | 9:00 – 10:30 am | LSC Theater**

Re-Making the A: From Scarlet Letter to Asset-Based Advocacy
Presenter: Linda Adler-Kassner, Associate Vice Chancellor for Teaching and Learning and Professor of Writing Studies at University of California, Santa Barbara

The term “assessment” elicits a range of expressions for faculty. Formative course assessment, for instance, tends to elicit positive responses; summative (i.e., grading) less so. When assessment is associated with merit or promotion reviews, it might seem challenging or even daunting. And when it’s associated with institutional accreditation, including and not limited to work associated with Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs), it can sometimes lead to some very strong reactions.

This talk will focus on how we can use institutional assessment as a lever for institutional equity. To do so Professor Adler-Kassner will briefly review the intertwined histories of U.S. higher education and accreditation. Then, she’ll ask us to consider how we can apply ideas associated with “equity” and “equity-mindedness” (Kezar and Posselt) to institutional assessment. She will provide examples from her own campus’s recent equity-focused accreditation study, examining both how this study reflects this idea — and when it doesn’t. Ultimately, Professor Adler-Kassner will ask us to consider how “remaking the A,” by using assessment as a platform for asset-based advocacy, can ripple through all of our assessment-focused activities (from classroom to merit to institution).

Zoom Link
Welcome and Keynote (Zoom webinar)
Morning Sessions | 10:45 – 11:45 am

**Alternative Assessment and Feedback: Growth Mindset and Equity-focused Teaching Strategies to Support Student Success**

*Presenters: Aimée Kleisner Walker, PhD (she, her, hers) Assistant Professor & Katie Gerst, PhD (she, her, hers) Assistant Professor*

*Location: LSC 300*

Explore how Growth Mindset and Equity-focused Teaching Strategies can be used as a corrective tool to address systemic inequities and bias in traditional methods of assessment AND to support student belonging and success across ALL students.

**Tags:** Classroom assessment; Equity-centered; Formative assessment

[Click here or copy link to join on Teams](#)

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**Developing Learning Outcomes with Equity-Minded Considerations**

*Presenter: Kacee Collard Jarnot (she/her), Director of Assessment, Division of Student Affairs*

*Location: LSC 304/306*

Are you interested in developing learning outcomes for a class, program, or experience at Colorado State University? Or could your existing outcomes use an update? This session will provide attendees with a foundation for developing sound learning outcomes, including resources and tips for building equity into learning outcomes statements and time to develop outcomes during the session.

**Tags:** Learning outcomes; Program assessment; Equity-centered

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**Grading for Growth: Community of Practice Panel Discussion**

*Presenters: TILT Community of Practice Members*

*Location: LSC 312*

Join members of the TILT Community of Practice: Grading for Growth. Panelists will share some of their current grading practices and rationale for moving away from traditional grading toward practices grounded in equity and student learning and growth. Topics include standards-based grading, mastery grading, and “ungrading.”

**Tags:** Classroom assessment; Equity-centered; Formative assessment; Summative assessment

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**Lunch | 12:00 – 1:00 pm | LSC Theater**

If you plan to attend lunch, please be sure to register for this session.

Register

[Lunch Registration, May 17](#)
Keynote Workshop | 1:15 – 2:45 pm | LSC Theater

Threshold Concepts, SLOs, and Equity: What Does Each Offer? Provide?
Presenter: Linda Adler-Kassner, Associate Vice Chancellor for Teaching and Learning and Professor of Writing Studies
In this workshop, we’ll explore three ways of thinking about learning to consider what each offers to faculty seeking to engage in equitable teaching and learning.

Approach 1: Threshold concepts (TCs). Developed by faculty in disciplines, naming and thinking through threshold concepts are critical for people to fully participate in deep, (inter)disciplinary thinking. The threshold concepts framework has been developed and modified as faculty members within and across disciplines have applied this faculty-centric way of thinking to teaching, but TCs also can perpetuate dominant ways of knowing in disciplines.

Approach 2: Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). As an element of institutional accreditation, programs are required to have SLOs (or Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)). This requirement can be very differently perceived: as helpful for making goals transparent, as an administrative mandate, and as a projection of non-educational models into educational settings, and more.

Approach 3: Equity goals and “gaps.” Here, faculty focus on course performance with a particular focus on whether there are meaningful differences in levels of achievement between different groups.

Participants should be ready to focus on one course in their major for this workshop. We’ll begin by naming a threshold concept associated with the course, then use this as a starting point for our exploration. Participants will leave the workshop with response to the question: How can TCs, SLOs, and equity enrich each other?

Tags: Classroom assessment; Program assessment; Equity-centered; Learning outcomes

Zoom Link
Keynote Workshop (Zoom meeting)

Afternoon Sessions | 3:00 – 4:00 pm

Ice Cream Social with TILT
Presenters: TILT Staff Members
Location: LSC Theater Lobby
Connect with TILT programs including the teaching effectiveness initiative, tutoring, learning assistants, closed captions/inclusive design, best practices in teaching and more! Use this time to network with TILT staff and one another.
Tags: Sweet treats; Networking; Student success

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Using Rubrics as a Teaching and Learning Tool
Presenter: Jennifer Todd, Senior Faculty Developer and Teaching Effectiveness Framework Program Manager
Location: LSC 304/306
Do you ever wonder whether students actually read the rubric you provide with an assignment? Don't students realize if they refer to the rubric, they're likely to be more successful on an assignment? This workshop serves two purposes: it will bring you through a process you can replicate with your students to: 1) thoroughly read a rubric, 2) use a rubric to set learning goals, 3) promote self-directed learning, and 4) align lessons and activities with criteria on the rubric; and it will give you an opportunity to view your syllabus through an inclusive, student-centered lens. Please bring a hard copy or electronic copy of your syllabus to the workshop.
Tags: Classroom assessment; Formative assessment; Summative assessment

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Writing Instruction and Assessment in the Shadow of AI

Presenters: Dr. Genesea Carter, Interim Director of Composition, and Dr. Joseph Brown, Academic Integrity Program Director

Location: LSC 312

This presentation will share and discuss instructional and assessment strategies for encouraging authentic student engagement with writing and composition in the context of the challenge of generative AI writing programs such as ChatGPT, Bard, and others. Some prior understanding of ChatGPT and other AI products would be helpful.

Tags: Classroom assessment; Formative assessment; Summative assessment

Click here or copy link to join on Teams

Thursday, May 18

Breakfast | 8:00 – 8:45 am | LSC Theater

“Birds of a Feather” Networking Tables

Join the nest! If you plan to attend breakfast, please be sure to register for this session.

Register

Breakfast Registration, May 18

Morning Sessions 1 | 9:00 – 10:00 am

Student Voice and Choice: Writing Rubrics with your Students

Presenter: Annie Krieg, Instructor of Art History

Location: LSC 300

In this workshop, I will describe my transition away from exams and quizzes to student choice module assignments and student-authored rubrics. In this workshop, I will share the rationale behind this change, lessons learned over the past two years, and the impact it has had on student motivation and success.

Tags: Classroom assessment; Formative assessment; Summative assessment

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Assessing Student Engagement in the Classroom

Presenter: Stephanie Foster, PhD, Director of Assessment

Location: LSC 304/306

Student engagement is essential to learning. High levels of engagement have been linked to enhanced cognitive and social development, and positive outcomes such as retention and persistence. How do we know that students are engaged, and in what ways? How can we create a classroom environment that promotes engagement? This session will share some of the current thinking around assessing student engagement in the classroom and explore how teaching and assessment strategies can communicate to students the value of active participation in their learning.

Tags: Classroom assessment; Formative assessment

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How to Analyze a Multiple-Choice Exam to Make it Better for Next Time
Presenter: Andrew West, Assistant Dean of Teaching and Learning, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
Location: LSC 312
This session will describe how to conduct an item analysis using the native analysis feature in Canvas and what to do with the results of the analysis to strengthen the exam moving forward.
Tags: Classroom assessment; Summative assessment

Click here or copy link to join on Teams

Morning Sessions 2 | 10:15 – 11:15 am
Assessing Learning in the AUCC: A Framework for CSU
Presenters: Ashby Butnor (Philosophy), Genesee Carter (English), Stephanie Foster (Director of Assessment), Alan Kennan (Chemistry), Annie Krieg (Art and Art History), Kerry MacFarland (Chemistry), Karen Raines (Biology) & Patrick Shipman (Mathematics)
Location: LSC 300
As CSU’s general education program, the All University Core Curriculum (AUCC) provides an important foundation for student learning and skill development for success in the major and beyond. To ensure that we are on track with our goals, it is important to measure the educational impact of the AUCC on our students and use the results to inform meaningful dialogue about how we can keep our practices current. Our team came together this year to create a plan for the assessment of student learning in the AUCC that is sustainable, equitable, and meaningful. This session will share that plan and provide a space for participants to explore how we should work together to move the plan forward.
Tags: Program assessment; Equity-centered

Click here or copy link to join on Teams

The Equity/Excellence Imperative in Action
Presenter: Steven P. Dandaneau, Ph.D., Executive Director, The Association for Undergraduate Education at Research Universities (UERU) and Associate Provost, Colorado State University
Location: LSC 304/306
The Boyer 2030 Commission Report (University Press of Colorado, 2022) highlights need for urgent implementation of initiatives designed to meet “the equity/excellence imperative” at U.S. research universities. This presentation will highlight and contextualize leading edge efforts in this vein and entertain the question of what role CSU might play in this national conversation.
Tags: Equity-centered; Leadership through shared governance

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Formative Assessment: From the Theoretical to the Practical
Presenter: Dr. Nicole Kelp, Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Pathology, MTI Co-Coordinator, CVMBS
Location: LSC 312
Participants will consider evidenced-based strategies for formative assessment, work in small groups to develop or modulate formative assessment activities for their courses and develop ways to collect data to evaluate the efficacy of these activities. We will consider activities in a variety of fields, from STEM to liberal arts, and at a variety of levels, from undergraduate to graduate and professional student learners. Participants will work through a plan for scaffolding formative assessments both within a single class session as well as across a semester.
Tags: Classroom assessment; Formative assessment; Equity-centered

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Celebration of Teaching Lunch | 11:30 – 12:45 pm | LSC Theater
Celebration of Teaching Lunch
Presenter: Sue James, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Sue Doe, TILT Executive Director
Teaching Effectiveness Initiative Celebration and presentation of N. Preston Davis Award & Service Learning Awards. If you plan to attend lunch, please be sure to register for this session.

Register
Lunch Registration, May 18

Afternoon Session 1 | 1:00 – 1:45 pm | LSC Theater
The Teaching Effectiveness Framework: Overview and Connections to the P&T Process
Presenters: Dr. Karen Falkenberg, Director of Teaching Excellence, TILT, and Dr. Susan James, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs
The Teaching Effectiveness Framework (TEF) is aligned to Section 3 of the P&T Application. Karen Falkenberg will provide a brief overview of the TEF, the tools in the TEF Toolkit, and how faculty can use those resources to create annual goals and evidence in teaching proficiency. Sue James will then hold a Q/A on the use of the TEF in the P&T process.
Tags: Annual review; Promotion & Tenure

Zoom Link
Session on Promotion and Tenure (Zoom webinar)

Afternoon Sessions 2 | 2:00 – 3:00 pm
Presenters: Tonya Buchan, Senior Faculty Developer and Teaching Effectiveness Initiative Program Manager & Jennifer Todd, Senior Faculty Developer and Teaching Effectiveness Framework Program Manager
Location: LSC 300
Assessing the effectiveness of teaching can be challenging. Learn how to use the TEF Toolkit and TILT’s recommended process for annual review of teaching to recognize sources of teaching evidence, assess the quality of evidence to demonstrate teaching effectiveness, and provide constructive feedback to instructors. Instructors are welcome to attend and engage in the conversation.
Tags: Annual review; Promotion & Tenure

Click here or copy link to join on Teams
The Inclusive STEM Teaching Project @ CSU
Presenter: Kayleigh Keller, Assistant Professor, Statistics
Location: LSC 304/306
The Inclusive STEM Teaching Project is an online national professional development program designed to help faculty and advisors in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields incorporate and expand inclusive practices for student success into their teaching and mentoring. This session will highlight key elements and insights from the first offering of the Inclusive STEM Teaching Project at CSU from Spring 2023. We will present recommended strategies for STEM classrooms from the project and discuss how this project connects with other faculty development programs at CSU.
Tags: Equity-centered; Inclusive teaching practices

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Supporting Student Mental Health and Well-being - Data, Discussion, and Resources
Presenter: Monica Keele, MPH, DVM, Manager of Substance Misuse Prevention and Assessment, Viviane Ephraimson-Abt, MsEd, LPC, Manager of Well-being Initiatives
Location: LSC 312
Mental well-being is one of the top concerns for university students. This session will cover the 2021 student mental health and well-being data from the National College Health Assessment (NCHA), including how CSU compares to comparable institutions and nationally. We will discuss what’s currently working well to support student well-being and areas where there may be gaps and opportunities. Updates on campus resources will be shared, including CSU’s Well-being in Academic Environments Tool Kit, for use in academic settings. Join peers in a discussion about student well-being needs in and out of the classrooms - supported by data and sharing lived experiences. This session will be facilitated by staff from the CSU Health Network, Health Education and Preventions Services Team.
Tags: Rams Take Care of Rams; Equity-centered

Click here or copy link to join on Teams

CSU Assessment Leadership Academy | 1:00 – 4:00 pm
CSU Assessment Leadership Academy
Presenter: Stephanie Foster, PhD, Director of Assessment
Location: LSC 310
Have you been asked to run an assessment committee or project in your unit? Are you curious about how students are learning in your program’s courses but aren’t sure how to begin? The CSU Assessment Leadership Academy is for faculty and administrators who have leadership responsibilities for learning outcomes assessment in academic units. The Academy will help build foundational knowledge and skills for supporting peers to gather, analyze, and use student learning data in ways that are informative for instruction and curriculum decisions in the program or unit. This engaging three-hour workshop will prepare participants to lead assessment initiatives, including effective communication, creating efficient processes, and working collaboratively to make meaning of results.
Tags: Leadership; Learning outcomes; Program assessment

If you plan to attend, please register for this session. This session is available in-person only and has a maximum capacity of 20 attendees.

Register
CSU Assessment Leadership Academy, May 18
Conference Wrap-up | 3:00 – 4:00 pm | LSC Theater

Conference Wrap-up

Presenters: Jennifer Todd, Senior Faculty Developer and Teaching Effectiveness Framework Program Manager and Dr. Karen Falkenberg, Director of Teaching Excellence, TILT

Conference attendees are invited to collaborate and reflect on their Summer Conference experience through a guided discussion protocol.

Visit [tilt.colostate.edu/summercon](https://tilt.colostate.edu/summercon) in May for an updated program with Zoom links.