

Event Schedule and Session Descriptions

August 21 & August 22

Presented by:

The Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning, and The Office of Academic Affairs

Event Locations:

CHM = Chemistry Building

CF = Commerce & Finance Building

LTLC = McNichols Campus Library

Day One: August 21, 2025

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	A Moment to Mingle - CHM Lobby				
9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Al Panel: Student Voices and Faculty Perspectives - CHM 114				
10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Break				
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Session A1 - CF 233 The Integrated Learning Encounter: Competency- Based Learning for Direct Entry Master's Nursing Education Lori Glenn, Ashlee Barnes, Louis Davis, Julia Stocker-Schneider, Sherry McConnell, Patrice Wade Olson, Christopher Lopez	Session A2 - CF 213 From Streets to Scholarship: Centering Lived Experience, Justice, and Community in Higher Education Raul Echevarria, Yusef Bunchy Shakur	Session A3 - CF 209 Designing AI Chatbots to Simulate Real-World Challenges in the Classroom Phillip Olla, Marion J. Tate		
11:30 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.	Break				
11:40 a.m. – 12:40 a.m.	Session B1 – CF 233 UDM IRB: Pro Tips for Project Approval Linda Slowik, Kelli Anderson, Julia Stocker- Schneider, Cristine Smoczer	Session B2 - CF 209 Eye Wellness and Ergonomics Naureen Haroon	Session B3 - CF 213 A Study on Mental Health Intervention Integrated into Curriculum Ashlee Barnes, Arthur Ko		

12:40 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.	Lunch - McNichols Campus Library {Registration Required}					
1:40 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.	Session C1 - CF 209 Implementing High Impact Practices for Student Success with Limited Resources Rick Hill, Chris Nichols	Session C2 - CF 213 A Deeper Understanding of Mercy Critical Social Concerns by Participating in a Border Immersion Experience Gail Presbey	Session C3 – CF 233 Titans & the Stop Campus Hazing Act Emily Johnson			
2:40 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.	Break					
2:50 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.	Session D1 - CF Teaching Online Effectively: What You Need to Know CANCELED	Session D2 - CF 209 Backyard Birdwatching in Detroit and Its Surrounding Suburbs Erin Bell	Session D3 - CF 213 Advancing Equity through Alternative Grading Systems Mara Livezey, Marwa Abdel Latif, Danielle N. Maxwell, Matthew J. Mio			

Day Two: August 22, 2025

9:00 a.m 10:15 a.m.	Session E1 - CHM 114 Self-Compassion in Practice: Practical Strategies for Well-being Jennifer Ahlquist, Andrea Kwasky, Mary Serowoky				
10:15 a.m 10:30 a.m.	Break				
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Session F1 - CF 233 Mentorship Across Generations: Creating a Three-Tier Model for Onboarding and Scholarship Within the College of Health Professions Claire Nicholson, Nadine Wodwaski, Nour Lyon	Session F2 - CF 213 Living the Mission: Integrating Detroit Mercy's Core Values into Daily Practice Anna Bryson, Mission Effectiveness Team Members	Session F3 - CF 209 Destress Scholarship: Dossier Preparation Strategies and Publishing Tools for UDM Faculty Jill Turner, Jennifer Bowen, Alexa Rihana- Abdallah		
11:30 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.		Break			

11:40 a.m 12:40 p.m.	Session G1 - CF 233 Understanding the "Hyphen between Student - Athlete Traci Stewart, Robert Vowels, Amy Gasahl, Betse Walkowiak	" Communi Learning Is It and V Should Be CEL Class	e Teaching a s ny Hipskind, eit, Mara Claudia	Session G3 - CF 213 Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Training: Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Andrea Kwasky, Nour Lyon, Robi Thomas	
12:40 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.	Arias Lunch On Your Own {Food Truck available: Sacred Heart Square}				
1:40 p.m 2:40 p.m.	Session H1 - CF 209 Are You Having a Ruff Day at Work? Don't Fur-get the Benefits of Pet-Friendly Work Environments Ahmed Radwan	Session H2 - Today's Fund Landscape and to Grant Forw Find Opportu Prepare to A Ann Serra, M Favoretto, Ka	ing nd Intro vard: How to nities and pply ichele	Session H3 – CF 233 Book Reports on Out-of- Date Books: Darwin Durkheim Smith Michael Barry	
2:40 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.	Break				
2:50 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.	Session I1 - CF 209 Making Digital Content Inclusive: Practical Strategies for Accessibility Compliance Megan Novell, Nathan Balter Blume, Jill Spreitzer, Michele Favoretto		Session I2 – CF 213 Prompting AI to Maximize Teaching Moments Tamika Thompson, Marinele Campos		

AI Panel

Al Panel: Student Voices and Faculty Perspectives

Session Description:

Artificial Intelligence is rapidly transforming higher education, from how students learn and study to how faculty teach and assess. In this panel discussion, we explore the evolving role of AI at our institution through a mix of faculty insight and authentic student voices.

Panelists will share faculty perspectives on the challenges and opportunities AI presents in the classroom, including academic integrity, pedagogical design, and instructional policy. We will also hear directly from students through curated audio reflections that capture how they are using generative AI in their academic lives, what their experiences have been either positive or negative, and how they anticipate AI will impact their future careers.

Join us for an honest and timely conversation about the role of AI in shaping the future of higher education.

A1

The Integrated Learning Encounter: Competency-Based Learning for Direct Entry Master's Nursing Education

Presenters: Lori Glenn, Ashlee Barnes, Louis Davis, Julia Stocker Schneider, Sherry McConnell, Patrice Wade Olson, Christopher Lopez

Session Description:

This session will introduce participants to the Integrated Learning Encounter (ILE). The ILE is a method used to prepare entry-level nurses at the graduate level for the nursing profession while following a competency-based approach. Students and faculty from all courses and levels in the Master's Entry Advanced Generalist Nursing program come together for a daylong event to explore the nursing care of a single patient. Perspectives include fundamental, medical surgical, mental health, and community health nursing, along with the theoretical and Mercy and Jesuit foundations. Activities integrate knowledge from each class into seminar with discussion, team assignments, skills practice, group and self-reflections, and simulation. Simulations are created using the NCSBN Clinical Judgment Model and unfold throughout the encounter. Students work in teams within and across program levels, which enhances teambuilding and communication skills. This innovative approach to competency-based education bridges the classroom-clinical gap and is well received by students and faculty.

A2

From Streets to Scholarship: Centering Lived Experience, Justice, and Community in Higher Education

Presenters: Raul Echevarria, Yusef Bunchy Shakur

Session Description:

This session will use the internationally acclaimed documentary Redemption Road: The Story of Dr. Yusef Bunchy Shakur as a springboard to explore how lived experience can be integrated into academic settings to deepen student learning. The film traces Shakur's transformation from gang member to the first Black and formerly incarcerated Executive Director of the historic Michigan Roundtable for Just Communities. Set in Detroit, Redemption Road offers a counter-narrative to the often-sensationalized portrayals of the city, illuminating the real, raw, and revolutionary experiences of those surviving disinvestment, mass incarceration, and systemic racism. Participants will engage in dialogue on the power of narrative, explore practical tools for creating meaningful community partnerships, and leave with strategies to humanize pedagogy through authentic engagement rooted in justice, healing, and transformation.

A3

Designing AI Chatbots to Simulate Real-World Challenges in the Classroom

Presenters: Phillip Olla, Marion J. Tate

Session Description:

Explore how AI-powered chatbots can bring authentic, real-world learning into your classroom. In this interactive workshop, faculty will learn to design chatbot-driven simulations that engage students in conversational role-play, problem-solving, and critical decision-making within safe, reflective environments. These tools foster active knowledge construction, iterative learning, and professional reasoning.

Participants will gain practical strategies to align chatbot scenarios with course outcomes, embed reflective prompts, and assess learning using built-in analytics. By the end of the session, faculty will be equipped to implement student-centered, experiential learning experiences that mirror the complexity and ambiguity of real-life challenges.

B1

UDM IRB: Pro Tips for Project Approval

Presenters: Linda Slowik, Kelli Anderson, Julia Stocker-Schneider, Cristine Smoczer

Session Description:

Review the IRB approval process with special attention to applications in nursing, pedagogical research, optometry, and clinical and biomedical research. Tips on topics such as current thinking on informed consent, protecting vulnerable groups, publication and IRB, differences between research and quality improvement, privacy protection, financial conflict of interest, and management of sensitive data. Bring your research ideas to discuss and apply.

B2

Eye Wellness and Ergonomics

Presenter: Naureen Haroon

Session Description:

The workforce has changed from working within the confines of a cubicle all day. Whether you are using multiple monitors all day long, working directly with students or working with chemicals and toxic materials, the risk of visual and ocular harm has increased over the years. This session will review simple adjustments we can make to our office environment that will help reduce visual fatigue, eye injuries, and ocular discomfort. It is critical for us to have the proper knowledge of what is healthy and what is harmful to the eyes.

B3

A Study on Mental Health Intervention Integrated into Curriculum

Presenters: Ashlee Barnes, Arthur Ko

Session Description:

Mental and physical health interventions are essential elements in successfully completing educational requirements. In this study, nursing students participated in mindfulness interventions to prepare them for course activities by fostering an environment conducive to the achievement of learning outcomes.

C1

Implementing High Impact Practices for Student Success with Limited Resources

Presenters: Rick Hill, Chris Nichols

Session Description:

It is known that low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented students have rates of retention and graduation that lag behind their peers. A growing body of research has identified a range of high-impact practices and exemplary programs that have been successful in improving outcomes for these at-risk populations. The challenge of emulating these successful examples is that their implementation can be costly and resource-intensive. Over the past four years, a team in the College of Engineering & Science has initiated the Science & Engineering Equity Development (SEED) scholars program with 40 engineering and computer science students. This pilot program has leveraged existing oncampus resources and external industrial partners to implement a range of high-impact practices in a financially sustainable manner. In this session, we will share details of the program, outcomes, and lessons learned for retention and recruitment.

C2

A Deeper Understanding of Mercy Critical Social Concerns by Participating in a Border Immersion Experience

Presenter: Gail Presbey

Session Description:

The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas offer immersion experience opportunities to faculty and staff of Mercy Higher Education.By participating in these immersions, Mercy employees can have a better understanding of the works that the Sisters are doing at the U.S. - Mexico border with immigrant communities, with a focus on developing the skills of immigrant women, who are encouraged to gather, reflect on their lives, and decide together how to act to better their own lives and communities, including concern for the environment. The presenter will share her experience on Mercy border immersions to McAllen-Reynosa and El Paso- Juarez, and tell attendees about upcoming opportunities.

C3

Titans & the Stop Campus Hazing Act

Presenter: Emily Johnson

Session Description:

With the implementation of the Stop Campus Hazing Act in the federal sphere, it's time for more Titans to understand the broader scope of not just the current act, but the state laws and University policies regarding hazing and how to report should something happen! This is especially important for any faculty/staff that moderate a student organization, athletic/intramural teams, and more!

D1

CANCELED

D2

Backyard Birdwatching in Detroit and Its Surrounding Suburbs

Presenter: Erin Bell

Session Description:

During the pandemic, many people turned to birdwatching for comfort and calm. Looking at the view from our windows or walking through the woods provided a bit of respite from the world of screens. While we ostensibly have left those days behind, there is no time like the present to pick up birding where you might have left off. This interactive session will explore the joy and accessibility of birdwatching, offering basic ID tips, helpful tools, and a look at some great free apps. We will also highlight current efforts to decolonize birding and share resources and organizations that support inclusive practices. Whether you are new to birdwatching or a seasoned spotter, this session will invite attendees to slow down, sharpen their focus, and discover how observing birds can build patience, presence, and just plain delight.

D3

Advancing Equity through Alternative Grading Systems

Presenters: Mara Livezey, Marwa Abdel Latif, Danielle N. Maxwell, Matthew J. Mio

Session Description:

Faculty from all disciplines are invited to attend this session where we will discuss student outcomes from classes using Alternative Grading Systems (AGS). AGS are a family of grading approaches that shift the focus from points-based learning to meeting learning outcomes. This session will briefly review theories of alternative grading, quantitative and qualitative student data, and faculty perspectives gathered across AGS courses in the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry. Most time will be spent in a roundtable discussion. Participants are encouraged to bring a type of assignment or assessment that they would consider converting to AGS to discuss with the group for suggestions on approach and implementation.

E1

Self-Compassion in Practice: Practical Strategies for Well-being

Presenters: Jennifer Ahlquist, Andrea Kwasky, Mary Serowoky

Session Description:

This experiential learning session will review the psychological and physiological ramifications of stress as it pertains to both students and faculty. An overview of results from two pilot studies of self-compassion training for nursing students and health professions faculty will provide participants with a framework to implement a self-compassion intervention in the university setting. The concepts of mindfulness and self-compassion will be presented as tools to improve well-being. Participants will learn several core Mindful Self-Compassion practices, leaving the session with accessible strategies for self-care. Implications contribute to a shared culture of wellness within our University community. Note: Casual athleisure attire and comfortable footwear are encouraged for this session.

F1

Mentorship Across Generations: Creating a Three-Tier Model for Onboarding and Scholarship Within the College of Health Professions

Presenters: Claire Nicholson, Nadine Wodwaski, Nour Lyon

Session Description:

The Detroit Mercy College of Health Professions (CHP) Mentoring Task Force was developed in 2024 with the goal of revamping and standardizing past models of new-hire onboarding within the college while simultaneously designing a structure for collaborative teams to promote innovations in teaching, scholarship, and career advancement for all involved. This presentation introduces the new CHP Mentoring Structure, which is grounded in Benner's Novice to Expert framework. The program fosters reciprocal mentorship among faculty at different career stages—Advanced Beginner/Novice, Competent, and Proficient. Emphasizing equity, collaboration, and mutual accountability, the model builds a culture of trust and continuous learning, aligning with the college's mission to promote faculty flourishing and academic excellence.

F2

Living the Mission: Integrating Detroit Mercy's Core Values into Daily Practice

Presenters: Anna Bryson, Mission Effectiveness Team Members

Session Description:

How do we bring our mission to life in the day-to-day? In this interactive session, faculty, staff, and administrators will explore Detroit Mercy's five Core Values and reflect on their personal and professional significance. Through small-group dialogue, reflection, and shared insights, participants will identify meaningful, actionable ways to integrate these values into their work and campus community. Grounded in a spirit of collaboration and reflection, this session invites all members of the University to more fully embody the mission — every day, in every role.

F3

Destress Scholarship: Dossier Preparation Strategies and Publishing Tools for UDM Faculty

Presenters: Jill Turner, Jennifer Bowen, Alexa Rihana-Abdallah

Session Description:

The scholarship section of the dossier is frequently the most stressful portion of the tenure and promotion process. Navigating the path from T&P criteria to submitting for peer reviewed publication to choosing a journal and ending with T&P dossier preparation, this session offers a step-by-step guide to make the process more approachable. In addition to discussing the UDM scholarship process and dossier preparation, this session will introduce library curated tools and methods for identifying legitimate journals and busting the myths surrounding Open Access publishing.

G1

Understanding the "Hyphen" between Student - Athlete

Presenters: Traci Stewart, Robert Vowels, Amy Gasahl, Betsey Walkowiak

Session Description:

This session will expose attendees to the day in the life of a student-athlete. Attendees will learn about recruiting, joining a team as a freshman, and what it takes to study on the road. They will view the student-athlete from the athletic department standpoint and have an opportunity to discuss the student-athlete from the faculty standpoint. Attendees will hear about the importance of academic standing of our student-athletes and maintaining eligibility while continuing to practice and compete. There will be time for questions and open discussion during this session.

G2

Community Engage Learning (CEL): What Is It and Why You Should Be Teaching a CEL Class

Presenters: Fr. Timothy Hipskind, Sigrid Streit, Mara Livezey, Claudia Bernasconi, Diego Arias

Session Description:

This session is aimed at faculty with an interest, but no (or limited) experience, in community engaged learning (CEL), a mission-centered pedagogy that connects community interests and related social issues with traditional classroom learning. Attendees will learn about Detroit Mercy's approach to CEL. Our panel of presenters is composed of CEL faculty from all McNichols campus colleges and schools, and moderated by Fr. Tim Hipskind, Director of Community Engaged Learning. Our discussion will focus on answering what CEL is and why faculty value integrating a CEL pedagogy into their courses. Our CEL faculty will also provide concrete examples of what CEL looks like in their classrooms and share hands-on tips on developing a successful CEL pedagogy.

G3

Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Training: Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR)

Presenters: Andrea Kwasky, Nour Lyon, Robi Thomas

Session Description:

Members of the College of Health Professions Wellness Committee will be presenting Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR): Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Training. Participants will learn about the three simple steps to help save a life from suicide. Gatekeepers will be trained to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone for help. Mental health resources will be provided.

H1

Are You Having a Ruff Day at Work? Don't Fur-get the Benefits of Pet-Friendly Work Environments

Presenter: Ahmed Radwan

Session Description:

There are many reported benefits to owning and raising pets. This may include physical, social, and mental health benefits. Recently, there has been a noticeable rise in pet-friendly office working environments and the accompanying policies that control the process of bringing pets to work. However, little is truly known about the evidence behind pet-friendly work environments and the true health/work-related values they enhance.

This presentation will explore the findings of a recent systematic review, conducted by the same author, examining the health and workplace-related outcomes associated with pet-friendly office environments. The review revealed statistically significant improvements in physical, mental, and social well-being among employees working in such settings, whether in-office or remote. Highlights include increased physical activity, reduced physiological stress, improved psychological well-being and life satisfaction, and stronger organizational engagement and support.

In addition to sharing the evidence, this session will discuss the importance of implementing clear, structured pet-friendly workplace policies to ensure a positive and inclusive experience for all employees.

H2

Today's Funding Landscape and Intro to Grant Forward: How to Find Opportunities and Prepare to Apply

Presenters: Ann Serra, Michele Favoretto, Kate Harger

Session Description:

This session is designed to inform and equip participants with strategies to adapt to new funding opportunities and challenges.

H3

Book Reports on Out-of-Date Books: Darwin Durkheim Smith

Presenter: Michael Barry

Session Description:

I am reading a few so-called Great Books, or chapters of them anyway, in disciplines adjacent to my own. Charles Darwin, Emile Durkheim, and Adam Smith. What do I gain from it? I don't know until I do it, but there will be something. Actually, I do know already, a little. Darwin's "Struggle for Existence" is less about a struggle between species and more about struggle between individual members of the same species. I'm sure that some of those in attendance will have more expertise than I do.

11

Making Digital Content Inclusive: Practical Strategies for Accessibility Compliance

Presenters: Megan Novell, Nathan Balter Blume, Jill Spreitzer, Michele Favoretto Session Description:

New legal and regulatory changes require digital content to be accessible to persons with disabilities. Learn about the University's plan to fulfill these requirements, gain practical knowledge and skills for making your materials accessible, and ask questions in an interactive session designed to give faculty and professional staff the resources to make their digital content accessible and support a more inclusive learning and working environment.

12

Prompting AI to Maximize Teaching Moments

Presenters: Tamika Thompson, Marinele Campos

Session Description:

Artificial intelligence isn't here to replace educators—it's here to empower them. In this fast-paced and practical session, we'll explore how strategically crafted prompts can unlock the full potential of AI tools to help faculty save time, enhance instruction, and increase their impact on student success. From generating tailored teaching materials and assessments to gaining promptdriven insights into student learning. AI is redefining what's possible in the classroom. Attendees will leave with real-world examples, effective prompting techniques, recommended tools, and actionable strategies for responsibly integrating AI into their educational practice—no technical expertise required.