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TEACHING AND LEARNING

# Expanding the NEST

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# Workshop Objectives



- Identify how CETL supports educators and staff to cultivate student success through programs and initiatives like Expanding the NEST
- Describe the impact of student-faculty interaction, effective teaching practices, and supportive environments on student success
- Identify and discuss easy-to-use practices that cultivate student success



# Student Success at KSU

"Student success encompasses various dimensions, including academic achievement, persistence, goal attainment, core competency development, satisfaction, and readiness for post-graduation endeavors. At Kennesaw State University, student success is a multifaceted commitment, ensuring that each student has the support and resources necessary to thrive academically and personally."

- The *Significance of Student Success*, KSU Office of the Provost ([Student Success Programming - Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs \(kennesaw.edu\)](#))



# Warm-Up Exercise:

## What is your role in cultivating student success?



### 2-min reflection

As a KSU educator, how will you cultivate "student success?"

What resources and/or support do you anticipate you will need?



### 1-2-3 Post

Share your thoughts in the chat – wait for the count of 3 to post.

# How does CETL help educators like you?

## HITS framework

- **Hub:** “promote connection, sponsor collaborative initiatives, and bring people together”
- **Incubator:** “support individual growth and development”
- **Temple:** “provide spaces and opportunities for recognition and reward of [teaching, learning, and educational development] endeavors”
- **Sieve:** engage in “initiatives like assessment, evaluation, quality standards . . .and the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL)”

Wright (2023, pp. 52-53)







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# Our Team



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# Expanding the NEST\*

\*NEST = Nurturing Environments through Scholarly Teaching



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Menu of 25 easy-to-use,  
evidence-based practices  
for cultivating student  
success

Based on KSU student  
responses to the National  
Survey of Student  
Engagement (NSSE)

Opportunities for  
recognition as NEST  
champions, innovators,  
and advocates or through  
micro credentials

Source: <https://facultydevelopment.kennesaw.edu/institutional-initiatives/expanding-the-nest.php>

# Expanding the NEST\*

\*NEST = Nurturing Environments through Scholarly Teaching



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3 Categories of Engagement + Deep Dive = 25 Practices

## Student-Faculty Interaction

Faculty can positively influence the cognitive growth, development, and persistence of college students through interactions.

## Effective Teaching Practices

Student comprehension and learning are heavily dependent on effective teaching.

## Supportive Environments

Educator choices about how we connect students with the many pieces of our community form the backbone of an institution committed to student success.



# Impact of Student-Faculty Interaction

- Student-faculty interaction is the single most significant factor in positive educational outcomes.
- This is especially true for students of color and first-generation students.

Felten and Lambert (2020)



# Concept of Mattering

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“Students who feel like they matter at college or university should have comparatively greater academic success” (Flett, et al, 2022, p. 10).

These are students who:

- Believe their presence matters
- Believe their contributions matter
- Feel accountable for their own learning
- Feel accountable in their role as a member of the class community or team
- Feel supported
- Believe they can succeed





# What can we do?

We can demonstrate students *matter* by:

- making personal connections with students
- providing supportive environments that allow students to both learn and make mistakes
- setting high, yet reasonable, expectations to succeed

Felten and Lambert (2020)

# NEST Practices: Student-Faculty Interaction



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1. Build Rapport
2. Learn and Use Student Names and Preferred Pronouns
3. Co-Create Classroom Guidelines with Students
4. Communicate that Students Can Succeed
5. Avoid Generalizations
6. Encourage Office Hour Visits
7. Take a Training on Cultivating Community
8. Use KSU's uHoo Analytics



# Impact of Effective Teaching Practices

**Student success depends on effective teaching practices.**



Effective learner-centered teaching:

- “engages students in the hard, messy work of learning.”
- “motivates and empowers students by giving them some control over the learning processes.”
- “encourages collaboration, acknowledging the classroom (be it virtual or real) as a community where everyone shares the learning agenda.”
- “promotes students’ reflection about what they are learning and how they are learning it.”
- “includes explicit learning skills instruction.”

Weimer (2013, 15)



# How do YOU define effective teaching?

Poll:

Which of the following represents an effective teaching practice?

1. Clearly explained course goals and requirements
2. Taught course sessions in an organized way
3. Used examples or illustrations to explain difficult points
4. Provided feedback on a draft or work in progress
5. Provided prompt and detailed feedback on tests or completed assignments

Source: <https://nsse.indiana.edu/nsse/survey-instruments/engagement-indicators.html#a1>



# NEST Practices: Effective Teaching Practices



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9. Design Learner-Focused Syllabi
10. Align Outcomes, Assessments, and Strategies
11. TILT Assignments
12. Assess Prior Knowledge
13. Prioritize Learning
14. Highlight Different Perspectives
15. Include Student-Generated Content
16. Post Midterm Grades



# Impact of Supportive Environments

Students learn better when they feel supported.

Learning does not happen in a vacuum, and students are impacted by the physical, social, and emotional environments in which they learn.

Source: Lovett et al (2023); Felten and Lambert (2020)



How do you make  
students feel  
supported?





# NEST Practices: Supportive Environments



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17. Share Campus Resources with Students
18. Participate in Early Alert Initiative and the Behavioral Response Team Reporting Tool
19. Design Flexible Course Policies
20. Incorporate Intentional Collaborative Learning
21. Create Opportunities for Students to Give Feedback
22. Give Students Opportunities to Reflect on Their Identities
23. Cultivate a Growth Mindset in Students
24. Emphasize that Risk, Struggle, and Failure are Parts of the Learning Process





# NEST Practice: Take a Deep Dive



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25. Identify one aspect of your course to focus on and contact CETL for support (e.g., identifying the need, collecting the data, designing interventions, creating a SoTL study for eventual publication, involving students as partners in this work).

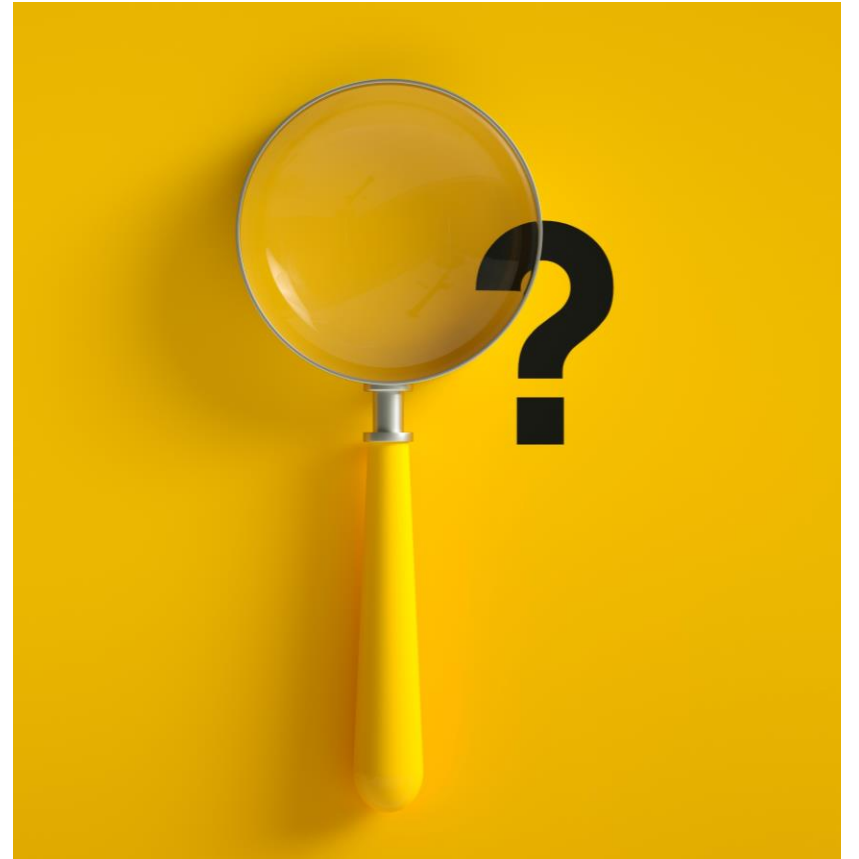


# Want to know more about Expanding the NEST?

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**Visit CETL's website  
([facultydevelopment.kennesaw.edu](http://facultydevelopment.kennesaw.edu))**

- Expanding the NEST (menu of practices)
- Workshops
- Personalized services





# Faculty Success = Student Success

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- The goal of the Expanding the NEST initiative is to both expand knowledge of and develop formal recognition for implementation of student success practices and university initiatives.
- Recognition Program and Souvenir Micro Credential to be launched Fall 2024

# Expanding the NEST Recognition

## Eligibility:

- For educators:
  - Champions: 25 NEST practices
  - Innovators: 15 NEST practices
  - Advocates: 6 NEST practices
- \*At least one practice must reflect an institutional initiative (e.g., Midterm Grades)

# Expanding the NEST Souvenir

## Eligibility:

- Watch:
  - Expanding the NEST Series Part 1, Student-Faculty Interactions
  - Expanding the NEST Series Part 2, Effective Teaching Practices
  - Expanding the NEST Series Part 3, Supportive Environments
- Submit
  - Expanding the NEST Questionnaire

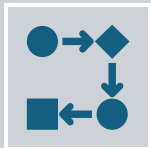




Questions?



Comments?



Ideas to Share?





Thank You

# Sources

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- Weimer, Maryellen (2013). *Learner-Centered Teaching: Five Key Changes to Practice*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Jossey-Bass.