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Upcoming Events



Join us for another enriching **Super Staff Tuesdays** on **December 10th!** Engage in a series of workshops dedicated to enhancing your



Welcome to the final edition of the ELITE Digest for 2024! ❄️

As we bid farewell to another incredible year, December invites us to reflect, celebrate, and prepare for what's ahead. The month is alive with the hustle of final exams, the sparkle of festive traditions, and the anticipation of a well-deserved winter break.

At ELITE, we're proud to close out the year by shining a spotlight on your exceptional contributions to teaching and learning. This December, we celebrate the collaborative spirit of our faculty and staff who consistently go above and beyond to engage students, build community, and create inclusive learning experiences.

Looking ahead to January, preparations for **Professional Week 2025** are already in motion! Mark your calendars for January 23, 2025, when ELITE will host a dynamic lineup of over 35 workshops, interactive sessions, and thought-provoking presentations. These sessions are designed to equip you with new tools, insights, and strategies for a successful spring semester. Stay tuned for the full schedule and register early to secure your spot!

This month, we're also excited to continue our popular **H5P Challenge**, offering two lucky participants the chance to win exclusive MC gear. Here's how you can enter:

1. **Engage** with this month's ELITE Interactive Game (details below).
2. **Submit** your responses by 5:00 pm on Friday, December 6, 2024.

Winners will be announced via email on December 9, 2024. For a bonus entry, "like" our December ELITE Digest post on the Montgomery Employees Facebook page by the same deadline!

professional skills and knowledge.

Explore all the workshops available this month [here](#).



Mark your calendar for **First Faculty Fridays** on **December 6th!** Participate in workshops designed to tackle educational challenges and uncover new opportunities.

Discover all the workshops happening this month [here](#).

Finally, as we embrace the holiday season, we want to extend our deepest gratitude for your dedication to fostering growth and excellence at Montgomery College. From all of us at ELITE, we wish you a restful winter break. Here's to a bright and impactful 2025! 🎄🧑🏻🦌🍷

Innovative Teaching and Engagement Strategies



Energizing Your Classroom

Tips and instructional best practices for fostering engagement and developing a strong sense of community among students.

Learn more [here](#).

Blackboard Learn Ultra Tip of the Month

Tips and tricks for using Blackboard Learn Ultra to support our transition.

Learn more [here](#).

Professional and Personal Development



Skill Boosters for all Employees

Practical strategies for enhancing skills and achieving professional growth.

Learn more [here](#).

Stay Balanced, Stay Brilliant

Insights on maintaining work-life balance and mental health.

Learn more [here](#).

Multicultural Moment

Cultural awareness and diversity are highlighted in alignment with the diversity calendar of events.

Learn more [here](#).

Leadership Development

Lead like a Pro

Essential skills for effective leadership, including decision-making, and emotional intelligence.

Learn more [here](#).



Small Actions, Big Results

Practical tips on small leadership actions that can lead to significant positive outcomes.

Learn more [here](#).

MC Online



Growth in Z Courses and OER Initiatives: Expanding Access and Affordability

Montgomery College is proud to be a national leader in increasing access and affordability through its MC Open initiatives. These efforts eliminate textbook costs for students, providing them with high-quality freely available open educational resources (OER) that foster an inclusive, welcoming, and accessible learning environment.

The College has seen remarkable progress in Z course offerings over the last few semesters. Since MC Open was officially launched in Spring 2017, student enrollment in Z courses has grown significantly. By Fall 2024, this enrollment reached record numbers, with more than 12,500 student enrollments in Z courses over the last three semesters. The number of Z course sections has expanded alongside enrollment, reflecting strong faculty adoption and commitment to accessible education. This growth supports a wide array of disciplines, allowing students to find Z course options in diverse fields. During this Fall 2024, 328 unique instructors are now engaged in offering Z courses in 634 sections at the College. In addition, the College has five Z-degrees and one Z-certificate. These collective efforts underscore a robust commitment to providing high-quality, no-cost OER, tailoring content to meet the diverse needs of our students.

This ongoing expansion of Z courses and OER at Montgomery College demonstrates our dedication to reducing financial barriers and promoting quality in higher education. Through the concerted efforts of our faculty and the support of the College community, we are empowering students to pursue their academic goals with fewer economic challenges and an increased sense of belonging.

For more information, please visit the [MC Online](#) website. If you are interested in learning more about Z course offerings—credit or noncredit—please contact [Dr. Shinta Hernandez](#).

Microcredentials

Elevate Your Skills and Your Students' Success with Microcredentials!



Looking for ways to stand out, sharpen your skills, or offer students new opportunities? Montgomery College's microcredentials might be just what you need. These digital

badges recognize achievements and skills that go beyond traditional coursework, giving you and your students an edge in today's competitive world.

Featured this month:



The **Quality Assurance Microcredential** consists of three badges:

Quality Assurance Design & Delivery

Badge - This badge validates that the earner has demonstrated the competencies necessary for inclusive quality course design and delivery in a virtual (online or remote) learning environment.



Quality Assurance Transformer Badge -

This badge validates that the earner has demonstrated the competencies necessary for inclusive quality course transformation in a virtual (online or remote) learning environment. Prerequisites: Successful completion in QA Design and Delivery Badge with 80% or more at the

Accomplished level or equivalent training/design/delivery experience.

Quality Assurance Reviewer Badge -

This badge validates that the earner has demonstrated the competencies necessary for inclusive quality course review in a virtual (online or remote) learning environment. Prerequisites: Successful completion of Training: QA Design & Delivery, QA Transformer Badge, or MC Online Teaching; and Experience: Quality Matters Peer Reviewer, or equivalent reviewer designation, or at



least (three) years experience in relevant Education Technology for online learning.

The QA Transformer and Reviewer badges will be offered in Spring 2025. Contact Tia Roebuck directly at tia.roebuck@montgomerycollege.edu with any questions. These are just a few of the 39 badges available for students and employees to earn. With over 685 badges issued already—80% of them earned by students—there's no better time to explore these opportunities. Whether you're looking to earn your own badge, develop a new badge, or promote what's available, there's something for everyone.

Visit our [website](#) to learn more about the microcredentials available at MC.

If you would like more information, you can contact [Dr. Christine Crefton](#).

Elevate your potential today!

Pressbooks Feature

Todos Unidos! MC Elementary Spanish I

This month's spotlight is [¡Todos Unidos! MC Elementary Spanish I](#), an innovative adaptation of Waymaker Spanish 1 and 2, created by the Spanish department at SUNY Oneonta in partnership with Lumen Learning and licensed under CC BY: Attribution. Montgomery College's World Languages faculty collaborated with the Office of E-Learning, Innovation, and Teaching Excellence (ELITE) to tailor the original content to meet MC's curricular goals. Learn more [here](#).



Monthly H5P Challenge

[PLAY](#)

Highlights from our Partners

OEI Fall 2024 Programming

Defining, Understanding, and Responding to Bias on Campus

December 4, 2024

1-5 p.m.

Rockville Campus

Gudelsky Institute for Technical Education, Rooms 222/224

Contact Us

Ask ELITE

Email us with any questions or inquiries.



Who to Contact?

If you're seeking more information, our instructional designers are here to assist you.