

Iowa Wesleyan University

Engage Newsletter

January 20th, 2021



Welcome everyone to ENGAGE's January newsletter. January is the start of the new Spring 2021 semester and our MLK events (pictured above). Please review important dates, last month's outstanding teacher, advising tips and tricks, many professional development opportunities, an active learning strategy and some stress-free faculty and staff events.

December's Outstanding Teacher of the Month

Each month for the Fall 2020 semester, the faculty and staff will nominate an outstanding instructor of the month based on utilizing technology and active learning within the classroom, helping with University wide projects, community events, and more.

Blair Buffington has showcased all of the qualities above and more. Blair Buffington helped with many community and University events such as the Veteran's Day service and Lessons and Carols. He also helped moderate a zoom professional development meeting about hybrid

teaching. He will moderate another zoom professional development later this month. For more details, please see the advertisement at the end of this newsletter.

Many co-workers had positive words to share about Blair Buffington. One colleague stated, “Blair goes out of his way to regularly send Beacon encouragements to his students, engage them in the classroom in creative ways, create new projects for students to try, as well as working with Athletics to teach the Fight Song to the school. Blair is always looking for opportunities for his students to grow academically and personally.” This is an example of his participation in IW events and projects in the classroom.

Thank you Blair Buffington for all of your hard work and congratulations on winning December’s Outstanding Teacher of the Month.



December’s ENGAGE Opportunities

Advising Tips and Tricks:

1. Beginning of the year checklist:
 - a. Are all of my students at the full time status for Spring 2021?
 - b. Which of my students are distance education? Where can I check in with them throughout the semester?
 - c. Are my seniors, that are graduating in May, signed up for all of their classes? Do I have any forms to fill out for them to graduate?

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- d. Did any of my advisees fail a course? Do they need to re-take that course or do they need to drop a higher course?
 - e. Any any of my advisees on probation? Are they in 15 credits or less? How can they work to be eligible in the fall?
 - f. For adding and dropping courses, please email the registrar's email address at registrar@iw.edu

2. Attendance to help faculty and advisees:

1. Each division may have their own hybrid attendance taking policy. Please advise students to review their syllabi to understand how instructors are taking attendance.
2. Late work policies are also different in each class. If an advisee is falling behind due to attendance or other events, please have them review when they need to turn in their work by.
3. Attendance warnings and maximums will go through the Beacon system this semester automatically. Please make sure that you are checking on your advisees' attendance and please remind students to check out this [application](#).
 - a. With the new update, everyone's username is their email with the @iw.edu

Faculty and Staff Development Opportunities:

1. Faculty Development Roundtable: Students Share their Experiences of Hybrid Classes

January 21st: 3pm to 4pm

Moderated by Blair Buffington and all divisions will have a student and faculty representative within the discussion

Please see your email for the zoom link

2. Looking for a quick article to read about hybrid teaching tips to start off your spring semester? Data was collected from teachers throughout the nation and here was the summary:

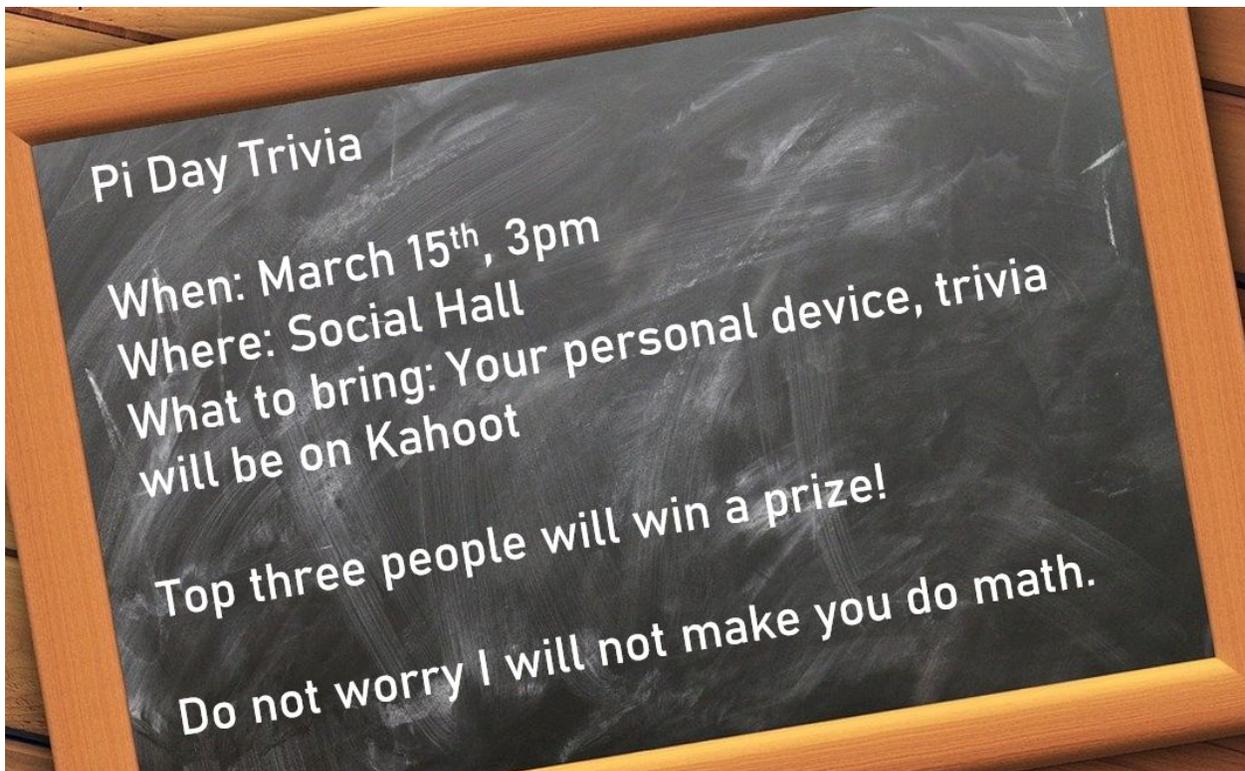
Hudson, Eric. (2020, November). [16 Hybrid Learning Tips by and for Teachers](#). Global Online Academy.

Active Learning Strategy of the Month:

One minute paper or video: Have students try to write on any topic for one minute within your class. This can be through zoom, Google Meets, or in person. They could write on paper, a Google doc, or create a short video talking about the topic for one minute.

This gets students thinking about the topic before diving into the topic. Students can be ready with their thoughts and maybe more willing to share their thoughts on a new topic if they have something ready to talk about.

Stress Free Activities for Faculty and Staff brought to you by Iowa Wesleyan University:



If you have a great active teaching strategy, news article, or professional development idea, please send your idea to Megan Hills at megan.hills@iw.edu and they might be displayed in next month's newsletter.

Want to see past ENGAGE newsletters? Go to the L Drive under Registrar.

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