

Iowa Wesleyan University

# Engage Newsletter

November 2nd, 2020

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**What I enjoy the most about  
teaching at IW:**

*“Inspiring and engaging with  
students to achieve their  
dreams.”*

**--Richard Buffington**

Welcome everyone to ENGAGE’s November newsletter. At the beginning of this month, we are continuing winter 2020 and spring 2021 registration and at the end of this month we will be moving towards all online classes. Please read below about 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.

**What I enjoy the most about  
teaching at IW:**

*“I enjoy the dedication of the  
faculty and staff.”*

**--Herb Schmidt**

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## October'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 how to employ technology in the classroom, utilizing technology and active learning within the classroom, helping with University wide projects, and more.

Erin Durflinger has showcased all of the qualities above and more. Erin was a nominee for Chadwick Teacher of the Year in 19-20 and continues to show her teaching strengths through her online classroom and teaching pedagogies. She created a professional development video below to showcase her teaching styles and promoting student strengths in the online classroom.

Many co-workers had positive words to share about Erin Durflinger. One colleague stated, "Erin has an extremely well built classroom in Canvas, making it very easy for students to have everything they need no matter what their situation. Erin also has valuable input in committee meetings and generates great ideas." This is an example of her various teaching styles and ideas.

Thank you Erin Durflinger for all your exceptional work in the month of October.



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# November's ENGAGE Opportunities

## **Advising Tips and Tricks:**

1. November is the big month to register students for the winter 2020 and spring 2021 classes.

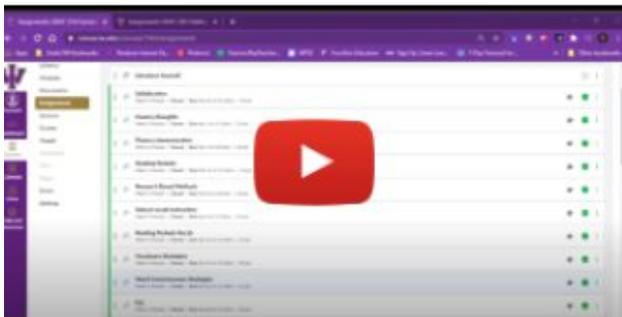
- October 27th: Seniors and Veterans
- October 29th: Juniors
- November 2nd: Sophomores
- November 4th: Freshmen
- November 13th: Must be registered for Spring 2021, to be put in drawing for free textbooks

2. Winter Term classes: Students can sign up for Self-Paced classes (SPI) or internship credits for the winter term. Please see the [flier](#) for due dates and the [website](#) for tips on SPI courses and the sign up [form](#).

3. Student needing a tutor? Have them check out the OASIS tutoring [poster](#).

## **Faculty and Staff Development Opportunities:**

1. Thank you to Erin Durflinger for making a professional development video on her online classroom and teaching techniques:



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2. Thank you Roy Manfredi for creating a video on how students should use modules on Canvas and how students should check on the Canvas Classroom:



3. Thank you to the online team for providing a brown bag lunch last month on grading and speedgrader. Here is the recording if you missed it:



Passcode: Please see email from Valerie Hennessee with passcode from October 14th.

4. Wanting to brush up more on how to use Canvas? Please see these [videos](#) on how to use the many aspects of Canvas from our online team.

5. Thank you David Schmitz for providing us with the virtual Lunch and Learn about opposing viewpoints and the resource Gale Opposing Viewpoints. If you did not have a chance to check out his videos. please click on the links: [Video 1](#), [Video 2](#), [Video 3](#), and [Video 4](#)

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### **Active Learning Strategy of the Month:**

Polling: We have looked at a lot of polling applications: Poll Everywhere, Socrative, Kahoot, and Quizizz. Think about how you can use polling to explore classroom objectives, mental health of your classroom, understanding of new material, and engaging students when they are online.

After Thanksgiving, students will be learning online. Polling them can help students be engaged if they are afraid to speak up or ask questions. It can also give you real time feedback to shape your lesson and examples.

Unsure if you want to use the applications above to promote polling? No problem! You can still poll your students by having them stand up in place, raising hands, adding emojis into the chat box of Zoom or Google Meets, or picking an option from slides and adding it into a chat box from Zoom or Google Meets.

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

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**Trivia Fun for Faculty and Staff!**

**November 12<sup>th</sup>, 3pm in Social Hall**

**Bring your personal device**

**We will have prizes!**

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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](mailto: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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