

#Oktoberbest2026

A Symposium on Teaching
Friday, October 23, 2026

Schedule

8:15 – 11:40 a.m.



Center for Teaching Excellence
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Time	Location	Session
8:15 – 9:00 a.m.	University Conference Center Lobby	Registration and Light Breakfast University Conference Center Close-Hipp Building, 8th Floor
9:00 – 9:10 a.m.	Lumpkin Auditorium	Welcome Matt E. Thatcher, Ph.D. Director Center for Teaching Excellence
9:10 – 10:50 a.m.	Lumpkin Auditorium	Keynote Address From Research to Recipe: Active Learning for Student Success Megan L. “Meg” Mittelstadt, Ph.D. Assistant Vice President for Learning Initiatives Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning University of Georgia
10:50 – 11:00 a.m.	Transition to Concurrent Session Period 1	
Concurrent Period 1 11:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Summit West Room 839	It Takes a Village: The Value of Guest Speakers in the Classroom Nicole Wojcik, M.L.I.S., M.S. Graduate Student and School Library Fellow School of Information Science College of Information and Communications
	Summit East Room 840	Retain, Revise, or Retire? Using Evidence to Improve Teaching and Learning Mara Sansolo, M.L.I.S., M.S. Assessment Specialist of Student Success and Instructor Office of Student Affairs and Academic Support
	Westview Room 829	From Fictional Company to Authentic Learning: AI-Supported Project-Based Course Design Kenneth Mulchahey, Ph.D. Adjunct Faculty Integrated Information Technology Molinaroli College of Engineering and Computing
11:30 – 11:40 a.m.	Transition to Concurrent Session Period 2	

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11:40 a.m. – 1:40 p.m.



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Time

Location

Session

Concurrent
Period

2

11:40 a.m. –
12:10 p.m.

Summit West
Room 839

Learning as a Biological Process: Rethinking Course Design Beyond Evaluation

Azadeh Sepahvandi, Ph.D.

Instructor
Mechanical Engineering
Molinaroli College of Engineering and Computing

Summit East
Room 840

From Prompt to Pedagogy: A Four-Step Process for AI-Assisted Assignment Design

Karen Edwards, J.D.

Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Student Affairs
Senior Instructor | Retailing
College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management

Westview
Room 829

Activating Wellness in Education

Denise Simpson, J.D.

Adjunct Faculty
Joseph F. Rice School of Law

Cheryl Niccum, M.S.W.

Licensed Clinical Social Worker
Executive Office for United States Attorneys
U.S. Department of Justice

Eastview
Room 841

Small Changes, Big Impact: Growth Mindset Strategies for Student Success

Kunio Hara, Ph.D.

Associate Professor
Music History
School of Music

Sarah Carroll, Ph.D.

Clinical Associate Professor
Economics
Darla Moore School of Business

12:10 – 1:00 p.m.

Eastview
Room 841
Westview
Room 829

Lunch and Networking

Food service lines are located outside each room

1:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Lumpkin
Auditorium

Garnet Apple Awards Recognition Ceremony

1:30 – 1:40 p.m.

Transition to Concurrent Session Period 3

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1:40 – 3:15 p.m.



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Time	Location	Session
Concurrent Period 3 1:40 – 2:10 p.m.	Summit West Room 839	Do I Know This? Designing Self-Assessment That Leads to Action Brie Dunn, Pharm.D. Associate Dean for Outcomes Assessment and Accreditation Clinical Professor Clinical Pharmacy and Outcomes Sciences College of Pharmacy
	Summit East Room 840	AI Policies: Mind the Gap Jordon Brincko, M.B.A. Assistant Director of Academic Integrity Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity Alisa Liggett, M.S. Assistant Dean of Students Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity
	Westview Room 829	Game On: Gamifying Medical Education Danielle Goltermann-Hall, M.D. Clinical Assistant Professor Family and Preventive Medicine Floyd School of Medicine Andrew Vaughan, M.D. Clinical Associate Professor Family and Preventive Medicine Floyd School of Medicine
	Eastview Room 841	From Static Scenarios to Interactive Learning: AI-Driven Adaptive Cases in Nursing Education Kate Bernheisel, DNP Associate Professor Advanced Professional Nursing Practice & Leadership College of Nursing Rebecca Morrison, DNP Assistant Professor Professional Nursing Practice College of Nursing
2:10 – 2:20 p.m.	Transition to Concurrent Session Period 4	
Concurrent Period 4 2:20 – 2:50 p.m.	Summit West Room 839	Seeing Students: Strategies for Personal Engagement Despite Large Class Sizes Erin Davenport, Ph.D. Instructor Sociology McCausland College of Arts and Sciences
	Summit East Room 840	Creating AI-Powered Learning: A Practical Guide to Blackboard Conversations Michaela Almgren, Pharm.D. Clinical Associate Professor Clinical Pharmacy and Outcomes Sciences College of Pharmacy Mitchell Herring, Ed.D. Instructional Designer Center for Teaching Excellence
	Eastview Room 841	Fifty Dollars and Sticker Shock: Teaching Empathy Across Disciplines Kathryn Frankel, DNP Clinical Assistant Professor Professional Nursing Practice College of Nursing
2:50 – 3:00 p.m.	University Conference Center Lobby	Pretzel Bar Break
3:00 – 3:15 p.m.	Lumpkin Auditorium	Closing Remarks and Door Prizes!