

Provost Awards Lecture Series- Promising New Faculty

February 22, 2024 at 3:00pm-4:00pm via zoom

Dr. Marcus Crawford, Department of Social Work

Title: Ungrading: Why I stopped grading so my students could learn again

Description:

Like many of us who teach, I have always found grading to be the most difficult and frustrating part. How do I determine the difference between 95% or 90% (or even an 80%) on a 12-page paper? What weight do I give grammar and syntax when that is not what the class is teaching? Should I dock points for turning something in an hour late? Three days late? Do I verify the reason the student has for being late? Is there an acceptable reason? Is there an unacceptable one? Did the students learn the material they are writing about or are they just repeating back what was in the book and articles? More recently, did the student write this or did AI? These are some of the challenges in grading I have faced. As Dr. Crawford thought about this problem more, he concluded that it was the actual grading that was not aligned with learning. Dr. Crawford created and developed a process in which he contracted with students at the beginning, middle and end of the semester about what they wanted to learn and what he wanted them to gain from the class. Dr. Crawford will present on the experiment in ungrading, including feedback from the students, and his own impressions on how removing all the points from his class helped students learn again.

Dr. Ellen Woo, Department of Psychology,

Title: The New Brain Health & Science Program

Description:

Underserved populations have a higher prevalence rate of neurological diseases, which may be accounted for by having more health conditions, fewer educational opportunities, higher rates of poverty, and increased exposure to adversity. Our diverse region is impacted by many of these factors. Further, our population has limited access to brain-centered healthcare, partly due to a shortage of specialists in the region. Our new Brain Health & Science Program consists of an interdisciplinary team of researchers who study neurological diseases and health equity. In addition, the Program provides specialized scientific training to students who will seek careers that help address the critical brain health needs of underserved communities.