

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## ON-CALL WEEK AUGUST 11 - 15, 2025

We look forward to welcoming all and are excited to share these professional development opportunities coming this fall!

All sessions will be conducted both in-person and online across NSU and our three satellites: Leesville, Alexandria, and Shreveport.

On-Call WEEK FALL 2025	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	11-Aug	12-Aug	13-Aug	14-Aug	15-Aug
	Teaching, Learning, & Research Day	Advising Day	Technology & Tools Day	FACULTY/STAFF INSTITUTE <i>The Big Hello</i>	Course Development Day
	8:30am	Breakfast provided by NSU	Breakfast provided by NSU	Breakfast provided by NSU	Prepare syllabi, course materials, and attend additional meetings
	9:00	PD #1  Mykel Beorchia  &  Lunch sponsored by PD #4	PD #7	President's talk, faculty awards, new faculty/ staff introductions, & guest speakers  Student Union Ballroom	
	9:30		Break		
	10:00				
	10:30			PD #8	
	11:00		BREAK	Faculty/Staff LUNCHEON Iberville Dining Hall	
	11:30				
12:00pm					
12:30	PD #3	PD #5	PD #9	New Faculty Orientation Lucile M. Hendrick Room	
1:00					
1:30					
2:00	School and Department Meetings and/or Course Development	PD #6	School and Department Meetings and/or Course Development	Break	
2:30					
3:00					
3:30					
4:00					
4:30					
5:00					

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PD #1:	"Transparency in Learning & Teaching (TiLT) Workshop" – Shannon Wall-Hale and Elizabeth Pursell (Teaching, Learning, & Research)
PD #2:	"Motivating and Engaging Learners: HITS and GPS Mindset" – Alicia Book and Thomas Reynolds (Teaching, Learning, & Research)
PD #3:	"Interdisciplinary Collaboration – CREATE and FDCs" – Francene Lemoine (Teaching, Learning, & Research)
PD #4:	"Unlocking Potential: Applying the Appreciative Advising Theory-to-Practice Framework" – Mykel Beorchia (guest speaker) and Edgar Martinez (Advising)
PD #5:	"Advising for Special Programs (RAD SCI/Nursing)" – Megan Wedgeworth and Anna Morris (Advising)
PD #6:	"Talk Saves Lives" – Megan Lowe and Christine Ferrell (Advising)
PD #7:	"Empowering Educators with AI" – Nabin Sapkota and Damien Tristant (Technology & Tools)
PD #8:	"Collaborate and Conquer: Unlocking the Power of OneDrive" – Emily Perritt (Technology & Tools)
PD #9:	"Enhancing Your Moodle Courses: Turnitin 3, Kortex, and Respondus Monitor" – Danielle Oliphant and Jarrod Sanson (Technology & Tools)

### TUESDAY - 9AM - GUEST SPEAKER

## Mykel Beorchia

Director, Office of Appreciative Education  
Florida Atlantic University

What possibilities can faculty and students cocreate when they utilize students' strengths to maximize their educational opportunities at Northwestern State University? In this interactive workshop, faculty can infuse their expertise with the Appreciative Advising framework to create a personalized advising toolkit to meet students where they are and develop a strong foundation for achieving their goals.



NORTHWESTERN STATE

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

**\*\*All PD sessions will include hands-on activities. Staff and faculty are encouraged to bring their laptops, especially for Technology and Tool Day.**

**REMINDER: Bring fully charged laptops as the rooms have limited power outlets.**

## SESSION LOCATIONS

Natchitoches: Lucile M. Hendrick Room

Shreveport: LB 221

Leesville: Room 3

Alexandria: Room 1018 in Building B

### PD #1: "Transparency in Learning & Teaching (TILT) Workshop"

This means, for our students, clear expectations, understanding, and communication for success (and how to earn a specific grade).

#### Purpose of the Workshop

**Assignments Matter:** This interactive workshop brings faculty together to work on how to be more transparent with our students when developing assignments. This will focus on how and why our students are learning course content, concepts, and skills in a particular way, how it can motivate them, and how they will use that learning in their lives after college.

As participants in this session, you will engage with others while using one of your current assignments as an example: You will need to bring a current assignment you are using in your class now (un-TILTed), then you will partner up with another participant. You will charrette with your partner: a collaborative, collegial process that helps educators revisit and revise their assignments with peers. The partner participant should be of a different academic area if possible. Then you will read each other's assignments, each having the opportunity to ask questions about the assignment you have just read. Charrettes foster a culture of pedagogical appreciation and offer a space for giving and receiving feedback that is both rigorous and supportive. Then the TILTed version can start to take form as the participants leave with ideas, inspiration, and strategies to make their assignments more transparent. You will learn that TILting has been found to increase academic confidence, create a sense of belonging, and improve skills valued by employers. Longitudinal studies also show improvements in retention rates and GPA.

### PD #2: "Motivating and Engaging Learners: HITS and GPS Mindset"

The LA Board of Regents reports that more than 25% of college students in Louisiana who fail courses do so because they stop attending. So, what can we do as faculty to keep students engaged and motivated in our courses? This workshop introduces two approaches that aim to do just that. High-Impact Teaching Strategies (HITS) focus on active learning strategies to engage students and enhance the learning experience. Evidence shows that utilizing HITS increases student attainment of learning outcomes and critical thinking skills. The GPS Mindset is an approach based on motivational research that aims to engage students in their own learning experiences by developing within them a Growth mindset, an understanding of Purpose and relevance of coursework, and a Sense of belonging. In addition to an overview of these approaches, workshop attendees will learn specific and practical techniques that they can implement in their own courses.

### PD #3: "Interdisciplinary Collaboration – CREATE and FDCs"

Are you interested in collaborating with other faculty on fun, interesting, and productive projects? Join this session to learn about two opportunities you have for the 2025-2026 academic year. Get involved and experience the engagement that will make your year more meaningful and enjoyable!

**CREATE** – The Center for Research, Education, and Artistic Teamwork Exploration (CREATE) is a faculty collaboration incubator with the goal of establishing "connections" between/among faculty across varied disciplines. These connections enhance faculty engagement and satisfaction by sparking new friendships and areas of scholarly research/artistic activity.

**Faculty Development Communities (FDCs)** – The purpose of the FDC program is to provide a platform on which like-minded faculty members can work on collaborative projects which can range from pedagogical initiatives, classroom engagement strategies, course design and technologies, research endeavors, social/emotional development, establishing positive workplace/classroom culture, personal growth, and many more.

### PD #4: "Unlocking Potential: Applying the Appreciative Advising Theory-to-Practice Framework"

This interactive session introduces the Appreciative Advising framework, a student-centered approach that helps faculty and staff build stronger, strengths-based relationships with students. Participants will explore the six key phases, Disarm, Discover, Dream, Design, Deliver, and Don't Settle, and learn how to create personalized advising strategies that support student success and goal achievement.

### PD #5: "Advising for Special Programs (RAD SCI/Nursing)"

This interactive faculty development session explores effective advising strategies for students in Northwestern State University's BSRS, ASN, and BSN programs. Faculty will review curriculum patterns, prerequisite sequences, and clinical progression requirements critical to student success. The session includes an overview of Degree Works, NSULA's advising platform, and its application in tracking academic progress and identifying at-risk students. Attendees will engage in case-based advising scenarios to reinforce common advising questions and decision points. Emphasis will be placed on helping students navigate prerequisite challenges, plan for licensure eligibility, and understand the implications of academic missteps. Faculty will leave with practical tools, updated program insights, and a stronger foundation for supporting students through degree completion.

### PD #6: "Talk Saves Lives"

Suicide is a leading cause of death, and we now know that it can be prevented. Megan Lowe and Christine Ferrell are trained presenters for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Talk Saves Lives TM program. As faculty and staff, we can learn to identify the signs and direct students or colleagues to adequate help. Talk Saves Lives is an interactive presentation that covers the general scope of suicide, the research on prevention, and what people can do to fight suicide. Attendees learn the risk factors and warning signs of suicide, and how together we can help prevent it.

### PD #7: "Empowering Educators with AI"

This hands-on session introduces faculty and staff to the practical use of artificial intelligence in teaching, research, and academic communication. Participants will explore free, easy-to-use AI tools for generating course content, quizzes, assignments, professional emails, and research summaries. The session will also demonstrate how to build Custom GPTs—personalized AI assistants tailored to specific teaching or research needs—without any programming required. Designed for all experience levels, this workshop offers actionable strategies to enhance productivity and impact across academic roles.

### PD #8: "Collaborate and Conquer: Unlocking the Power of OneDrive"

Discover how to master OneDrive in our upcoming workshop! Learn to confidently access and edit your files from anywhere with an Internet connection, using both the desktop and online versions of OneDrive. We'll also show you how to streamline file sharing, reduce the number of versions you keep, and easily collaborate on file creation and editing.

After this session, you will be able to:

- Stop carrying around physical media.
- Keep your files organized.
- Prevent losing work.
- Easily share files and collaborate with others.

Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your digital skills and simplify your workflow!

### PD #9: "Enhancing Your Moodle Courses: Turnitin 3, Kortext, and Respondus Monitor"

Join us for an exciting workshop where you'll dive into the newest features and upgrades coming to Moodle this fall. This is your chance to stay ahead of the curve and enhance your teaching toolkit with cutting-edge tools and techniques.

#### *What You'll Learn:*

- Turnitin 3: Discover how to seamlessly integrate Turnitin 3 into your courses to ensure academic integrity and streamline your grading process.
- Kortext by Follett: Get hands-on experience with Follett's new Kortext book system and learn how to transition your classes smoothly.
- Respondus Monitor: Learn how to set up and use Respondus Monitor to protect the integrity of your exams and provide a secure testing environment.

#### *Why Attend?*

- Stay Updated: Be the first to explore and implement Moodle's latest features.
- Enhance Your Skills: Gain practical knowledge that you can immediately apply to your courses.
- Boost Your Confidence: Feel more prepared and confident in using these advanced tools.