

# NVC FACULTY FORUM

Just about a month from now I'm set adrift, with a diploma for a sail and lots of nerve for oars.

~Richard Halliburton

## Faculty Development Opportunities

For a list of all faculty development opportunities, [Click Here](#)

### Friday, March 23

#### 9:30am Faculty Snack Time

#### Create Better Student Assessments

*Led by Scott Walker* We don't always assess what we want students to be able to know and do with written exams. This session provides examples of concrete ways we can easily modify paper and pencil tests (even the ones from publishers) to move from assessing lower cognitive dimensions (recall, understand) toward assessing higher cognitive dimensions (analyze, evaluate, create). Applicable to anyone in any discipline who assesses students with written exams. Bring a sample of a formal assessment you use. [Register Here](#)

### Friday, March 30

#### 9:30am Faculty Snack Time

#### Real World in the Classroom: Using Case Studies in (Almost) Every Discipline

#### 10am-11:15am – MZH Innovation Center

*Led by Andrea Anderson and Liz Wright.* In this presentation we'll discuss why case-based learning is important and useful, as well as help you get started using case studies in your classes. We'll warn you of the pitfalls to avoid and how to deal with them, as well as help you practice writing case studies for your classes. Arrive at 9:30 to chat with colleagues and enjoy a cup of coffee and snack.

We encourage ALL faculty, both full and part-time from any of the Alamo Colleges to join us at our faculty development sessions. For those unable to attend, slides and notes from the sessions are available on the [SharePoint](#) drive. Videos from presentations are being edited and uploaded to [Mediasite](#).

Faculty Development is led by Dr. Melody Crenshaw. Please feel free to email Melody at [mcrenshaw4@alamo.edu](mailto:mcrenshaw4@alamo.edu) with any questions, comments, or suggestions.

The Faculty Forum is produced by  
NVC Interdisciplinary Programs.

Mary Dixon, PhD, Dean  
[mdixson1@alamo.edu](mailto:mdixson1@alamo.edu)

Bonnie Sellers, Administrative Assistant  
[bsellers@alamo.edu](mailto:bsellers@alamo.edu)

Our team can be found on  
the second floor of Manzanillo Hall  
or at (210) 486-4937

## *Doing Ethics:* Brown Bag Lunch Conversations about Ethics

If you haven't heard, this semester NVC faculty members kicked off a series of one hour brown bag lunch conversations on a variety of ethical topics. These meetings are informal, and open to everyone on campus. We particularly encourage students to attend.

### Upcoming topics include:

Thursday, March 22 at 11:00 a.m. – CCC, #122

Do We Have an Obligation to Avoid Moral Conflict? – Reflections on Occupy Wall Street" led by Charles Hinkley

Wednesday, March 28 at 12:30p.m. – HH#113  
Death Penalty led by Andrea Rogers

Tuesday, April 3 at 11:00 a.m. – HH#113  
Topic to be Announced led by Carlos Lopez

Monday, April 9 at 12:30 p.m. – CCC #122  
Education Rights led by Kahala Crayton

Interested in leading a conversation? There are two more slots remaining on April 18<sup>th</sup> and April 24<sup>th</sup>. Please contact [Andrew Hill](#) if you are interested in leading one of these sessions or would like more information.



## Upcoming Activities and Events

[The Academic Calendar Can Be Found Here](#)

March 22, 11am PCA 109 – Megan Bogonovich – Visiting Artist Lecture

March 28, 10am - CCC Lago Vista - Career Expo and Job Fair for Students

March 29 – April 14<sup>th</sup> – Come see CABARET, presented by NVC Drama Dept.  
and the Allegro State Company

April 18, 7pm – NVC Spring Music Festival in PCA 109 & 19



**Like us on Facebook for regular access to cool links and information about teaching and faculty development.**

## Listening Skills for Student Success

The average student spends about 14 hours per week in class hearing lectures.<sup>1</sup> But are they really listening? [Julian Treasure](#) explains in his TED Talk that with so many distractions and alternative ways of getting information, listening has in many ways become a lost art. The premium on active listening has declined thanks to technology, impatience, and broadcast conversation rather than personal conversation.

The [National Communication Association](#) recognizes [communication competency](#) to be a combination of speaking and LISTENING. Listening is as much a part of learning oral communication skills as its vocal counterpart.

- Attend with an Open Mind
- Recall Basic Ideas and Details
- Recognize Explicit Relationships Among Ideas
- Identify Supporting Details
- Recognize Main Ideas
- Receive the Speaker's purpose and Organization of Ideas and Information
- Detect Bias and Prejudice
- Distinguish Between Emotional and Logical Arguments
- Recognize the Speaker's Attitude
- Synthesize and Evaluate by Drawing Logical Inferences and Conclusions.
- Recall the Implications and Arguments
- Recognize Discrepancies Between the Speaker's Verbal and Nonverbal Messages
- Employ Active Listening Techniques with Appropriate.

"Competent listening skills foster inclusion practices. When one is capable of really being able to see from the perspective of the other, there is less fear, stereotyping, discrimination, and more openness of mind and heart. Empathetic listening provides space for including others who may be different, lays the fundamental groundwork for conflict management, makes group work more productive and enjoyable, and strengthens established and emerging relationships."<sup>2</sup>

So how can you help students listen in your class?

- 1) Tell students WHAT to listen for before you talk. Previewing key information will help them focus and make it more memorable.
- 2) State your expectations about listening in the classroom.
- 3) Be brief and break up key points! Research shows that the attention span of most listeners is maxed out at 15 minutes. People can only listen for so long.
- 4) Integrate activities such as asking everyone to write down key points from the lecture and then share it for discussion.
- 5) Lecture early. Research also shows that students' retention is the greatest at the beginning part of class.
- 6) Model good listening skills when students talk. Make eye-contact and paraphrase.
- 7) Encourage everyone to be fully present in their listening and minimize distractions. If students are focused on books, phones, or papers, they probably aren't listening.

### THE END IS NIGH

#### What your students need to know before it comes

Midterms are done and the year is beginning to wind down, but there are many things we need students to do to get ready for next year. Help get the word out by adding these dates to your blackboard announcements or informing students in class.

- Head to Major Mania - March 21; 10am -1pm
- Attend the Career Expo & Job Fair; March 28; 10 – 1pm
- Apply to participate in Commencement Ceremony – Deadline: March 31
- Apply for Scholarships! - Deadline: April 15