



This year’s program explores how educators leverage technology, artificial intelligence, and evidence-based strategies to deliver engaging and impactful online learning experiences that support their student’s academic success. Sessions will provide practical strategies and tools for designing inclusive online classrooms, enhancing accessibility in your course, and refining your curriculum to meet the needs of diverse learners.

There are 11 presentations with five minutes between; some presentations will run concurrently. Attendees will have their choice of which tract to attend. Participants are encouraged to be comfortable in their zoom environment; eat, rest, and move around as you need to. We have scheduled a short break and a time for lunch. Please contact us if we can assist in any way. Call/text (505) 916-1647 or email otex@unm.edu. We hope you will enjoy the conference!

Conference Program

<https://valencia.unm.edu/academics/online-learning/faculty-online/extravaganza-otex/index.html>

9:00am **Welcome & Introductions**
UNM-Valencia Faculty Online Teaching & Review Faculty

9:15am **Space Biology: Teaching Through Your Own Example.**
Jacob Torres, Mechanical Engineer, Astro Biologist.
UNM-Albuquerque

Jacob ‘Pepperseed’ Torres is an engineer and plant scientist who worked with the NASA plant science team at Kennedy Space Center from 2018-2023. Contributing to 17 space biology experiments in several environments, he was the native New Mexican who contributed to Plant Habitat (PH)-04 which grew the first fruit on orbit in 2021, the New Mexico Chile pepper. Taking an untraditional route through academia, Jacob started at Northern New Mexico College at 27 where he was a LANL foundation scholar. In 2014 he completed a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering at New Mexico State University. In 2019, he wrote a M.S. thesis in Botanical Air Filtration at Purdue University, before accepting a scientist role with NASA at Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Today, Jacob is working on a PhD at UNM. Jacob Pepperseed has relocated operations to northern New Mexico and is working with local K-12 schools on the next chapter of the Chile Challenge. The Moon Chile Challenge teaches students about local traditions and growing Chile while documenting growth data for a future mission to the moon. Join Jacob as he tells the NASA Space Chile story and how you can educate the next generation through your own experience.



9:55am Quick 5min break

10:05am **Navigating DOJ Accessibility Updates: Compliance in Distance Education.**

Ashley Campbell & Melissa Herrera, Compliance & Curriculum Officers. UNM-Online
This session will explore the latest DOJ accessibility regulations and their impact on Distance Education compliance. Presenters will discuss key updates, institutional responsibilities, and best practices for ensuring accessibility in online learning. Attendees will gain insights into legal requirements and strategies for maintaining compliance in a rapidly evolving educational landscape.

10:40am **Enhancing Online Math with the Student Experience Project.**

Jake Greenberg, Lecturer III Academic Communities. UNM-Albuquerque

In this session, I will introduce participants to the Student Experience Project (SEP) and explore how its principles shape my approach to teaching online foundational math at the University of New Mexico. SEP focuses on enhancing student engagement, inclusivity, and support, and I will demonstrate how these principles can be applied to create more impactful and accessible online math courses. Participants will leave with practical strategies for designing courses that foster student success and meet the diverse needs of learners.

11:00am **Teaching with and Through Zines: A Focus on Zine Pedagogies, Techniques and Technologies.**

Joshua Frank Cardenas, Assistant Professor of Education. UNM-Valencia
The presentation will highlight the history and foundations of Zines, their development and uses as a community-based medium of publication, voice and identity. The major portion of this presentation will focus upon Zines as a pedagogical tool, in face to face, hybrid and online courses. This includes discussing the various techniques and technologies embedded in the medium as well as the experience of using them pre and post-COVID.

Using Loom or another screen recorder for robust feedback

Ana June, Assistant Professor of English. UNM-Valencia

If your instruction relies on substantive feedback, Loom is a great tool for streamlining what can be a laborious undertaking. With Loom or another screen reader of your choice, you can individualize your assessment more effectively, which helps students feel seen and supported.

The Andragogical Advantage: Online Instruction Enhanced by Cengage's AI Student Assistant.

Roseanna McGinn, Director of Health Information Technology. UNM-Gallup
Program explores the powerful synergy between adult learning principles and cutting-edge educational technology. Andragogy, the art and science of adult learning, emphasizes self-direction, experience-based learning, and relevance to real-world applications. When applied to online instruction, these principles can foster a more engaging and effective learning environment for mature students. Cengage's AI Student Assistant takes this a step further by providing personalized, on-demand support that aligns seamlessly with andragogical ideals. By offering immediate answers to late-night questions, guiding students through complex concepts, and providing individualized feedback, this AI tool empowers learners to take control of their educational journey. This combination not only enhances accessibility and flexibility but also fosters a sense of autonomy and ownership, crucial elements in successful adult education.

- 11:35am **Running a Historical Role Playing Game in a HyFlex Classroom.**
 Scott Kamen, Assistant Professor of History.
 UNM-Valencia
 In this program, I will share the results of running the historical role-playing game Raising the Eleventh Pillar from the Reacting to the Past series in a HyFlex classroom. Discussion of the benefits and challenges of running an interactive game in a hybrid setting will be complimented by a short interactive activity that will give participants some sense of what Reacting to the Past is about.
- 12:10pm Lunch break (20min)
- 12:35pm **Optimizing Digital Accessibility: Put your LMS & Media Tools to Work!**
 Erin Duddy, Cathy McAleer, Paula King, Office of Educational Technology.
 UNM-Taos
 Utilizing the tools at our disposal to better facilitate accessible course design. Exploration, demonstrations, and best practices.
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| <p>1:10pm Padlet Presentations-A Nifty One Stop Shop.
 Soledad Garcia-King, Spanish Instructor.
 UNM-Valencia
 Padlets can be used as a good communication, discussion and presentation alternative for PowerPoints and Google slides. The advantage to using Padlets is their interactive feature that allows people to present, comment and collaborate online all in one place. This session will entail learning how Padlets can be used to enhance communication in online forums, a quick tutorial on how to set up a Padlet and participate in a Padlet activity to learn how your students will use the app.</p> | <p>Ethical Uses of AI in the English Classroom.
 Liz Axelrod, English Instructor.
 UNM-Valencia
 This will be an exploration of pedagogical practices for using AI in the college English Classroom. We will take an in-depth look into the ethics involved and provide sample assessments and tools, plus we will explore the dynamics of AI usage - its growth and how to monitor and teach our students the differences between using AI ethically to improve their skills and using AI as plagiarism. If we have time, we'll also discuss AI usage in translation tools like Google's Gemini AI.</p> |
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- 1:45pm **Exploring the Universe Online: Leveraging Technology for Engaging Online Astronomy Education.**
 Lorraine Bowman, Assistant Professor of Science.
 UNM-Los Alamos
 In an era where technology is transforming education, astronomy offers a unique opportunity to engage students through immersive and interactive online learning experiences. This presentation will explore innovative strategies for teaching astronomy online, leveraging virtual simulations such as Stellarium, NASA Treks, Eyes on the Sky, and Starry Night and evidence-based pedagogical approaches to foster deep understanding and curiosity about the universe.
- 2:05pm Programs adjourn. In the remaining time, please complete a brief survey reflecting on your experiences today. You are welcome to remain here and network if you'd like to continue the conversation; the room will remain open until 3pm.

We'd love to know how it went for you. Please complete a brief survey at the end of the day.

Link to OTEEx Reflections Survey <https://forms.gle/wyjrN8Au7sF4uJza7>

Thank You for Attending the 2025 OTEEx Conference!