

★ The Learning Loop ★

The monthly teaching & learning newsletter from Eastern West Virginia Community & Technical College

May 2026

Welcome to the May issue of **The Learning Loop**! As we head into the final weeks of the semester and look ahead to summer and fall, there's a lot of good PD coming your way. We have an exciting new full-day workshop proposed for May 29th, upcoming Open Learning WV and Quality Matters webinars, and a rich archive of AI and OER resources available now.

— Nikki M. Chandler, Teaching & Learning Coordinator, Chair of the T&L Workgroup





TEACHING TIP OF THE MONTH • Build Better Rubrics with AI

Build Better Rubrics with AI

On April 24, Curtis Hakala led a 35-minute professional development session on using AI to build better, CLO-aligned rubrics. If you missed it, all of the resources are available and the recording is ready to watch. You do not need to attend live to earn the PD certificate: watch the recording, build your rubric using the prompt formula, and submit it to Dominic Phillips at dominic.phillips@easternwv.edu to earn your certificate. It takes about 30 minutes once you have your CLO in hand.

Session Resources

 [Session Recording](#) — Full 35-minute video walking through the prompt formula, two examples, and the quality checklist

 [Session Slides \(PowerPoint\)](#) — The full slide deck from the April 24 session

 [Session Transcript](#) — Short on time? Upload this to Claude, ChatGPT, or Perplexity and ask for a summary. You'll get the key takeaways in about 30 seconds.

The Prompt Formula

Copy and paste this into any AI tool and fill in your own details:

Create a [number]-level rubric for [assignment type] that assesses the following Course Learning Outcome: [paste your CLO]. The assignment requires students to [specific requirements]. The assignment is worth [total points] points across [number] criteria. Use the levels [your level names]. Include specific, observable descriptors for each level that clearly differentiate performance. The rubric should measure the student's reasoning and depth of thinking, not just completion or production quality.

Questions about the process? Email Dominic at dominic.phillips@easternwv.edu or reach out to Curtis directly at curtis.hakala@easternwv.edu.



BRIGHTSPACE TOOL OF THE MONTH • Attaching Rubrics in Brightspace

Attaching Rubrics in Brightspace

Now that you've built your CLO-aligned rubric, the next step is attaching it directly to an assignment in Brightspace so students can see it before they submit and you can use it to score their work. This month's Brightspace tip pairs directly with Curtis's rubric session: build it, attach it, and use it.

Step-by-Step: Attaching a Rubric to an Assignment

1. First, create your rubric in Brightspace under Course Tools > Rubrics. Give it a clear name tied to the assignment or CLO.
2. Navigate to the assignment you want to attach the rubric to. Open the assignment editor and scroll to the Evaluation and Feedback section.
3. Click Add Rubric and select the rubric you created. Brightspace will link it to that assignment automatically.
4. Students will be able to view the rubric before they submit their work. When you grade, you can score directly from the rubric inside the assignment folder.

For detailed guidance on setting up rubrics and learning outcomes in Brightspace, see Nikki's [Brightspace Mastery Learning Outcomes Guide](#). Dominic Phillips can also help you connect your rubric to your course's learning outcomes in Brightspace once you're ready for that step.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT EASTERN • College-Hosted Opportunities

Faculty Friday: All-Day Assessment Workshop

Proposed • Friday, May 29, 2026 • All Day • Location: Main Campus

Join us for a full day of collaborative professional development focused on **assessment mapping, “closing the loop” on our course reviews, and summative assessment alignment**. This workshop builds directly on Curtis Hakala's April 24 rubric training and the Faculty Circle book study work currently underway. All faculty are welcome. Details on format, location, and registration to come. Mark your calendar!



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: OPEN LEARNING WV & OER • Free Webinars & Recorded Resources

Train the Trainer: Intro to Open Pedagogy

Friday, May 8, 2026 • 12:00–2:00 PM • Microsoft Teams • Free

Explore open pedagogy — designing learning experiences where students contribute to public knowledge rather than just consume it.

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/27571275664599?p=20j4VizR3g60ddf3RI>
<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/27571275664599?p=20j4VizR3g60ddf3RI>

Meeting ID: 275 712 756 645 99 **Passcode:** dN7hP27j

AI & OER Resource Hub — Open Learning WV

Open Learning WV has compiled a comprehensive collection of **AI and OER webinar resources and recordings** from April and May 2026, organized into three sections:

Section A: Marc Watkins and AI

- [Establishing Course Guidance and Effective AI Policies](#) — webinar recording and handouts

Section B: Open Education Network OER Trainings

- Introduction to OER Publishing, April 17, 2026 with Amanda Larson
- OER Toolkit

- Introduction to OER Adoption Workshop — PPT slides and links
- Introduction to OER Adoption Workshop — webinar recording
- Accessibility & OER with Amanda Larson — PPT slides and resources
- Accessibility & OER with Amanda Larson — webinar recording

Section C: AI & OER Workshop with Brett Christie

- All resources for AI prompts, AI rubrics, etc. focused on OER

 **Access all resources:** [Open Learning WV — AI & OER Resource Hub](#)



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: QUALITY MATTERS FREE WEBINARS •

qualitymatters.org/professional-development/free-webinars

Quality Matters offers free monthly webinars open to members and non-members alike. Register at qualitymatters.org/professional-development/free-webinars. The following sessions are coming up in May:

Meet Faculty Where They Are: Practical Online Course Design That Sticks

Thursday, May 7, 2026 • 1:00 PM ET • Free • Presented by Paula McDougald, Virtual Arkansas; Eric Silva & Elyse Ramirez, UT San Antonio

Supporting faculty when implementing new tools and workflows is one of the biggest challenges in course design. This joint webinar is for administrators, instructional designers, faculty members, and teams who want a more practical, sustainable approach to building accessible courses that meet QM Standards. Includes a look at how AI tools can remove friction and help teams meet faculty where they are.

 **Register:** <https://www.qualitymatters.org/professional-development/free-webinars>

Using AI Thoughtfully in Course Design and Teaching

Friday, May 15, 2026 • 1:00 PM ET • Free • Presented by Bethany Simunich, Vice President of Innovation and Research, QM

AI is changing the landscape of course design and teaching, but many faculty and instructional designers are still deciding what role, if any, it should play in their work. This session offers a practical, grounded starting point for those who are curious, cautious, or unsure. Participants will leave with concrete ideas, practical prompts, and a clearer sense of what intentional AI use can look like in everyday academic work.

 **Register:** <https://www.qualitymatters.org/professional-development/free-webinars>

Empowering Faculty for Quality: A Small College's Collaborative Path to QM Certified Courses

Thursday, May 21, 2026 • 2:00 PM ET • Free • Presented by Leia Thompson Wood & Colleen Wolfe, Hagerstown Community College

A small institution working to certify 50+ courses by Fall 2026 shares how they implemented a collaborative development process, faculty training, and templates to improve online course consistency. Attendees will identify cooperative approaches and view useful tools and templates for achieving QM course reviews. Highly relevant for smaller colleges like ours.

 **Register HE / K-12 / CPE:** <https://www.qualitymatters.org/professional-development/free-webinars>

QM Research Webinars — Free Archived Recordings

QM also maintains a library of free research webinar recordings open to members and non-members. Recent recordings include:

- Building Quality from the Ground Up: A Systemic Approach to Online Degree Programs
- CHLOE 10 | Meeting the Moment: Navigating Growth, Competition, and the AI Revolution in Online Higher Education
- From Automation to Transformation: AI Strategies for Personalized, Engaging and Inclusive Online Course Design
- Curated sessions from the 2025 Online Research Conference
- Leveraging LMS Templates for Faculty Support and Enhanced Student Success
- The Role of Chief Online Learning Officers: The profile, perspectives, and competencies of today's senior online leaders
- D2L and QM: Integrating Quality from the Start

 **Browse all research webinar recordings:** <https://www.qualitymatters.org/professional-development/free-webinars>

Questions, ideas, or something you'd like featured in a future issue? Reach out to Nikki at nikki.chandler@easternwv.edu.

EWVCTC T&L Workgroup • nikki.chandler@easternwv.edu • May 2026