

← Reclaiming Joy: Human-First Teaching in the AI Era

An untethered, flexible event designed to invite conversations.

Overview

This is a **free**, one-day professional development event for California Community College faculty. Participants may attend in one of two ways. Both options provide access to the same statewide program and learning experience.

1. **Campus Watch Party:** Join colleagues in person at a participating college while viewing the live online sessions together.
2. **Individual Online Attendance:** View the sessions independently from any location (or pair up with a peer and view them together!).

As an attendee, you will:

- Identify course design strategies that make student thinking visible.
- Center authentic human connection, reducing reliance on surveillance-based approaches to integrity.
- Apply principles of human-first pedagogy to create assessments and learning experiences that invite students' lived experiences and cultural knowledge into the curriculum.
- Reconnect with the relational and creative dimensions of teaching by processing AI-related fatigue in community with colleagues across the state.
- Design learning activities that protect transfer integrity and promote equity by focusing on what agentic AI cannot replicate—witnessing growth, honoring identity, and fostering belonging.

Description

The ground is shifting. Agentic AI browsers can now log into Canvas and submit assignments on behalf of students. For many faculty, this feels like betrayal—exhausting detection work, forced surveillance, fear that everything we've built is suddenly obsolete. But what if this rupture is also an invitation?

This event offers a different response: one grounded in joy, community, and the deeply human core of education. The best defense against automation isn't tighter surveillance—it's returning to what machines cannot do: witness authentic growth, honor cultural knowledge, and create learning where students show up as their full selves.

Our goal is to help you maintain joy and community as essential tools as you design human-first courses that make student thinking visible, invite lived experience into coursework, and protect transfer integrity without eroding equity.

This event offers permission, possibility, and community—a space to process your fatigue, lean in and learn with colleagues, and discover practices that make teaching feel creative and relational again.