

NC-NET News

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Start the New Year Right with NC-NET Resources

It's hard to believe 2014 will come to a close in just a few weeks. With the New Year upon us, we highlight in this issue a host of teaching and learning resources available from NC-NET to help you retool, recharge, and renew in 2015.

Let's look first at the core sections of the [NC-NET website](#) and its topically organized teaching resources. When you first arrive at the NC-NET home page you'll find a navigation bar for the site's major sections. Under the **Teaching Resources** heading, you'll find content to support:

- Teaching and Learning
- Discipline-Specific Resources
- Online Instruction
- Classroom Technology
- Leadership and Student Success

Clicking on any of these topics will take you to a landing page featuring self-paced professional development courses developed by your colleagues from across the state, instructional resources like handbooks on specific subtopics or presentation and workshop materials resulting from grants and special projects. You'll also find an annotated bibliography of resources from across the web. If you've never taken the time to peruse – and use – these valuable tools, you owe it to yourself to explore them.

If you're a new or part-time instructor, the [Adjunct Faculty Toolkit](#) is for you. Located as a tab from the NC-NET home page, this comprehensive set of resources tackles common questions among new instructors, including foundational topics such as:

- Creating a Syllabus
- The First Day of Class
- Knowing Your Students
- Active Learning Strategies
- Classroom Management
- Fair Assessment Practices
- Glossary of Teaching Terms

The team from the Adjunct Institute at Alamance CC prepared a great overview of a semester with their "A Week at a Glance" list of weekly teaching tips. You'll see it on the home page of the Toolkit.

A resource for any instructor looking to boost the work-readiness skills of their students is the NC-NET [Employability Skills Resource Toolkit](#). Organized into eight modules on essential employability competencies like teamwork and problem solving, the Toolkit offers Word files of teaching resources you can adapt for your courses as well as PowerPoint files with teaching notes. A guided video tour provides a quick overview of everything the Toolkit has to offer.

And last but certainly not least, the NC-NET [Resource Exchange](#) offers all colleges the opportunity to share and showcase their best teaching and professional development resources with fellow colleges. An easy-to-use online submission form is available on the home page. Don't be shy – tell us about the great things you've been doing and we'll feature your work on the website and in an upcoming issue of *NC-NET News*.

Other Can't Miss Resources:

[NC-NET Academy](#) – These six-week online courses are *free* and available to all faculty; both full-time and part-time. Both teaching and technology topics will be offered this spring.

PD Listserv – Did you know that NC-NET hosts a listserv for professional development coordinators to network with colleagues from across the state? [Subscribe](#) today and begin sharing with your peers!

Teaching Resources from Around the Web

This month's highlights:

[Pedagogy Unbound](#)

An easy-to-browse site for college teachers to "share practical strategies for today's classroom." Topically organized with categories like icebreakers, problem solving activities, and teaching goals, to name just a few.

[Flipped Learning Network](#)

Recently released 2014 Literature Review of the Flipped Learning Model

UT Austin Center for Teaching and Learning:

[The 4 Steps of Course Design](#)

Career and Technical Program Resources

Great resources abound for our faculty teaching in career and technical (CTE) program areas, including in-state innovations, resources from colleges around the country, and new tools from federal projects. Here are some highlights...

NC Workforce Learning Innovations

[Align4NCWorks](#) is the NC Community College System's strategic initiative to scale up best practices in collaborative workforce development. The initiative focuses on key partnerships among community colleges, business/industry, workforce development boards, public schools, and economic development entities.

In 2014 the NC Community College System turned to the state's 58 community colleges and their local partners to spotlight workforce innovations and discuss challenges. Community colleges hosted regional *Workforce Learning Summits* involving Align4NCWorks partners from February through mid-October 2014. Major themes of the best practices and innovations shared at the Summits included:

- Career pathways and awareness
- Employer engagement
- Workforce education and training solutions
- College affordability and access
- Work-based learning
- Connecting jobseekers and jobs

View [summaries of innovations](#) from colleges across the state.

The National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium

(NASDCTEC) disseminates valuable CTE resources each week. Some recent posts of interest include:

The State of Employer Engagement in CTE

A complete [report](#), quick list of state examples, and executive summary are available for download.

Badging 101: The What, The Why, & The How

This archived [webinar](#) explores how open badges are offering an innovative platform for recognizing and displaying a student's competency demonstrated either inside or outside the traditional classroom. Yet, questions remain about how badges work at the institution and state level, how they can be folded into existing education systems, and what it takes to ensure their quality, reliability and validity. This fall, NASDCTEC and

NOCTI hosted a webinar to delve into some of these tough questions and explore open badges from national, state and local perspectives. The webinar archive, slides and supplemental links are available for download.

The Career Pathways Exchange

The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Career Technical and Adult Education (OCTAE) has launched an information dissemination service known as the [Career Pathways Exchange](#) as part of its *Moving Pathways Forward* project. Anyone interested in Career Pathways is welcome to subscribe to this weekly resource that shares resources, reports, webinars, and events based on your selected career pathways topics of interest.

3D Printing/Additive Manufacturing Resources

The world of 3D Printing/Additive Manufacturing is constantly evolving. As promising practices in the application of these technologies are scaled, more and more colleges will find themselves immersed in the industry. Below are resources that offer great information for colleges looking to leverage 3D/AM technologies for their communities.

- Sierra College [publication](#) – *Additive Manufacturing: Turning Mind into Matter*
- [America Makes](#)
- Additive Manufacturing [Fact Sheet](#)
- [Makerspace Playbook](#) – School Edition
- Google+ Hangout on [The Future of Additive Manufacturing](#)

ATE Central

The National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program has funded a myriad of initiatives at two-year colleges aimed at developing and implementing ideas for improving the skills of technicians and the educators who teach them. [ATE Central](#) is designed to help educators, students, and the public learn about and use materials from the depth and breadth of ATE projects. You'll find complete curricula, learning objects, and podcasts from hundreds of funded projects organized by subject taxonomies and keywords. ATE Central also connects with AMSER, a portal of free educational resources and services in math and science built specifically for use by instructors at community and technical colleges.