



For Immediate Release

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Contact: Geoff Decker, gdecker@acue.org

January *Expert Series* features award-winning instructor and syllabus specialist Dr. Michael Wesch

Leading subject matter experts from ACUE's Course in Effective Teaching Practices are featured in first-of-its-kind video series dedicated to excellence in college instruction

Just in time for the academic term, Dr. Michael Wesch shares insights on how to drive student engagement by tailoring course syllabi in an interview for ACUE's first Expert Series edition of 2017.

[Michael Wesch: What Inspired Me to Redesign My Syllabus](#)

[Link: <https://community.acue.org/blog/michael-wesch-rethink-teaching/>]

[Photo and Video for download: <https://acue.egnyte.com/fl/6HOmaMTIL0>]

Dr. Wesch, associate professor of cultural anthropology at Kansas State University, joins distinguished experts in higher education teaching and learning featured in ACUE's monthly Expert Series, a list that includes Goucher College President José Bowen, Vanderbilt University's Derek Bruff, and University of Nevada, Las Vegas' Mary-Ann Winkelmes. The Series offers unprecedented access to some of the more than 70 experts and exemplary faculty showcased in ACUE's [Course in Effective Teaching Practices](#).

The interview includes an engaging video from ACUE's Course, which covers 25 modules on effective instruction, from [Embracing Diversity in the Classroom](#) and [Promoting a Civil Learning Environment](#) to [Preparing an Effective Syllabus](#) and [Using Active Learning in Large Classes](#). Instructors who complete the Course earn a Certificate in Effective College Instruction endorsed by the American Council on Education.

Dr. Wesch's expertise on syllabus design, grading practices, and embracing diversity are featured in the ACUE Course. In the interview, Dr. Wesch talks about the moment he realized he needed to rethink his approach to teaching.

"It really became apparent that my students were not engaged in deep learning when I noticed that they were asking questions like, 'What's gonna be on the test?'" Wesch says. "That was the trigger that there was just this total disconnect between me and my students."

The Carnegie Foundation recognized Dr. Wesch's innovative methods when it awarded him the highly coveted "U.S. Professor of the Year" award in 2008. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Wired Magazine*, and the *Kansas City Star* are among the publications to have profiled his work.

In the interview, Dr. Wesch also offers advice to fellow instructors on how to avoid the pitfalls of a fixed mindset and how to continue growing professionally.

"The simple thing is to always be trying something new; novelty is really important to learning and motivation," Wesch says.

Other experts and topics include:

[October](#): Learning Strategies for Students (Saundra McGuire)

[November](#): Connecting the Dots in an Election Year (Derek Bruff)

[December](#): Small Teaching Changes, Big Learning Benefits (Mary-Ann Winkelmes)

Coming soon:

Embracing Diversity in the Classroom (José Bowen)

Midsemester Feedback (Viji Sathy)

Motivation in Large Classrooms (Brenda Gunderson)

Learning from My Students (Stephen Brookfield)

Assessment Techniques (Elizabeth Barkley)

About ACUE

ACUE was founded by leaders in higher education to ensure that all college students receive what they deserve: great instruction. Through a landmark collaboration with the American Council on Education (ACE), ACUE provides the only comprehensive, scalable, affordable, and effective program to credential faculty in the evidence-based teaching practices necessary for student success. To learn more, visit acue.org.