

## FACULTY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

*Lindenwood University*

## LEARNING ACADEMY

**FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: ALEX TRIPAMER**

Alex Tripamer is in his second year as Assistant Professor in CoEHS teaching in the Initial Teacher Education department, and he taught as an adjunct instructor for five years before beginning his full-time role. Alex teaches education courses such as Children's Literature, Instructional Design, and Psychology of Teaching and Learning.

Alex enjoys having the opportunity to work with future educators, appreciating their enthusiasm and desire to have a positive impact on children through their careers as teachers.

When asked about his favorite teaching strategy, Alex said he likes to focus on experiential learning: "I am a huge fan of experiential learning which helps my students understand teaching through a constructivist lens. As such, I tend to use a lot of hands-on activities, particularly in my math and science methods courses. My students are using math manipulatives, playing games, and using hands-on science materials that they will be using in their future classrooms."

Alex's effective teaching has already extended beyond the classroom into our local community. Last Spring, Alex set up a partnership with St. Charles City-County Library for LU students enrolled in the Children's Literature course to conduct a storytime with young children in the community. For the program, students selected three pieces of high-quality children's literature to read orally and then they provided an engaging follow-up activity that went along with the books they read for the children. Alex said this partnership was meaningful to him as an educator: "Watching my students bridge theory to practice and how much joy they are bringing to the kids has been very rewarding."

When asked what advice he has for instructors new to teaching, Alex advised a focus on relationships and connection: "The most effective educators are those that have the ability to establish strong connections with their students. For me, the most important aspect of quality teaching starts with building positive relationships with my students... The bottom line is that by taking the time to really know your students, it can make all the difference in their success."

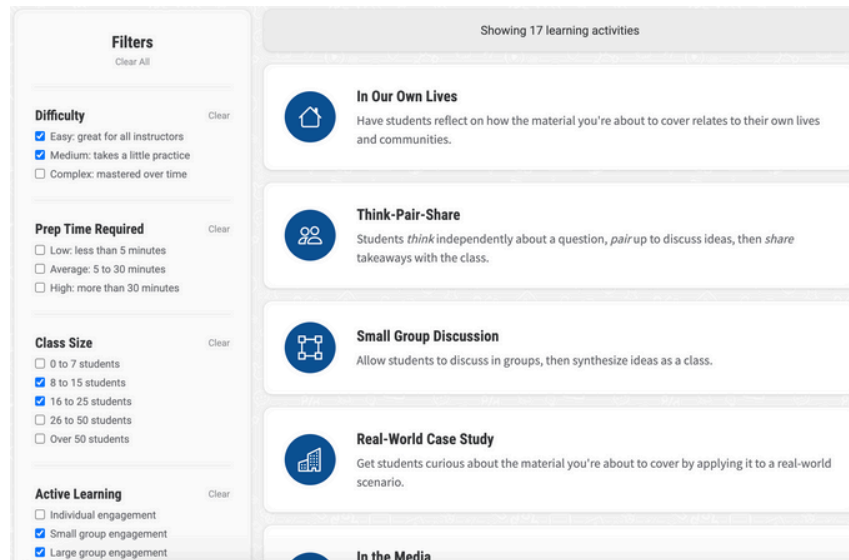
**Upcoming Development Opportunities:**

- LDET Virtual Learning Lab: "Captioning Content for Canvas": 2:00-3:00 pm on Nov. 20
- ORCA Workshop: "I've Been Funded. Now What?": 2:00-3:00 pm on Dec. 10

**Spring 2026 Development Preview:**

- Teaching Squares and Book-Based PLCs: Register by Jan. 14 for both programs!
- "RISE Mindsets" Series: Sessions on Curiosity, Belonging, Self-Efficacy, and Motivation
- LU Showcase: April 23

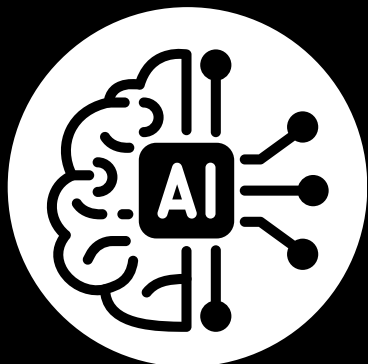
## Teaching Resource: The Active Learning Library



The [Active Learning Library](#) is a resource that can help you identify active learning strategies that are suitable for your class size and modality. The tool's filters include prep time, group size for engagement, level of formative feedback required, level of Bloom's taxonomy used in the activity, inclusive learning practice, and the length of time required to implement the activity.

Some of the strategies that the Active Learning Library suggests are familiar, like think-pair-share discussions and case studies, but it does cover some lesser known active learning strategies as well. For all strategies, the library offers a brief overview of how the strategy is implemented along with links to additional resources. Tools like the Active Learning Library can be helpful when you are trying to revise or enhance a particular lesson or unit in your course by connecting you with new strategies or reminding you of strategies you've used successfully in the past.

### *The AI Corner*



#### **By Paul Huffman, University Archivist and Reference Librarian**

Do you want to save time on next year's faculty performance evaluation? If you start now, you'll find that using an AI tool like ChatGPT or Google Gemini can greatly reduce the time you spend preparing your evaluation.

Here's what to do: Create an account with either ChatGPT or Google Gemini, then go into the settings and turn on the option that allows it to remember past conversations. Throughout the year, whenever you do something noteworthy, tell the AI, either by typing it in or using voice mode. Just be sure not to share any information that would violate FERPA or HIPAA regulations.

Next year, when it's time to complete your evaluation, copy and paste the evaluation instructions into the AI and ask it to recall your accomplishments from the past year. What would normally take a couple of hours or more, could now take just minutes. You may still need to tweak the wording, but the hard part will be done.