

2024 PNW NEXT Program Meeting – [University of Alaska Anchorage, Anchorage, AK](#)

Wednesday, June 19: Informal dinner and gathering at Jenny McNulty's residence @ 6 – 9pm.
[2130 Tudor Hills Ct, Anchorage](#). Spouses and families welcome.

Thursday, June 20: Meeting room TBA

8:30am **Light Breakfast**

8:45 **Announcements, introduction of new fellows, old fellows, invited guests**

8:50 **Session I: Open Educational Resource Use in PNW Math Courses: Sharing Our Experiences**
Leanne Merrill: Western Oregon U

9:40 **Session II: Large Class Tools for Engagement**
Charles Camacho, U of Washington; Natalie Naehrig, U of Washington

10:30 **Break**
(Place orders for lunch)

10:45 **Session III: A Newbie's Experience with Mastery-Based Grading**
Chris Black, Central Washington U

11:15 **Session IV: Math Workshops and My Experience with the STARS Program**
Charles Camacho, U of Washington

12pm **Catered lunch**
(Place orders for dinner)

1:00 **Session V: Career Opportunities, Inspiration, and Sustainability**
Megan Buzby, U of Alaska Southeast; Brandy Weigers, College of Idaho

2:00 **Session VI: What's Next for NExT?**
Megan Buzby, U of Alaska Southeast

2:30 **Adjourn**

2:45 **Super Fun Activity!**
Carpool to your choice: [Anchorage Museum](#), local walk/hike (TBA), [King Street Brewery](#)
Spouses and families welcome

5:30 **Dinner**
Location TBA

7:00 **Plenary Talk: "Ethnomathematics: the connection between culture, history, and mathematics"**
Ximena Catepillán, Millersville University
(Kick off to main section meeting)

Session Descriptions:

Session I: Open Educational Resource Use in PNW Math Courses: Sharing Our Experiences

Leanne Merrill, Western Oregon U

Open Educational Resources (OERs) have been around for decades, and I suspect many of us have used (or maybe even authored!) OER materials in our classes. In this interactive session, we will go over the basics of OERs and attempt to quantify how and where OERs are being used in our section. We will also have facilitated discussions about OER use in a variety of courses.

Session II: Large Class Tools for Engagement

Charles Camacho, U of Washington; Natalie Naehrig, U of Washington

Countless studies show that student engagement during class is key to better understanding, better knowledge retention, better grades, and more equitable outcomes. But teaching large classes means that many suggested tools become unfeasible in such settings. In this presentation, Charles and Natalie will share some approaches to student centered learning in large, auditorium-style classes, though the approaches are applicable in any classroom setting. We will talk about the implementation of some of those tools, the successes, failures, pitfalls, and accomplishments we observed in our classes.

Charles and Natalie both used different tools with the same goal in our Calculus I classes at the University of Washington, Seattle: to engage each student while learning in a big audience. Natalie will describe how PollEverywhere, and Desmos activities contribute to student learning during lecture time; how grading improved student effort in these activities; and how to keep it equitable for students who cannot always be present. Charles will describe several ways to get students involved with the instructor and peers in and out of class, including running workshop-style sessions; interactive polls in class and on discussion boards; incorporating mini whiteboards in class and office hours; and utilizing low-stakes formative assessments.

Session III: A Newbie's Experience with Mastery-Based Grading

Chris Black, Central Washington U

Mastery-based grading, also known as standards-based grading, is an alternative grading method that is growing in popularity. How complicated is it to switch from a traditional grading approach to this new grading structure? I started using mastery-based grading in the Spring of 2023, and will share some of the mistakes I made and how I've overcome some of them. Q&A to follow.

Session IV: Math Workshops and My Experience with the STARS Program

Charles Camacho, U of Washington

The State Academic RedShirt (STARS) program at the University of Washington, Seattle is a long-standing, successful, wraparound program supporting Washington state students from low-income, first-generation, and underserved backgrounds in pursuing an engineering or computer science degree. STARS students often excel academically, e.g., the median STARS exam score on first-year calculus exams met or exceeded the median score of their peers. A key component of STARS students' success is the supplemental math workshop that runs concurrent with their department class. I will discuss my experience leading the mathematics instruction in STARS, how I've adapted these workshops to the large calculus classes as an assistant teaching professor in the mathematics department at UW, Seattle, and how math workshops can be beneficial to retention in a STEM major.

Session V: Career Opportunities, Inspiration, & Sustainability

Megan Buzby, U of Alaska Southeast; Brandy Weigers, College of Idaho

Among our many mid-level career faculty and invited guests, we have rich and diverse success stories that provide purpose and inspiration to our careers and work-life balance. In this session, we will split into groups and discuss particular aspects of these opportunities in the hopes that it will inspire our newer faculty and remind us all to step outside our comfort zones.

After describing your specific opportunity and its origins, we will focus on three questions: How did it come to be? What made it challenging/intimidating? What made it enjoyable/sustainable/inspiring? Think of that small grant you applied for that opened up more opportunities, the course release you took to be department chair or serve in a faculty governance position, those four hours you found each week to work a part-time job, etc. We have all found small (or large) course corrections that helped make our path work better for us. This is the time to share them! Please have one person take notes and report out.

Session VI: What's next for NExT?

Megan Buzby, U of Alaska Southeast, PNW NExT Director

1. Thank you to Chris Black! Nominations for new Associate Director
2. Openings for Assistant Webmaster and Assistant Secretary
3. New faculty participation and support
 - a. Update on National NExT participation
 - b. Other recruitment
4. What's working for us? What isn't? Recommendations for change?
 - a. Panel discussion at MathFest
5. Survey says...