

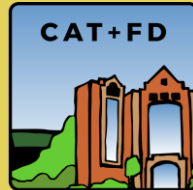


ENGAGE STUDENTS USING AWARDS

Ms. Janice Florent, Technology Coordinator

Dr. Jason S. Todd, Director

**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**



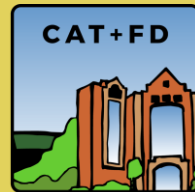
cat.xula.edu



Except where otherwise noted, all content is licensed under a
CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 License. Please credit CAT+FD.

Engage Students Using Awards

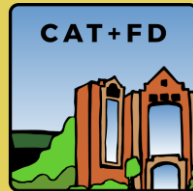
**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**



cat.xula.edu

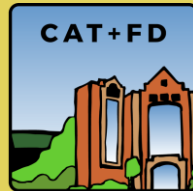
Quality Matters

- QM Standard 5 - Learning Activities and Learner Interaction
 - **5.1 - The learning activities help learners achieve the stated objectives.**
 - **5.2 - Learning activities provide opportunities for interactions that support active learning.**
 - 5.3 - The instructor's plan for regular interaction with learners in substantive ways during the course is clearly stated.
 - 5.4 - The requirements for learner interaction are clearly stated.

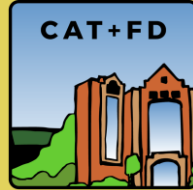


Quality Matters

- QM Standard 6 - Course Technology
 - **6.1 - The tools used in the course support the learning objectives.**
 - **6.2 - Course tools promote learner engagement and active learning.**
 - **6.3 - A variety of technology is used in the course.**
 - 6.4 - The course provides learners with information on protecting their data and privacy.



Gamification in Education



cat.xula.edu

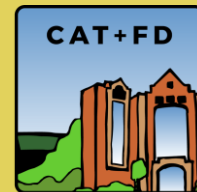
**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**

Speed Camera Lottery



Image generated using Google Gemini from the prompt "speed camera lottery - ticketing you when you run through a speed-radar too fast, also notices you when you come in at or under the speed-limit. It then automatically enters you in a lottery." [25 August 2026]

**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**



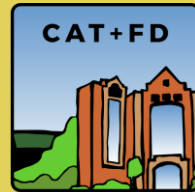
cat.xula.edu

Scout Badges



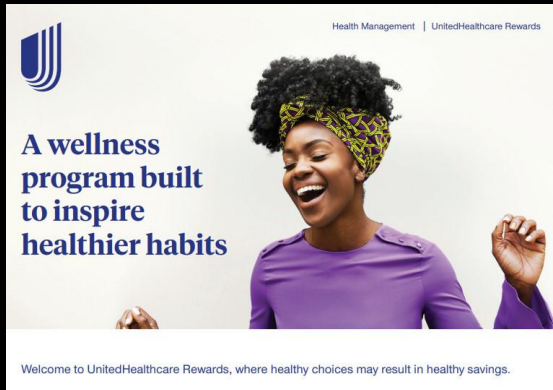
Image Credits: [Photo by Jonas Kakaroto on Unsplash](#)
[Photo by Jonas Kakaroto on Unsplash](#)
[Photo by Kevin Duarte on Unsplash](#)

**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**



cat.xula.edu

Wellness Rewards



Health Management | UnitedHealthcare Rewards

A wellness program built to inspire healthier habits

Welcome to UnitedHealthcare Rewards, where healthy choices may result in healthy savings.



WELL WALKS

FALL 2026 FACULTY & STAFF

WALKING CLUB INTEREST FORM

MONDAYS AT 5:30 PM

SCAN HERE

XU SOUTH FITNESS CENTER

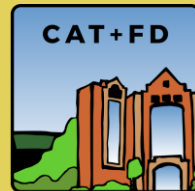
WALK TOGETHER. RECHARGE TOGETHER. THRIVE TOGETHER.

JOIN THE MONTHLY STEPS CHALLENGE!

SEPTEMBER - 250,000 K
OCTOBER - 300,000 K
NOVEMBER - 350,000 K

\$250 GIFT CARD FOR 2 FACULTY/STAFF MEMBERS PER MONTH!
WITH THE STEP UP APP

**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**



cat.xula.edu

THE *Gamification* OF EDUCATION

Gamification* has tremendous potential in the education space. *How can we use it to deliver truly meaningful experiences to students?*

*Gamification [n]: the use of game design elements in non-game contexts

“Game players regularly exhibit persistence, risk-taking, attention to detail, and problem-solving, all behaviors that ideally would be regularly demonstrated in school.” — *The Education Arcade at MIT*



1.2 MILLION STUDENTS

in the U.S. fail to graduate from high school every year. According to Joey Lee and Jessica Hammer at Columbia Teachers College, “the default environment of school often results in undesirable outcomes such as disengagement, cheating, learned helplessness, and dropping out.”

28 million people harvest their crops on *FarmVille* every day.

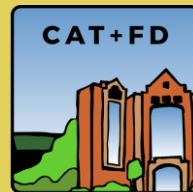
OVER 5 million play an average of 45 hours a week of games.

As a planet, we spend
3 billion hours a week
playing video and computer games.

What elements of gaming can we harness for educational purposes?

Source: <https://learningintheopen.com/gamification-in-education-in-fourth/>

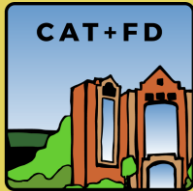
**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**



cat.xula.edu

Awards Tool

- ★ Enables instructors to provide merit-based awards to learners
 - Badges
 - Certificates



What is a Badge?

- ★ Digital markers that represent an accomplishment determined by the instructor



Badges

- ★ Can be awarded for achievements that can contribute to the type of work ethic that results in a passing grade

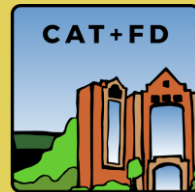


What is a Certificate?

- ★ Certificates are similar to Badges; however, they include a PDF that users can print. They also typically indicate an official statement of certification.



Image Credit: "Award Certificate" was created using Microsoft Designer (7 July 2026)



Awards Tool in Action



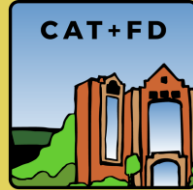
Image Credit: [Image](#) by OpenClipart-Vectors from [Pixabay](#)



**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**

cat.xula.edu

Recognize Learner Accomplishments



cat.xula.edu

**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**

Early Bird Gets the Worm Award



Why it works:

Encourages positive academic habits.



Early Bird Gets the Worm Award

The early bird catches the worm! This proverb means if you act early or act right now you will have the best chance for success. Some opportunities in this course are only available to those who act early. This badge is given to learners who are motivated to get an early start on assignments or activities. Success comes to those who prepare well and put in effort!

Course Name: #LearnEverywhereXULA

Expiry Date: Never

Issue Date:

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 11:59 AM

Issuer: CAT+FD

Evidence:

You are receiving this badge because you got an early start on completing the Gamification Learning Challenge.

[Close](#) [Revoke](#)



cat.xula.edu

**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**

Mantis Shrimp Award



Why it works:

Celebrates learners who exhibit extraordinary perception, breakthrough insights, or high-impact contributions.



Mantis Shrimp

The mantis shrimp has the strongest punch and the widest visual color spectrum in the animal kingdom. Like the mantis shrimp, you see things from a lot of different angles and you aren't afraid to say so.

Course Name: Janice's Sandbox CO

Expiry Date: Never

Issue Date: Sep 23, 2022 10:00 AM

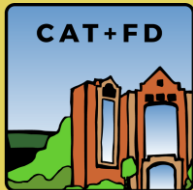
Issuer: Janice Florent

Evidence:

You are being recognized for having qualities like the mantis shrimp! This award celebrates your Herculean effort, multifaceted perspective, and powerful breakthrough insights in this class.

[Close](#) [Revoke](#)

**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**



cat.xula.edu

Bumblebee Award



Why it works:

Normalizes academic struggle and rewards resilience and grit.



Bumblebee

Like a bumblebee, you work extremely hard in ways that aren't always appreciated.

Course Name: Janice's Sandbox CO

Expiry Date: Never

Issue Date:

Thursday, September 8, 2022 3:55 PM

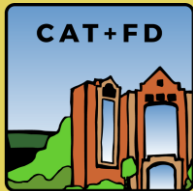
Issuer: Janice Florent

Evidence:

You are being recognized for having qualities like the bumblebee.

[Close](#) [Revoke](#)

**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**



cat.xula.edu

Phoenix Award



Why it works:

Normalizes academic struggle and rewards resilience and grit.



Phoenix

Awarded to learners who experience a significant stumble, low grade, or rough start on an early assignment, but make a dramatic recovery and finish strong. Like the Phoenix, you rise!

Course Name: Janice's Sandbox CO

Expiry Date: Never

Issue Date: Sep 6, 2024 9:00 AM

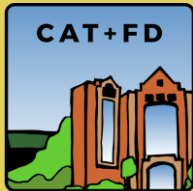
Issuer: Janice Florent

Evidence:

Learner experienced a significant stumble, low grade, or rough start on an early assignment, but made a dramatic recovery and finished strong.

[Close](#) [Revoke](#)

**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**



cat.xula.edu

Master Architect Award



Why it works:

Acknowledges structural thinking and project management skills that often go uncelebrated.



Master Architect

Awarded to learners who structure group projects effectively, create clean concept maps, or bring exceptional organization and synthesis to complex tasks.

Course Name: Janice's Sandbox CO

Expiry Date: Never

Issue Date: Oct 25, 2024 9:30 AM

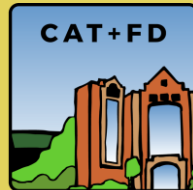
Issuer: Janice Florent

Evidence:

You have the ability to structure group projects effectively, create clean concept maps, and bring exceptional organization and synthesis to complex tasks.

[Close](#) [Revoke](#)

**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**



cat.xula.edu

Pathfinder Award



Why it works:

Encourages intellectual curiosity and independent information literacy beyond the syllabus.



Pathfinder

Awarded to learners who discover a brilliant outside resource, recent peer-reviewed study, or real-world example and share it to enrich the class's understanding.

Course Name: Janice's Sandbox CO

Expiry Date: Never

Issue Date: Sep 16, 2024 12:00 PM

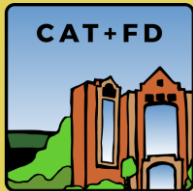
Issuer: Janice Florent

Evidence:

You discovered a recent peer-reviewed study and real-world examples and shared it to enrich the class's understanding.

[Close](#) [Revoke](#)

**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**



cat.xula.edu

Lighthouse Award



Why it works:

Celebrates collaborative learning and empathetic peer support without requiring formal tutoring roles.



Lighthouse

Awarded to learners who consistently help clarify confusing concepts for peers in discussion forums, study groups, or class Q&A sessions.

Course Name: Janice's Sandbox CO

Expiry Date: Never

Issue Date: Oct 3, 2024 8:00 AM

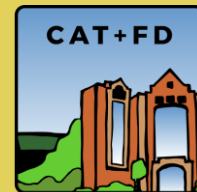
Issuer: Janice Florent

Evidence:

You are a lighthouse for your peers! You consistently help clarify confusing concepts for peers in discussion forums and class Q&A sessions.

[Close](#) [Revoke](#)

**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**



cat.xula.edu

Archivist Award



Why it works:

Rewards thoroughness, reflection, and the ability to distill key takeaways from a mountain of information.



Archivist

Awarded to learners who maintain meticulous notes, summarize weekly modules clearly, or help synthesize dense threads of discussion.

Course Name: Janice's Sandbox CO

Expiry Date: Never

Issue Date: Oct 30, 2024 7:30 AM

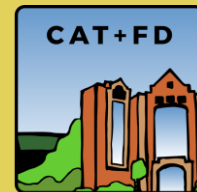
Issuer: Janice Florent

Evidence:

You are thorough! You maintain meticulous notes, summarize weekly modules clearly, and help to synthesize dense threads of discussion.

[Close](#) [Revoke](#)

**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**



cat.xula.edu

Intelligent Agents

Edit Agent

Agent Name: *

Early Bird Badge for Writing Assignment #2

Description:

Purpose: This notification identifies students who submitted their assignments early.

Audience: Report to be generated for instructor. No email is sent.

Work Schedule: Runs on Tuesday during the scheduled start and end

Category:

Action Reports ▼

Add Category

Status:



Agent is enabled

**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**



cat.xula.edu

#LEX Advanced

Intelligent Agents ▾

Print

Settings



Intelligent Agents: Get Started ▾

Web Page

Intelligent Agents: Learn More ▾

Web Page

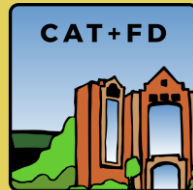
Intelligent Agents: Take Action ▾

Web Page

Intelligent Agents: Reflect ▾

Discussion Topic

**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**



cat.xula.edu

#LEX Advanced

Release Conditions ▾

 Print

 Settings



⋮ Release Conditions: Get Started ▾

 Web Page



⋮ Release Conditions: Learn More ▾

 Web Page



⋮ Release Conditions: Take Action ▾

 Web Page

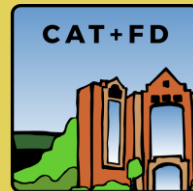


⋮ Release Conditions: Reflect ▾

 Discussion Topic

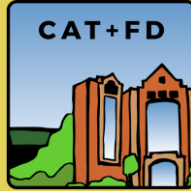


**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**



cat.xula.edu

Sharing Awards

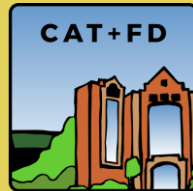


cat.xula.edu

**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**

Sharing Awards

- ★ Awards are earned in a course
- ★ Learners can share Awards inside and outside of Brightspace



Sharing Awards

 #LearnEverywhereXULA

 Francis Demo-Student 

Help ▾ Content Discussions Grades Classlist Groups Activities ▾ ePortfolio Zoom

[My Awards](#) [View Available Awards](#)



All Badges Certificates

☐ Include awards from other courses

Badges

Learner Supp...

Share

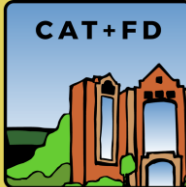
Accessibility ...

Share

#LEX Advanc...

Share

**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**



CAT+FD

cat.xula.edu

Sharing Awards



#LearnEverywhereXULA











Francis Demo-Student



Help ▾

Content

Discussions

Grades

Classlist

Groups

Activities

My Awards

View Available Awards

Search awards



Badges

Learner Supp...



 Share

Accessibility ...



 Share

#LEX Advanc...



 Share

Share My Award



#LEX Advanced: Rubrics

Internally: [More Info](#)

Share to Profile

Send to ePortfolio

Externally: [More Info](#)

Export Digital Credential

Share to LinkedIn

Share this award with a public link: [More Info](#)

Create Link

Close

**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**

cat.xula.edu

Sharing Awards



#LEX Certificate of Completion

#LearnEverywhereXULA (LEX) Course Completion certificate is issued to learners who complete the course requirements. This certification recognizes the dedication and commitment of the awardee to teaching online with Brightspace at Xavier University of Louisiana.

Course Name: Janice's Sandbox CO

Expiry Date: Never

Issue Date: Nov 23, 2021 3:51 PM

Issuer: CAT+FD

Evidence: testing certificate

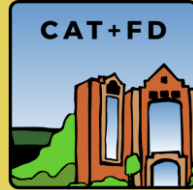
[Close](#) [Generate Certificate](#)



cat.xula.edu

**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**

Additional Considerations

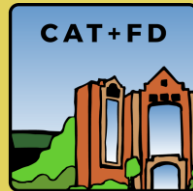


cat.xula.edu

**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**

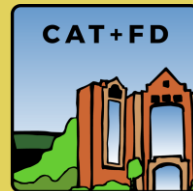
Questions to Consider

- ★ What will the learners earn badges for?
- ★ Which badges are predictable, which are not?
- ★ How often will the learners earn badges?
- ★ How much is too much?
- ★ Why should the learner care about the badges?

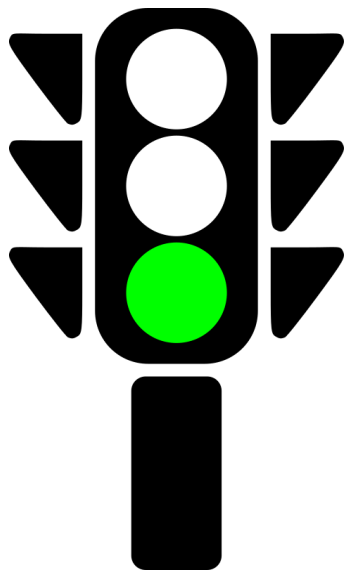


Badging Design Tips

- ★ Link badge requirements to course goals
- ★ Decide if badges should be
 - Issued based on skill/knowledge
 - Expected or unexpected



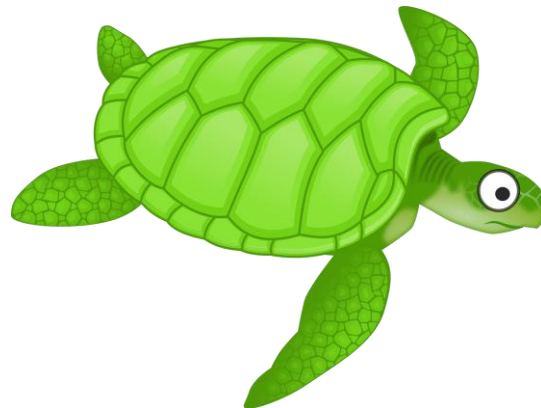
Check-in



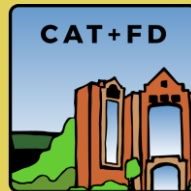
I'm good to go



Stop, I need help



I'm a little confused



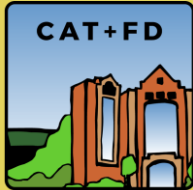
**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**

cat.xula.edu

Effective Practice #1

★ Design awards around a theme

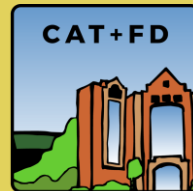
**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**



cat.xula.edu

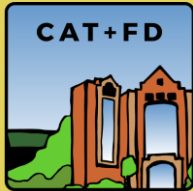
Effective Practice #2

- ★ Don't overbadge
 - Avoid offering a badge for everything



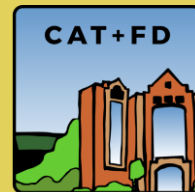
Effective Practice #3

- ★ Avoid zero challenge badges
 - Too many, easily earned badges



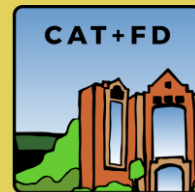
Effective Practice #4

- ★ Avoid meaningless badges
 - Consider whether badge has meaning or relevance
 - Do you have difficulty describing what the badge represents?



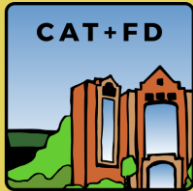
Effective Practice #5

- ★ Don't be redundant
 - Will giving a badge to a student for earning an "A" add new or additional value?



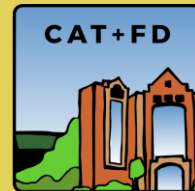
Effective Practice #6

- ★ Use AI to brainstorm creative, personalized, and motivating badge ideas for your learners



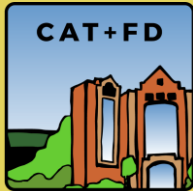
Effective Practice #7

- ★ Reduce your workload by automating the issuance of badges (where possible)



Effective Practice #8

- ★ Explain to learners
 - How badges work
 - How to earn badges
 - How to display badges

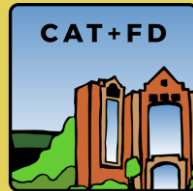


Potential Pitfall #1

- ★ Avoid superficial engagement
 - Extrinsic motivators can only go so far to engage and motivate
 - Use more intrinsic motivators than extrinsic motivators



Image Credit: [Image](#) by OpenClipart-Vectors from [Pixabay](#)

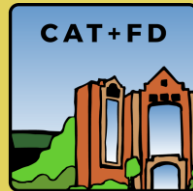


Potential Pitfall #2

- ★ Avoid unintended consequences
 - Sometimes unintended and undesirable behaviors can be the result, as evidenced by the cobra effect



Image Credit: [Image](#) by OpenClipart-Vectors from [Pixabay](#)



cat.xula.edu

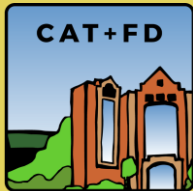
**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**

Potential Pitfall #3

- ★ Avoid rewarding the wrong behaviors (Kerr's folly)
 - Don't reward "A" while hoping for "B"
 - Your reward structure shouldn't undermine your goal



Image Credit: [Image](#) by OpenClipart-Vectors from [Pixabay](#)

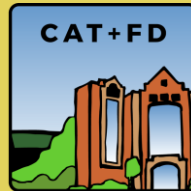


Potential Pitfall #4

- ★ Avoid rewards learners don't find valuable



Image Credit: [Image](#) by OpenClipart-Vectors from [Pixabay](#)



cat.xula.edu

**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**



CAT Food

(for thought)

cat.xula.edu/food/

SUBSCRIBE

ABOUT THIS BLOG

LATEST FOOD

NEWSLETTER

Brightspace Tip #344: Recognize Learner Accomplishments

Janice Florent • September 5, 2022 • Leave a comment

Are you looking for a way to recognize learner accomplishments in your courses? The Awards tool enables instructors to provide merit-based awards to students. Instructors can use the Awards tool to provide students with a reward, in the form of a digital badge, that acknowledges an achievement, whether it is a skill, competency, or completed task.



Dr. Christopher Jones, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Washburn University, uses the Awards tool to recognize individual students in his courses. A

Search ...

Search

BRIGHTSPACE

BRIGHTSPACE DOCUMENTS

- Guide to Taking Tests in Brightspace
- Record, Upload, and Share Video on YouTube

BRIGHTSPACE FAQ

- Respondus LockDown Browser FAQ
- Respondus Monitor FAQ
- VoiceThread FAQ
- ePortfolios FAQ

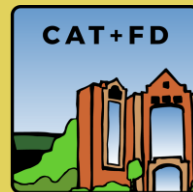
PODCAST

Teaching, Learning, and Everything Else

Conversation #124: Jon Ippolito on the
IMPACT RISK of AI
September 23, 2025
31 minutes

Conversation #123: Wendy Gaudin on
Writing and Publishing
May 6, 2025
36 minutes

Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA



cat.xula.edu

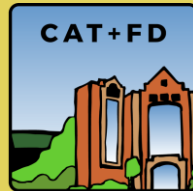
Workshop Slides, Recording, & Resources

<https://catwiki.xula.edu/awards>



SCAN ME

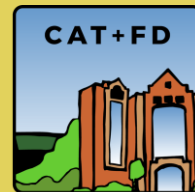
**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**



cat.xula.edu

Any Questions

**Center for the Advancement of
Teaching & Faculty Development
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**



cat.xula.edu

Image Credit: [Image by gerald from Pixabay](#)