BEACON

Beaufort Academy for Collaboration, Outreach, and iNnovation

The Beaufort Academy for Collaboration, Outreach, and Innovation (BEACON) is a collaborative initiative between the Center for Teaching and Learning and eLearning that promotes excellence in teaching, learning, accessibility, innovation, and peer-supported course improvement.

BEACON Faculty Badge Program

Faculty may earn the annual BEACON Digital Badge by participating in professional development activities throughout the academic year. The badge recognizes a commitment to continuous improvement, student success, innovation, accessibility, and collaborative teaching practices.

Requirements

To earn the BEACON Digital Badge, faculty must complete:

- SIX BEACON-approved professional development sessions during the academic year
- At least one session from each of the four BEACON pathways
    - Accessibility and Student Success
    - Online Classrooms
    - Innovative Classrooms
    - Peer Review and Course Quality
- An end-of-year reflection and sharing of one change implemented in a course or teaching practice

Badge recipients will be recognized at a faculty event and receive a digital credential for use in email signatures, annual reviews, promotion portfolios, and professional profiles.

BEACON Fellows

Faculty who earn the BEACON Digital Badge for three academic years may be recognized as **BEACON Fellows**, honoring their sustained commitment to teaching excellence, innovation, and continuous professional growth.

BEACON Fellows will be recognized through a variety of institutional honors and opportunities, which may include recognition at university events, commemorative awards, professional development support, and other forms of acknowledgment celebrating their contributions to the culture of teaching excellence at USCB.

Fall 2026 Professional Development Schedule
Click on the Session Title to Register

Date	Time	Session	Presenter	Pathway	Location
September 2, 2026	11:30am-12:30pm	Orchestrating Classroom Discourse	Dr. Volkan Sevim	Innovative Classrooms	Library 243
September 9, 2026	12:00pm-1:00pm	Decoding the Research Bottleneck	Dr. Kim Kelley	Accessibility and Student Success	Online
September 16, 2026	1:30pm-2:30pm	Blackboard Essentials: Managing the Gradebook	Lori Vargo	Online Classrooms	Library 243
September 23, 2026	12:00pm-1:00pm	NACE Career Readiness Competencies	Teagan O'Conner	Accessibility and Student Success	Library 243
September 24, 2026	2:30pm-3:30pm	Blackboard Essentials: Creating Tests and Assignments	Lori Vargo	Online Classrooms	Online
October 2, 2026	12:00pm-1:00pm	Advanced Search Realities and AI Integration	Dr. Kim Kelley	Innovative Classrooms	Online
October 2, 2026	1:00pm-2:00pm	Blackboard Essentials: Building and Using Rubrics	Lori Vargo	Online Classrooms	Online
October 12, 2026	12:30am-1:30pm	Managing Your Gradebook in Blackboard	Blackboard and Lori Vargo	Online Classrooms	Campus Center 106C
October 12, 2026	2:00pm-3:00pm	**Accessibility Refresher and AI in Blackboard**	Blackboard and Lori Vargo	Accessibility and Student Success	Campus Center 106C
October 19, 2026	12:00pm-1:00pm	Digital Accessibility Fundamentals and Title II Requirements	Lori Vargo and Carol Weir	Accessibility and Student Success	Library 243

October 22, 2026	1:30pm-2:30pm	Introduction to QSOC: Quality Standards for Online Courses	Lori Vargo	**Peer Review and Course Quality**	Library 243
October 23, 2026	12:00pm-1:00pm	Transforming Evaluation with Context and Lateral Reading	Dr. Kim Kelley	**Accessibility and Student Success**	Online
October 27, 2026	11:30am-12:30pm	Interactive Tools for Engaging Learning Using Boxlight	Dr. Daphne Poore	**Innovative Classrooms**	Library 243
November 12, 2026	1:00pm-2:00pm	Creating Accessible Documents	Lori Vargo	**Accessibility and Student Success**	Library 243
November 13, 2026	12:00pm-1:00pm	Remixing Assignments & Timelines for Feedback	Dr. Kim Kelley	**Peer Review and Course Quality**	Online
November 17, 2026	1:30pm-2:30pm	Using the QSOC Rubric as a Self-Assessment Tool	Lori Vargo	**Peer Review and Course Quality**	Library 243