



## [Website Review] *Center for Engaged Learning* Created by Elon University

<https://www.centerforengagedlearning.org>

Whether you are a rookie or a seasoned SoTL scholar, you will find Elon University's Center for Engaged Learning (CEL) website engaging and informative. Both the CEL and website were founded in 2012, and the site has grown dramatically since then. The CEL website was created to examine and circulate the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL), especially topics related to "high impact" (Kuh 2008) practices, such as study abroad, service-learning, writing-intensive courses, and living-learning communities. Additionally, the website aims to provide learning opportunities to those interested in how to implement, improve, and/or expand these practices.

The website shares ideas that come from the CEL's "multi-institutional research and practice-based initiatives, conferences, and seminars." The information presented on the website is comprehensive and user-friendly. The research highlighted on the CEL website is generated by faculty, staff, and students from diverse higher education institutions all over the world. The content is thorough, highly reflective, and research-intensive as it represents the work of people who are committed to the practice of teaching and learning and its scholarship. The content is professionally edited and specifically produced for the web. Each page contains a clear and concise introduction, as well as a short summary that can be expanded for additional information. Many of the pages include embedded video interviews in which prominent scholars discuss issues related to diverse areas of SoTL and engaged learning.

Aesthetically, the website is professional and formal. In addition to a director, Dr. Jessie Moore, the CEL employs a professional editor, Jennie Goforth, who oversees all publishing operations and two student interns who support this work, including website development and maintenance. The website is updated regularly, and one can find information related to the most recent CEL initiatives and activities, as well as its past work.

Each area of the CEL's initiatives (research seminars, publications, engaged learning, studying engaged learning, conferences and think tanks, and programs) appears as a separate tab on the top of the page. The home page includes highlights with photo captions and short descriptions from the CEL's most recent initiatives, such as research seminars, new publications by the CEL Open Access Book Series, and the CEL/Stylus Publishing Series on Engaged Learning and Teaching. The site also features videos on research and theories of engaged learning.

The CEL's Open Access Book Series and the featured videos are unique and especially valuable features of the website. The videos are short (each under 10 minutes) and captioned; they contain clear language and answer straightforward questions relevant to those interested in SoTL. The videos represent a diversity of voices, including faculty, practitioners, students, and librarians. To allow for easy access and to help users find the content they seek, the videos are searchable on the site and on

YouTube. They are also grouped in topical playlists, such as undergraduate research, diversity, inclusion and equity, and global learning.

As for the Open Access Book Series, according to the website “[t]he Center for Engaged Learning (CEL) Open Access Book Series features concise, peer-reviewed books (both authored books and edited collections) for a multi-disciplinary, international, higher education audience interested in research-informed engaged learning practices.” The books are available in full, or chapters are available for individual download. Chapters are frequently accompanied by discussion questions, handouts, videos, or other supplementary resources—all available for free use.

Overall, the site contains information that will advance the thinking of someone who is new to the area of SoTL, while also offering comprehensive resources for experienced scholars. As the Center and the website near their 10 year anniversary, we look forward to seeing how they will continue to advance SoTL scholarship. As the site grows, we hope to see even more focus on cross-cultural research.

## DISCLOSURE

Sophia Abbot and Ketevan Kupatadze have both published blog posts and developed other content for Elon’s Center for Engaged Learning website. Sophia worked as a graduate apprentice to the Center from 2018–2020 and Ketevan served as a scholar for the Center from 2017–2019.

## REFERENCES

- Kuh, George D. 2008. *High-Impact Educational Practices: What They Are, Who Has Access to Them, and Why They Matter*. American Association of Colleges and Universities.  
<https://www.aacu.org/publications-research/publications/high-impact-educational-practices-what-they-are-who-has-access-0>.



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