



Spelman
College®

THE *Pulse of* PEDAGOGY

TEACHING RESOURCE & RESEARCH CENTER | FEB 2026

Spring Semester Is Here!

The TRRC is excited to welcome Spring 2026 with a renewed focus on connection and collaboration. This semester, we're creating intentional spaces for faculty to exchange ideas, explore innovative teaching practices with AI, engage in AAC&U initiatives, and support new colleagues as they settle into our community. We look forward to a season of shared growth and impactful work together.

Think Tank Tuesday: Feedback & Assessment

We kicked off the first Think Tank Tuesday of the semester with an engaging conversation on feedback and assessment, facilitated by Dr. Nicole Taylor, Chair of the Education Department. Nearly 20 students and faculty gathered for an interactive roundtable grounded in lived experiences at Spelman.

The discussion fostered honest dialogue and shared reflection, highlighting what meaningful feedback looks like from both student and faculty perspectives and how assessment can better support clarity, growth, and academic excellence. It was a strong start to the semester—centered on listening, collaboration, and student success.

Join us for our upcoming Think Tank Tuesday sessions this semester:

- March 24: Using AI for Grant Writing
- April 14: Achieving Work-Life Balance

Registration will close once capacity is reached. Please scan the QR code to register for the session(s) you plan to attend.



TEACHING
RESOURCE & RESEARCH
CENTER

Our Mission

To support a campus community that promotes and disseminates innovative and effective teaching practices.

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From the Director's Desk



I hope that everyone's Spring semester has gotten off to a smooth start! The TRRC has already jumped into the semester with a number of activities that have brought together what I like to call our "**Partners in Pedagogy**" - faculty, students, staff, and administrators interested in innovative pedagogy. In particular, bringing the student voice into our discussions is new for the TRRC and we continue to look forward to hearing the student perspective through our **Think Tank Tuesday** programs and through collaborations between faculty involved with the **AIRE (AI in Reimagining Education) Workgroup** and select students providing feedback on AI use.

You can see that AI continues to be a topic of focus and will be on our agenda for the foreseeable future. The AI landscape continues to change and we need to ensure that our students can graduate from the college secure in their knowledge of AI use. Whether you embrace AI technology, are unsure of what you can do with it, or wish you had never heard about artificial intelligence in the first place, it is hereto stay and we as a campus community need to meet it head on. Look for upcoming AI-based training sessions offered by the TRRC or the Innovation Lab. The TRRC team is also working in collaboration with the Office of the Provost and the Faculty Affairs Office to host a series of **AI Salons**, taking place twice each semester. This will ensure that information is being shared across campus as we develop guidelines and provide information for best use practices.

Guiding Innovation with Purpose



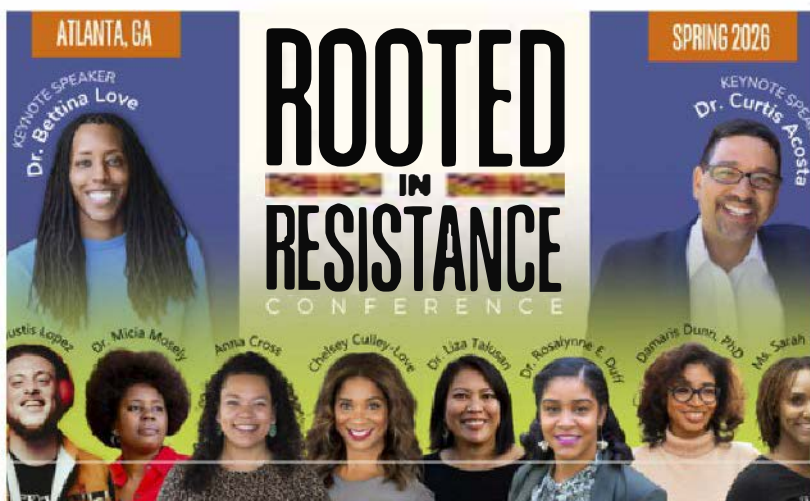
**DR. NARKETTA
SPARKMAN-KEY,**
ASSOCIATE PROVOST FOR
FACULTY AFFAIRS

The TRRC is pleased to be working alongside and supported by our new Associate Provost, Dr. Narketta Sparkman-Key, whose leadership emphasizes innovation, ethical AI integration, and meaningful mentorship. At a pivotal moment in higher education, she brings thoughtful vision to how artificial intelligence can be explored with care and purpose across the Spelman community. Through initiatives such as the AI Salon, her engagement with the AAC&U Institute on AI, Pedagogy, and the Curriculum, and her leadership of the Effective Mentoring Program, Dr. Sparkman-Key is advancing interdisciplinary dialogue, strengthening faculty development, and helping position Spelman as a leader in responsible AI integration within the liberal arts.

To learn more about her work, please contact Dr. Sparkman-Key at narkettakey@spelman.edu.

TEACHING CONFERENCES

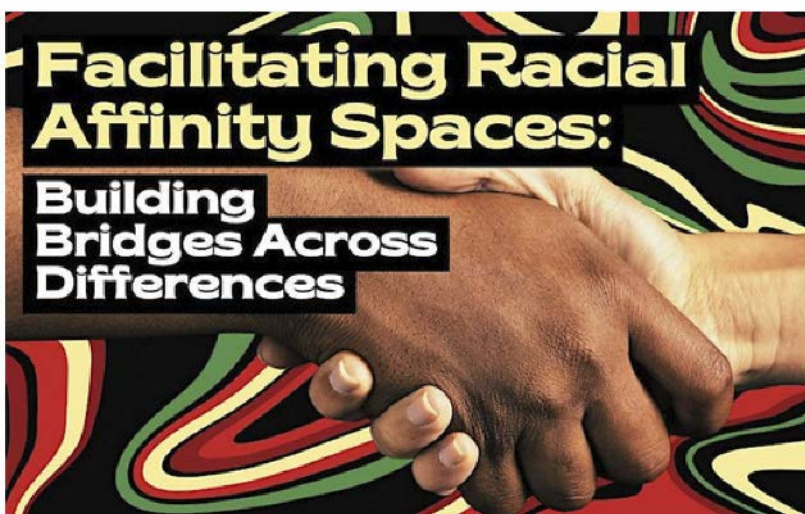
In the spirit of Black History Month, TRRC is sharing information about a community-hosted event that may be of interest to faculty. While not sponsored by Spelman College, it reflects the rich cultural and creative work happening in our broader community. We offer this as a gesture of connection and care, with hopes that it provides space for reflection, celebration, and restoration.



Facilitating Racial Affinity Spaces: Building Bridges Across Difference

Mar 12 from 12:30pm to 3:30pm

A liberation-centered professional development experience for Black and Brown independent school educators and leaders. Featuring keynote speakers Dr. Bettina Love and Dr. Curtis Acosta, this gathering offers powerful dialogue, transformative learning, and a restorative space grounded in resistance, community, and collective wisdom. **Register to join!**



ROOTED in Resistance:

Purpose, Joy & Community

Mar 12 from 12:30pm to 3:30pm

This 3-hour interactive virtual workshop explores how to thoughtfully establish and facilitate racial affinity groups in multiracial and multicultural settings.

Participants will gain practical strategies, reflect on facilitation challenges, and learn how to create humanizing spaces that support equity, belonging, and meaningful dialogue across differences. **Register to join!**

**BLACK EDUCATOR
HEALING CONVENING:**
COLLECTIVE LIBERATION IN ACTION



HAPPENING SATURDAY, MARCH 21 – SUNDAY, MARCH 22
FROM 9:30–4:00PM PT
AT MARINA DEL REY HOTEL, MARINA DEL REY, CA 90292



Black educators, join in on a two-day gathering centered on collective healing and restorative wellness. Reconnect to identity, build community, and expand your mental health toolkit with practices that ground you, nurture your energy, and strengthen your self-care.

PRICE:
\$99

Black Educator Healing Convening: Collective Liberation in Action (LA)

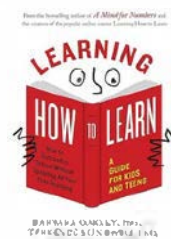
March 21–22, 2026 | Los Angeles, CA

This two-day, in-person gathering centers the wellbeing, purpose, and ancestral wisdom of Black educators. Through wellness practices, reflection, and restorative, identity-affirming learning, participants will experience a space rooted in care, community, and collective liberation. **Register to join.**

Spring 2026 - NEWS AND UPDATES

TRRC Spring Book Club

This semester's faculty book club, featuring **Learning How to Learn** by Barbara Oakley and Terrence Sejnowski, filled to capacity within days of opening registration. We look forward to the engaging conversations and shared learning that will unfold throughout the semester.



AIRE Workgroup

The AIRE Faculty Workgroup has brought together four faculty members—one from each academic division—to explore how artificial intelligence can enhance teaching and learning at Spelman College.

Faculty representatives include Celeste Lee (Sociology & Anthropology), Fernando Esquivel-Suarez (English), Derek Linzy (Music), and Enjoli Willis (Environmental & Health Sciences). Together, they are advancing AI literacy, championing ethical and responsible implementation, and cultivating innovative pedagogy aligned with Spelman's mission to prepare students and faculty to thrive in an AI-infused learning environment.

AAC&U Institute on AI, Pedagogy, and Curriculum

Spelman College's IAIPC team is leading a coordinated, campus-wide effort to thoughtfully integrate generative AI into teaching and learning in ways that are ethical, equitable, and aligned with our mission as an HBCU for women. The team includes Anastasia Valecce (World Languages & Cultures), Dr. Narketta Sparkman-Key (Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs), Jimmeka Guillory Wright (Psychology), Attiyya Ali (Instructional Designer, TRRC), and Lisa Hibbard (Chemistry Professor and Faculty Director, TRRC).

Working through the Teaching Resource & Research Center, we are developing AI-informed pedagogical guidelines, building a faculty toolkit with classroom-ready scripts and resources, piloting a student AI literacy module to be piloted this semester in the Chemistry Department's FYE seminar, and creating opportunities for cross-disciplinary knowledge sharing. We look forward to engaging more faculty in this work as we strengthen our collective capacity to support students in using AI tools critically, responsibly, and with academic integrity. Learn more: AAC&U Institute on AI, Pedagogy, and the Curriculum

Teaching In Practice (TIP)

NEW! Introducing Teaching In Practice (TIP), our new bi-weekly email series created with you in mind to encourage, support, and uplift faculty in the everyday work of teaching. TIP is designed to be a brief, practical touchpoint in your inbox, offering helpful classroom tips, encouraging reflections, and providing links to articles that focus on navigating the realities of teaching and learning. From managing classroom dynamics and supporting student engagement to exploring small instructional strategies you can use right away, TIP is meant to meet you where you are right in the midst of practice.

A Space Just for You

TRRC provides a cozy lounge space where faculty can relax, enjoy lunch, hold meetings, and collaborate with peers during office hours. The space can comfortably accommodate 10-12 faculty members.

We look forward to seeing you!

Innovation Lab AI Training Workshops this Spring:

SPRING 2026 SEMESTER AI WORKSHOPS

CALLING ALL FACULTY & STAFF INTERESTED IN TRYING
NEW WAYS TO ENGAGE WITH AI

Thursday, January 29 th , 2026 11 - 1:00 pm EST	Ethically Engaging with AI Join a conversation on how to stay safe, ethical, and considerate when engaging with AI
Thursday, February 5 th , 2026 11 - 1:00 pm EST	Concepts & Visualizations with AI Explore how different AI tools can help you make quick, diverse, and effective visuals with Sora, Veo, and ChatGPT.
Thursday, February 19 th , 2026 11 - 1:00 pm EST	MyGPT, MyWay Learn how to leverage your Spelman Microsoft subscription to the full capabilities with the integrated AI.
Thursday, February 26 th , 2026 11 - 1:00 pm EST	Researching with AI Explore how you can do a deep dive into your research using AI tools using NotebookLM and more!
Thursday, March 19 th , 2026 11 - 1:00 pm EST	AI Usage Clinic Join a conversation where we learn about how different people around campus are engaging with AI and best practices.
Thursday, April 16 th , 2026 11 - 1:00 pm EST	Wildcard Workshop Tell us what you would like to see.

SPACE IS LIMITED. LUNCH IS PROVIDED

LOCATION:
ARTHUR M. BLANK SPELMAN
INNOVATION LAB

Spring 2026 - Faculty Resources & Support

UPCOMING TEACHING & LEARNING CONFERENCES

USG Teaching & Learning Conference

April 16-17, 2026
Athen, GA.

International Conference On Research in Teacher Education and Pedagogy (ICRTEP)

July 8, 2026
Atlanta, GA.

2026 SoTL Summit

September 16-18, 2026
Kennesaw, GA.

OTHER PROGRAMS & FACULTY SUPPORT PROVIDED BY TRRC:

- Teaching Fellows Program
- Course Modification Project
- Faculty Learning Community groups (FLC's)
- Faculty Winddowns
- 1 on 1 Consultations
- Blue AI Workshops & more

FACULTY RESOURCES

- Research & Creative Pursuits
- Canvas & EdTech Tools Web Portal
- Getting started with Canvas
- Canvas Resources for Instructors

HOW CAN TRRC SUPPORT YOU?

Do you use TRRC services or want to? Here's a quick survey to learn where you are and how we can best support your teaching and learning this year. Stay tuned for the post-survey at year's end to share your growth and new needs. Click here to complete the faculty survey.



THE TRRC TEAM:

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TRRC SNAPSHOTS: FACULTY & STAFF IN COMMUNITY TOGETHER

