

East Tennessee State University

[2026 Micro-CHIIPs \(Conference for High-Impact Instructional Practices\)](#)

A virtual, half-day conference for teaching in higher education

Conference Theme:

Pedagogy with Purpose: Empowering Students Through Play, Openness, and Innovation

Wednesday, January 7th, 2026

Call for Proposals

Conference Theme:

ETSU's 5th annual Micro-CHIIPs (Conference for High-Impact Instructional Practices) will be from 8:25 – 12:00 on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Sharon Lauricella, co-author of *Ludic Pedagogy: A Seriously Fun Way to Teach and Learn*. She will be sharing with us an interactive keynote address focusing on the value of play and open pedagogy as instructional practices.

The conference will include up to two concurrent sessions following the keynote presentation. The conference committee invites you to submit proposals that highlight the power of **playful learning, creative experimentation, and open educational practices** to foster deeper engagement, collaboration, and student agency in your on-ground or online classes. We are interested in how you are designing learning environments that are joyful and purpose-driven. This micro-conference will be held virtually, so please plan to present in a Zoom format.

Deadline for proposals:

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Developing Your Proposal:

Sessions will be 45 minutes long on Zoom; participants should leave sessions with practical strategies and ideas to implement in their own classes. Proposals must include information regarding what participants will do during the session; sessions that do not include significant interactive components will not be considered. Examples of interactive components include

(but are not limited to): Use of audience response systems, small group breakouts, small and whole group discussions (in chat or orally), games, role play, case studies, jigsaws, or fishbowls.

Proposals may involve topics including, but not limited to:

- Playful learning elements
- Open pedagogy
- Co-creative activities
- Active learning for all class sizes
- Learner-centered teaching
- Student engagement
- Engaging syllabi
- Teaching with technology
- Scholarship of teaching and learning
- Collaborative learning
- Interprofessional learning

The conference committee will evaluate and select proposals based on the following criteria:

- Complete description and quality of content
- Connection to the conference theme
- Application of content to practice
- Quality of audience participation

This conference focuses on teaching practices developed for and by instructional faculty in higher education. **Please no outside vendors or promotions.**

Proposal Format:

Please submit your proposal through the link provided, using the following format:

Title of presentation:

Presenter(s):

Department/Unit:

Institution:

Email:

Abstract for the conference program (150 words max):

Please provide a session outline that addresses the following :

- **What topics will you explore?**
- **How will participants be active during your session?**
- **How does your session relate to the conference theme?**
- **What will participants learn as a result of attending your session?**
- **References**

For questions or additional information, please contact Phil Smith at smithpa@etsu.edu or (423) 439-8488.