

The Peer Leader

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Contents

- **Upcoming Deadlines! Submission of abstracts for the Ninth Annual PLTLIS Conference in El Paso**
- **More deadlines: Symposium on PLTL at Biennial Conference on Chemical Education**
- **For Peer Leaders Interested in Conducting Research on PLTL**
- **Spreading the PLTL Model to Mexico: The CONTEX award to Daniel Carbajal-Ida at UTEP**
- **It's Not Too Late: Contribute to the Inaugural Issue of APLL**

Upcoming Deadlines! Submit Your Abstracts for the Ninth Annual PLTLIS Conference in El Paso



Call for Presentations, Workshops, Posters, and Gallery Walk Showcase

Submission Deadline: February 29, 2020

To submit your abstract, go to Conference 2020 at WWW.PLTLLIS.ORG

The Peer-Led Team Learning International Society's Ninth Annual Conference provides a forum for practitioners and researchers, including faculty, learning specialists and developers, administrators, Peer Leaders, teachers, and others, using various forms of peer-led learning.

Submission of abstracts from all areas of practice of peer-led learning are welcomed. Oral presentations and workshops are encouraged to be interactive. All submissions will be peer-reviewed. Submissions must be original contributions.

This year's conference theme is "Crossing Boundaries, Building Networks." Presentations, workshops, posters, and Gallery Walk Showcase presentations will help to lower disciplinary and practice boundaries, and develop and support networks to make the practice of Peer-Led Team Learning stronger.

Questions? Contact Milka Montes, Chair, Conference Committee, montes_m@utpb.edu

Crossing Boundaries, Building Networks

Hosted by the University of Texas at El Paso

El Paso, Texas

Thursday – Saturday, June 4-6, 2020

Pre-Conference Workshop: Introduction to the PLTL Model:

Wednesday, June 3, 2020

- Registration for the conference is now open
- Lodging options are posted: note that the Hilton Gardens is within walking distance of the UTEP campus

Symposium on PLTL at Biennial Conference on Chemical Education (BCCE): Submit abstracts by Monday, February 24

Biennial Conference on Chemical Education, Corvallis, Oregon

The 26th BCCE is accepting abstracts for either oral or poster presentations from **Monday, January 6, 2020 through Monday, February 24, 2020**. All abstracts must be submitted through the ACS MAPS system. You do not have to be a member of the American Chemical Society to do a presentation at a symposium or to present a poster. <https://bcce2020.org> The conference runs July 18-23, 2020.

Symposium Title: Exploring implementation of Peer-Led Team Learning and its outcomes

Symposium Description: Peer-Led Team Learning (PLTL) is a national initiative to promote active learning in STEM classes through the use of peer leaders, who are students who have successfully completed a course that return to lead students in small groups. This symposium aims to highlight diverse outcomes that result from enacting PLTL or other forms of peer-supported instruction, and how these outcomes

support the continued development of such programs. Additionally, this symposium explores efforts to initiate or sustain PLTL in the chemistry curriculum. Given the potential for PLTL to have a substantive impact on the experiences of students, peer leaders, and/or faculty members, the symposium welcomes presentations that employ any methodological approach. The symposium will include a discussion dedicated to initiating, developing, and sustaining Peer-Led Team Learning.

Organized by Kathleen Jeffery, Chris Bauer, Scott Lewis

For more information, contact

Professor Christopher Bauer, Department of Chemistry

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For Peer Leaders Interested in Conducting Research on PLTL:

Open Call for Research Assistants through March 2nd, 2020

The PLTLIS Research Committee is looking for volunteer Research Assistants to work on various educational research projects. The Research Assistants will work from their current location and/or home institution, and interact frequently with members of the Research Committee, primarily through video conference calls.

The Research Assistants will first be trained in designing, managing, conducting, and analyzing educational research using qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods data. The training will take place through video conferencing sessions. As the training progresses the Research Assistants will design and implement educational research projects with the goal of presenting at conferences and writing articles for publication.

Instructors and faculty: consider recommending Peer Leaders who may be interested in conducting research;

Peer Leaders or former Peer Leaders: Consider applying to be a Research Assistant! This training and experience will be invaluable for graduate studies.

For more information and application open until Monday, March 2nd, contact the Chair of the PLTLIS Research Committee, Jose Alberte at jalberte@fiu.edu.

Spreading the PLTL Model to Mexico: The CONTEX award to Daniel Carbajal-Ida at UTEP

The PLTL Program at the University of Texas at El Paso is the study site for a Post-Doctoral Fellow to learn about Peer-Led Team Learning through a recent award from *ConTex*. Established in 2016, ConTex supports bi-national efforts to enhance academic and research collaborations between Texas and Mexico, and is a joint initiative of The University of Texas higher education system and Mexico's

CONACYT, analogous to the United States' National Science Foundation. PLTLIS Board members Jim Becvar, Geoffrey Saupe, and A.E. Dreyfuss wrote a proposal in response to a ConTex funding initiative for support of a postdoctoral fellow. This proposal, entitled *Facilitated Learning at Spanish Speaking Institutions*, has funded Daniel Ivan Carbajal Ida to become a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) to engage in studying the UTEP Peer-Led Team Learning Program for a year starting in November 2019. Daniel's efforts will focus on learning about PLTL and develop implementation measures to attract and support practitioners of PLTL south of the U.S. border.

Profile: Daniel Ivan Carbajal Ida



After completing my Bachelor's degree in chemical engineering in south Chihuahua, Mexico, I went to the University of Chihuahua for a master's in food science and technology where I did research on the impact of *Botrytis cinerea* on the phenolic composition of chenin blanc grapes, a study that I continued in a doctoral program at the University of Angers, France. Working at the labs in the superior college of agriculture of Angers in France, I received my Ph.D. in agronomic sciences. I returned to Mexico to work as a post doc at the Autonomous University of Chihuahua, working on the isolation of polymeric pigments from wine grapes' pomace, I worked there as a professor for over a year until the birth of the first of my two children. This prompted me to get a position in the industrial field developing insecticides and fungicides from essential oils. I had wanted to return to an academic environment, and when my contract ended, I started looking for a postdoctoral position.

I had not heard of Peer-Led Team Learning before accepting the position of CONTEX post-doc; PLTL is a program that I would love to have had at my university both as a student and as a professor, and now we are working to bring it to Mexico. This is an amazing opportunity for students and professors. The skills that Peer Leaders gain from this experience are great assets for a successful professional career. We are working on developing workshops in Spanish, and the translation of the *Facilitation for Team-based Learning*, a workbook for Peer Leaders. The University of Chihuahua has expressed interest in starting a PLTL program this year and they have asked for information, so we are inviting them to the PLTLIS conference this June. There is a lot of work for this year, and I'm very excited about the future of PLTL in Mexico. Thank you Dr. Becvar and Dr. Saupe for this opportunity.

It's Not Too Late to Contribute to the Inaugural Issue of

Advances in Peer-Led Learning!

A New Peer-Reviewed Journal

Published by the Peer-Led Team Learning International Society

Advances in Peer-Led Learning (APLL) is an online journal that solicits original articles on research, evaluation, and instructional practices related to peer-facilitated models of learning. APLL encourages the inclusion of content from all academic disciplines and all levels of education. The goal of the journal is to encourage practitioners to reflect and share peer-facilitated models of learning. APLL manuscripts are not limited to submissions from colleges and universities. An Editorial Committee will review authors' manuscripts and authors will be provided with informative feedback.

The inaugural issue of the APLL journal will be published in Spring 2020.

For guidelines and further information go to: <https://journal.ptlis.org>

To contact the editorial team with any questions you may have, email us: journal@ptlis.org

Do you have a news item or information that you would like to share with the PLTL community in the *Peer Leader*? Contact us at info@ptlis.org