Imagine a dinner invitation (right) that reads like a typical syllabus.

Would you accept the invitation? If you did accept, would you bring any enthusiasm to the event?

What if our syllabi read more like an invitation to an intriguing dinner gathering? This workshop will give you the tools to convince your students that your class will be an event they shouldn’t miss. Research on the best college teachers indicates that one way to motivate students to do deep learning is to frame the class and the syllabus as a promise or an invitation to a great adventure (Bain, 2004).

Depending on your current course design, doing so may involve simply revising the tone of your syllabus or it may involve transforming your class. Regardless, creating a promising syllabus has the potential to make your class feel more like a grand adventure than a forced march through The Material.

During this workshop, you will:
• Begin revising your syllabus
• Receive feedback from other participants on your initial revisions

By the end of the workshop you will be able to convert your syllabus into a promising syllabus. Bring an electronic copy of one of your current syllabi (and your notebook computer or mobile device) and begin to transform it into an invitation students can’t wait to accept!

Laura Madson joined the NMSU faculty in 1996. She teaches around 400 introductory psychology students each year. She is currently working on the third edition of her custom team-based learning textbook for use in her intro psych classes, *Psychology for Everyday Life* (Kendall Hunt Publishers). When she’s not teaching, reading, or chasing her two boys (ages 6 and 4), she runs with her dogs and listens to Jimmy Buffett.