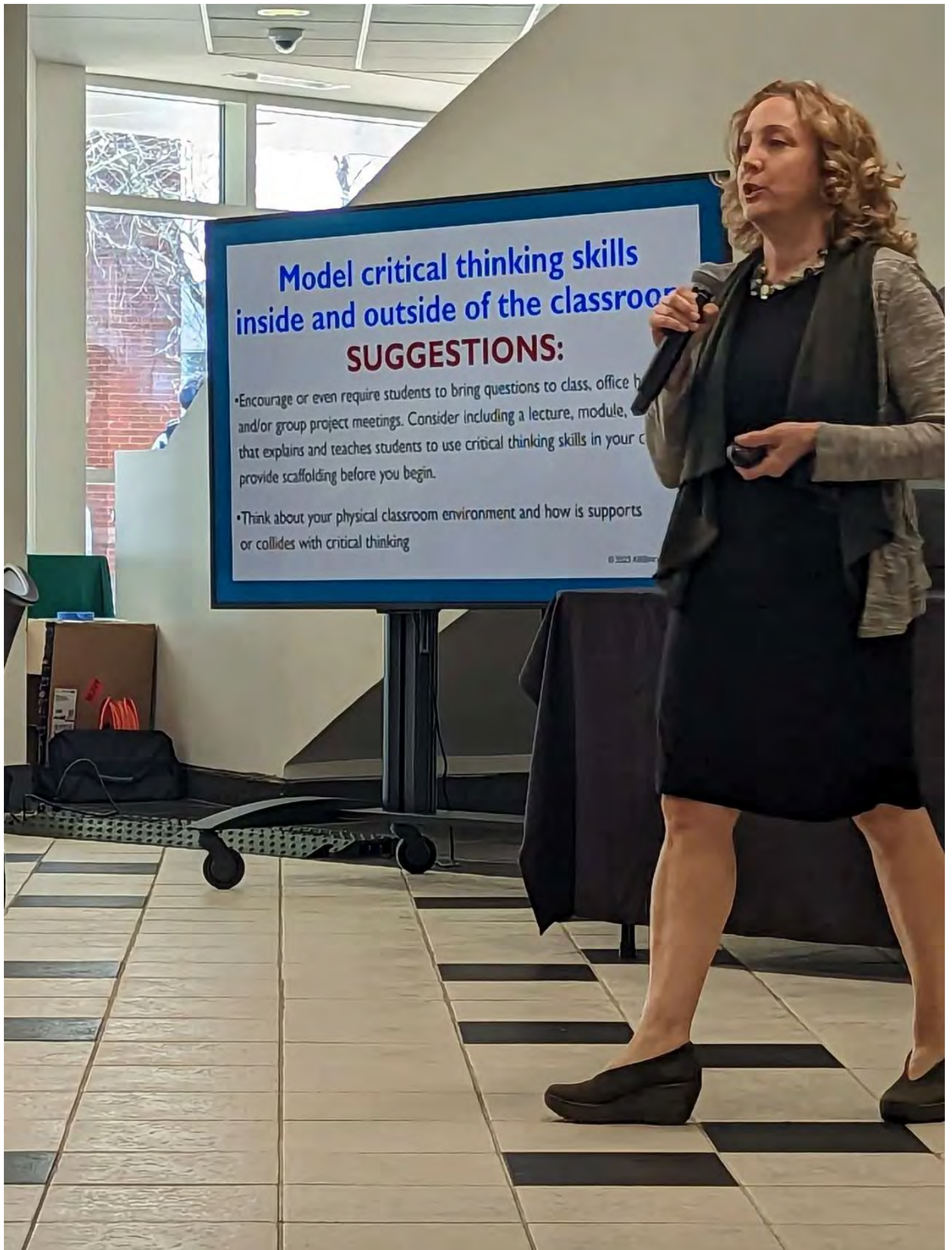


Dr. Andrea M. Brenner visits GGC

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credit: Zane Nihiser

Anzules Gomez

On Thursday, March 23rd, in the B building atrium Dr. Andrea Malkin Brenner, sociologist and expert on first year student experience, led a 'lunch-and-learn' for faculty, staff, and peer leaders titled "Supporting Our First-year Students: A Campus-wide Responsibility" about the need for community and care for first-year students.

About 20 faculty and staff attended the event organized by Hispanic Achievers Committed to Excellence in Results (HACER), and Dr. Justin Jernigan, Dean of Student Success, introduced Dr. Brenner with her array of professional achievements.

"We need to offer feedback early and often," said Dr. Brenner, "First year students need both positive feedback, and constructive criticism." Dr. Brenner expressed too often first year students are not given guidance on the transition from high school to college.

During the event, Dr. Brenner offered a variety of suggestions to faculty and staff to bolster the first-year student experience such as normalizing that students ask for help, and encouraging students to bring questions to office hours, "First year student experience is so important, because it is the make or break year."

"If there is no community of care, [students] drop out."

However, Dr. Brenner believes it is more than just about retaining students, "The sophomore slump is real," she stated, "We need to make sure students are thriving, not just surviving."

This is the second of five guest speaker events in HACER CAMINOS, a series on making ways for students. On Wednesday, March 22nd, the first guest speaker event was delivered by Mr. Dar Mayweather on inclusive leadership. For students interested in the next events may reach out to HACER directly at: hacer@ggc.edu



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Dr. Andrea Malkin Brenner is a nationally recognized college transition educator, and co-author of “How to College”. She taught at American University in Washington D.C. for 25 years. Her award winning first year course is taught at American University. She recently left American University to start a business with a colleague.

Readers who wish to learn more may visit her website at:

<https://www.ambrenner.com/>