



August 2021

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Upcoming Events and Workshops

As we approach the beginning of the Fall term, CTE has a very full roster of workshops lined up for the next four months. We have sessions on supporting student mental health, remote course design, blended learning, LEARN, the scholarship of teaching and learning, PebblePad, experiential learning, XR technologies, graduate supervision, and more. To review the entire roster and find out dates and times of the workshops, visit [CTE's Events page](#).



Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Miniseries



The [Scholarship of Teaching and Learning \(SoTL\) Miniseries](#) is a five-part series of workshops and presentations intended to support instructors who are interested in pursuing teaching and learning research. Throughout the miniseries, participants

will be provided with the tools, resources, colleagues' experiences with SoTL, and opportunities for collaborations to get people started on their own research. The theme of the SoTL Miniseries is "teaching and learning problems." We will work towards appreciating when we experience problems in how we teach and/or how our students learn, and begin conceptualizing these problems as opportunities for evidence-based research.

[Click here to register](#) and learn more about what each part of the SoTL Miniseries entails.

Save the Date: 13th Annual Teaching and Learning Conference



The [13th Annual University of Waterloo Teaching and Learning Conference](#) will take place on **Wednesday, April 28, 2022**.

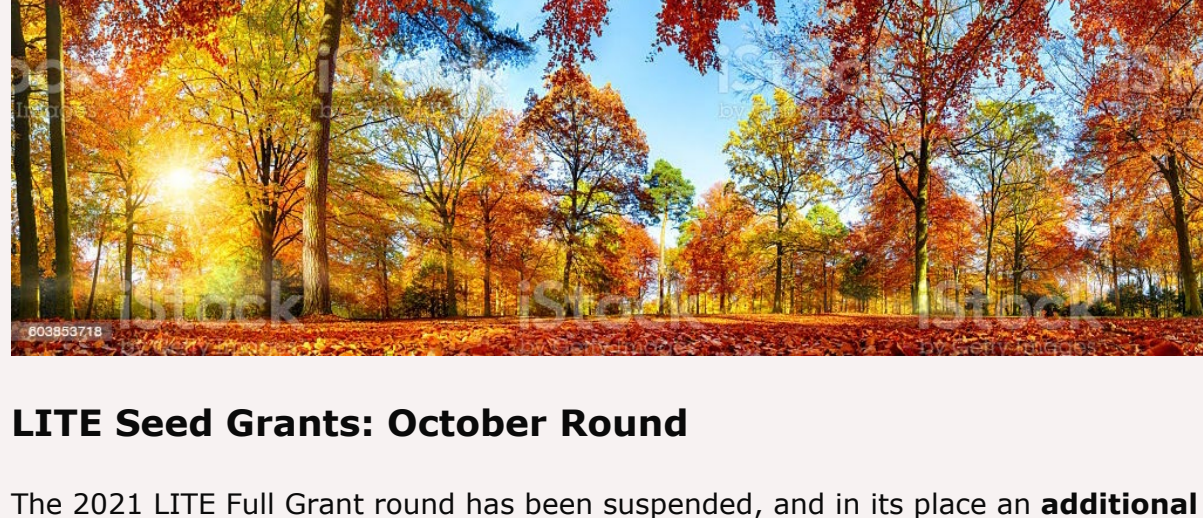
Information about the Conference theme, the proposal submission deadline, and whether the conference will be in-person, online, or potentially hybrid, will be shared in the fall.



LITE Grant Recipients

Congratulations to our latest round of [LITE Seed Grant](#) recipients!

- [Assessing the Benefits of Collaborative Reading to Mitigate Foreign Language Reading Anxiety in Advanced Spanish Courses](#), Annik Bilodeau
- [Empowerment Through Historical Thinking: Trauma Informed and Feminist Approaches to the Teaching and Learning of Gendered Violence](#), Greta Kroeker
- [Nature Journaling and Online Experiential Learning Seminars: Fostering Place Attachment While Promoting Pro-Environmental Attitudes and Nature Stewardship among University Students using PebblePad](#), Kelsey Johansen & Natalie Chow
- [Towards Anti-Racism and Decolonization Through an Equity-Competency Model in Sustainable Food System Education](#), Steffanie Scott
- [Understanding Current Empathy-Based Pedagogy in Engineering Education](#), Jenny Howcroft & Kate Mercer
- ["We All Belong Here": Building Science Identity Among First-Year Engineering Students](#), Andrea Jonahs & Rania Al-Hammoud



LITE Seed Grants: October Round

The 2021 LITE Full Grant round has been suspended, and in its place an **additional LITE Seed Grant round** will be held. This additional round of LITE Seed Grants will be **due October 1, 2021** and will adhere to the already established LITE Seed Grant guidelines. LITE Seed Grants can help you investigate small-scale teaching and learning research projects and attend activities to develop your instructional skills. Please get in touch with [Kyle Scholz](#) or [Kristen Archbell](#) to discuss any LITE Seed Grant idea you may have.

Resources for Teaching Assistants

Training for Fall TAs

Is your department interested in providing training for your fall Teaching Assistants? For an overview of TA training available through CTE, visit [Teaching Assistant Training \(Fall 2021\): Information for Instructors and Coordinators](#). Questions? Contact cte-grad@uwaterloo.ca.



TA Handbook

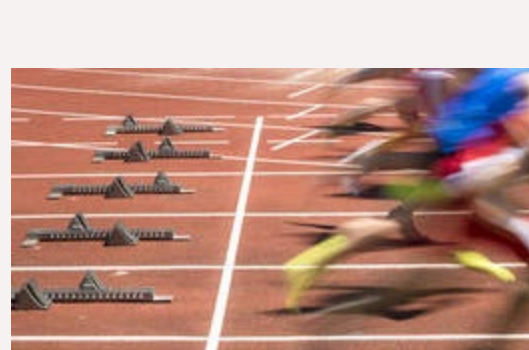
The [TA Handbook](#) includes teaching resources to help TAs prepare for success. Please share it with your TAs!

New CTE Resources

Video Resources

In the past month, CTE has added several recorded workshops to our YouTube channel:

1. [Who Are Our Learners?](#) This session provides an overview of learning and learners generally, and also more specifically at Waterloo.
2. [Copyright, Library Services, and Academic Integrity](#). In this session, the facilitators discuss how Waterloo's librarians can help you integrate information literacy into your courses and address copyright responsibilities.
3. [An overview of XR initiatives at Georgian College](#). Rob Theriault — Immersive Technology Lead at Georgian College and President of the Canadian Chapter of the Immersive Learning Research Network — provides an overview of XR initiatives at Georgian College.



Early Engagement Quick Tips

CTE has collaborated with the Student Success Office and the Centre for Extended Learning in developing [Early Engagements Quick Tips \(EEQTs\)](#) for the Fall 2021 to help instructors foster engagement and connection with their students in a remote teaching context. These EEQTs are short, timely, actionable, week-specific tips that instructors and teaching assistants can proactively integrate into their courses. These actions can help to:

- create an interactive and supportive learning environment,
- foster positive student-instructor/TA relationships, and
- cultivate students' sense of belonging in the classroom.

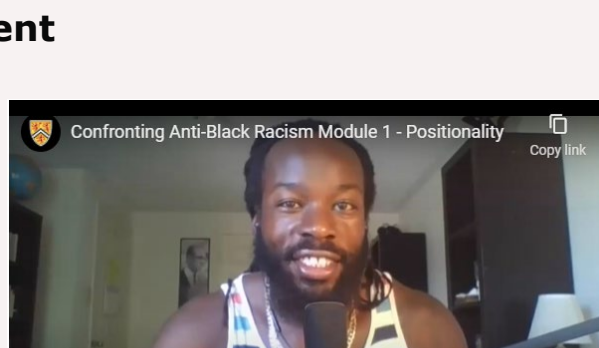
Here's some praise the Early Engagement Tip Sheets have received in past terms:

- "Thank you so much for sending out those tips on building online community with our students. I've used several of them, and it is making the teaching experience more personal (and hence more rewarding for me) and the students seem to be responding well. For example, I sent out personal emails to them asking how they are doing and most of them sent out, often with really sweet notes." — Faculty of Arts instructor
- "I don't know if you've always done these tip send outs, but I have to say that this spring it has been so helpful. It feels like there is a teaching coach with me, reminding me along the way. Just wanted to share that I've been really appreciating." — School of Architecture instructor

The developers of the EEQTs are **seeking 6 to 8 instructors** who would be interested in meeting four times over the fall term while implementing these tips. We'd love to get their feedback! If you're interested, contact [Trevor Holmes](#).

CTE's Continuous Improvement

In 2020, CTE launched an anti-racism working group in which we unpack and interrogate white privilege and systemic racism as they relate to our work in higher education. In our monthly meetings, we are identifying learning resources and opportunities to assist our instructional community and are making changes to our individual thinking, our hiring practices, and the types of curriculum conversations we can facilitate. In the Spring term, we have worked through Christopher Taylor's self-paced course [Confronting Anti-Black Racism](#).



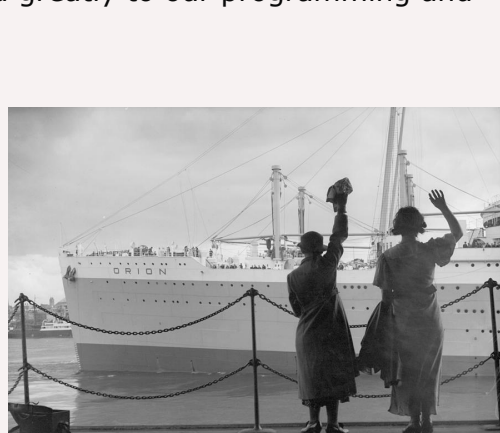
CTE Farewells!

We'd like to thank and goodbye to several individuals who have worked at CTE for the past term or more and who have contributed greatly to our programming and administration.

First, our wonderful co-op students, Lara Barnum and Nicole Wilson.

And lastly, our splendid graduate students:

- Elyen Cameron (GED), Balsillie School of International Affairs
- Emma Green (TAWF), Psychology



Thanks, all of you, for being our colleagues!

To subscribe to CTE's In the Loop newsletter, [click here](#).



CTE's Facebook page



CTE's Twitter



CTE's website

The Centre for Teaching Excellence acknowledges that we are located on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (Neutral), Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometers on each side of the Grand River.

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