

IN THE LOOP



The monthly newsletter from the
Centre for Teaching Excellence
 at the University of Waterloo

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Note: words in bolded, purple text are links!

December 2022

**CTE's office is open Monday to Friday
 8:30 am to 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm
 Second floor of the East Campus 3 building**

Recipients of LITE Seed Grants Announced

Six projects received funding in the most recent round of Waterloo's LITE Seed Grant program. The successful applicants are:

- **Adam Ellis, Jessica Rumboldt** — Towards an Urban Arts Pedagogy: Exploring Students' Perspectives about Arts-Based Learning
- **Ada Hurst, Ken McKay** — Beyond the (Numerical) Grade: Investigating the Effectiveness of Alternative Grading Schemes for Engineering Design Project Courses
- **Dan Brown, Maura Grossman** — An Investigation into Online Versus Face-to-Face Instruction Approaches to Interdisciplinary Learning about Discrimination in Technology
- **Anton Mosunov, Gavin Orok** — Assessing the Effect of Illustrated Storybooks on Correcting Common Misconceptions About Mathematics for Undergraduate Students
- **Taru Malhotra, Carolyn MacGregor, Richard Li** — Student Involvement in Choice of Course Activities and the Impact on Student Experience
- **Will Zhao** — From the Screen, with Love: Towards a Bichronous Pedagogy of Care for Enhancing Social Presence in Online Learning

The **LITE Seed Grants program** supports the investigation of small-scale teaching and learning research projects and participation in activities that help develop instructional skills. Each grant is valued up to \$7500. To date, 158 grants have been awarded in this program to 450 recipients (318 unique recipients).

IKAR: CTE's Newest Team



In November 2021, Leslie Wexler accepted a position as CTE's Senior Educational Developer in Indigenous Knowledges and Anti-Racist (IKAR) pedagogies, followed some months later by Nahannee Schuitemaker, Madison Hill, and Jessica Rumboldt who work in more specific areas of IKAR. Having now settled into their individual positions and developed into a distinct five-person team, which includes Savannah Sloat, Manager of Indigenous Initiatives in the Faculty of Science, we asked each of them to share their role, current area of focus, and vision for the future of IKAR at Waterloo. Go to this [CTE news item](#) to read their perspectives in full.

Upcoming Workshops and Events

As always, CTE has numerous upcoming workshops and events for **all instructors and staff**, **new instructors**, **graduate students**, and **postdoctoral fellows**. Here are a few that might be of special interest but do check out [our complete roster!](#)

- **Waterloo Assessment Institute**
 The Waterloo Assessment Institute (WAI) returns on April 12 and 13. During this intensive retreat, the WAI helps individuals or program teams redesign key course assignments through peer feedback, expert consultation, and guided work time. Please complete [this application form](#) to indicate your interest. Deadline for applications is **January 16, 2023**.
- **The Metaverse, Social VR Platforms, and User Experiences**
 In this online panel presentation, researchers from the **Stratford School of Interaction Design and Business** will provide an overview of their current research directions related to XR technologies, reflecting on questions about how social and physical interactions are mediated by virtual, augmented, and mixed reality. **December 13 from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm**.
- **The Instructional Skills Workshop**
 This three-day, in-person workshop is based on an intensive, collaborative learning model that uses video-recorded micro-teaching and peer feedback sessions to support participants' teaching reflection and growth. **February 22, 23, and 24 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm**.
- **Teaching Squares**
 The Teaching Squares program provides a framework for reciprocal classroom visits and a debrief discussion that sets the stage for you to revitalize your own teaching. If you are teaching this winter term and are interested in being a part of a Teaching Squares group, please [register for the winter program](#) by **Tuesday, January 3, 2023**.

Teaching Award Deadlines

Nominate a TA for a Teaching Award

The Amit & Meena Chakma Awards for Exceptional Teaching by a Student (AETS) are open to all students who have a formal teaching role at Waterloo in recognition of excellence in teaching. Each award consists of approximately \$1000; a certificate; and acknowledgement at convocation.

To be considered, a nominee must be endorsed by at least five individuals, including present and past students and faculty supervisors of the nominee. The deadline is the **Friday, February 3**. Consult the [AETS page](#) for full details about the process.

Nominate an Instructor for a Teaching Award

Also due on **Friday, February 3** are nominations for the Distinguished Teacher Award. The main criterion of the Distinguished Teacher Award is an instructor's record of excellent teaching over an extended period at Waterloo. A [list of previous recipients](#) of the DTA going back to 1976 is available.

A successful nomination for a DTA requires at least ten nomination letters from students and colleagues, so it's a good idea to get started well in advance. Consult the [DTA page](#) for full details about the process.

Open Education Week

This annual event, which will take place March 6 to 10, is an opportunity to share and learn about the latest achievements in Open Education (OE) worldwide. (Open Education, along with Open Access, are two components of the broader notion of [Open Scholarship](#).) At Waterloo, events will include presentations, panels, and other sessions on topics such as OE and copyright, OE and accessibility, OE and extended reality technologies, and much more. If you are interested in participating as a presenter, please contact [Kathryn Blair](#). If you are interested in attending any of the workshops, please stay tuned for more details!

\$300 from eCampusOntario? [November 30 deadline!](#)

Also, if you're interested in adopting an OE resource in one of your courses, eCampus Ontario might give you \$300 to do so. The [Integrating OER Program](#) will provide successful applicants with support on evaluating, curating, and adapting OER for your teaching. The deadline is tomorrow — November 30 — but the online application form (available at the foregoing link) is fairly short.

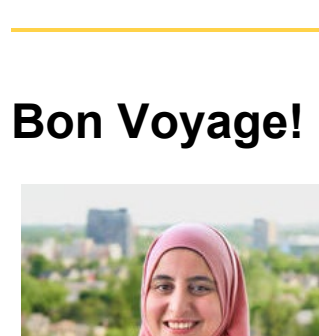
CTE Receives Platinum Status at Eco Summit

We are thrilled to share that CTE was again certified as a Platinum Green Office at the **2022 Eco Summit**. Special thanks to all our CTE Green Team members who made this possible! **Julia Burke**, CTE's Faculty Liaison for Environment and Arts (and pictured here second from the right), was part of the panel on integrating sustainability into campus roles.

Julia shared highlights from the November 2022 [Sustainability-Themed Assessment Showcase](#) and discussed strategies for integrating sustainability across disciplines, including working collaboratively with CTE colleagues and instructors.



Bon Voyage!



Sondus Jamal, who has contributed much to CTE since becoming a Graduate Educational Developer in Fall 2021, will be finishing her time with CTE at the end of this term. Thank you, Sondus, for your contribution and best of luck as you go forward!

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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, a land promised to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometers on each side of the Grand River.

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