In This Issue:

- CTE's Upcoming Workshops and Events
- In the Loop: CTE's Monthly Newsletter
- 15th Annual University of Waterloo Teaching and Learning Conference

February 2023

Upcoming Workshops and Events

We look forward to seeing you at upcoming workshops and events. Here are some highlights:

- **March 15**: Introduction to PebblePad: What is It and Why Would I Use it?
- **March 21**: Introduction to PebblePlus
- **April 11**: Supporting Student Mental Health (For Instructors)
- **April 21**: Integrating Movement Breaks into Your Class
- **May 14 and 15**: Pedagogy: A Workshop for Educators

15th Annual University of Waterloo Teaching and Learning Conference

Registration for the conference is open! The conference itself will be fully online, yes. With the pandemic and COVID's move to a new modality. We had originally intended last year's conference to be held in April of 2020, but of course COVID at that time was dictating the rules and moving us to a virtual environment. It was surprising how many things you don't think about when a conference has to change formats. Is this year's conference going to be fully online again–or will some of it take on a hybrid format?

Where can you start investigating how to capture that "conference feel" in a virtual environment? We've been trying to think of ways to improve upon that experience and find ways to keep attendees engaged throughout— to interact, network, participate, and reconnect with colleagues who you might not have seen over the past two years and who you haven't had a chance to talk with virtually. The Igniting our Practice plenary session is also always a highlight, where two of our own instructors at the University of Waterloo share their teaching craft and teach pedagogical partnerships, and we're sure to learn new ways of inspiring and motivating learners.

What are some of the highlights of the conference that people can look forward to? As with all conferences, we're offering a range of sessions, which I'll summarize for you. To get a sense of the conference, we've got sessions on the following themes: promotion and evaluation of teaching; teaching-learning environments; teaching in clinical settings; course and learning design; pedagogy; and mentorship. The conference started back in 2009 when it was originally known as "Opportunities and New Directions" and this year the name has changed, as has the focus, now being围绕 "Developing the Teaching and Learning Environment." The session will take place on March 31 from 12:00 to 1:00 pm, and you can submit any questions you may have for the keynote speaker during the session.

In the week prior to the conference, ten workshops were held covering the themes of leadership, relationships, resilience, identities, and connections, attended by 133 participants (spectators and participants combined). What a range of topics! Some of the sessions included: community building and sustaining; curriculum design and integration; instructional design and evaluation; and student learning and assessment. Each session was hosted by a group of colleagues—some of whom were involved in presenting, facilitating, and chairing sessions throughout EDC and CTE. In this issue, we've highlighted the session entitled "Developing the Teaching and Learning Environment; career development and mentorship; among many others. To get a sense of the conference, we've got sessions on the following themes: promotion and evaluation of teaching; teaching-learning environments; teaching in clinical settings; course and learning design; pedagogy; and mentorship.

A highlight of the conference this year was the "Forums" offering. This forum is for faculty, staff, and students to hear from experts in the field and each other. The session is an opportunity to learn about what's new in the field and how to apply it to your teaching. The session will take place on April 11 from 12:00 to 1:00 pm, and you can submit any questions you may have for the keynote speaker during the session.

As in years past, CTE's "Surrounding Workshops and Events" are open to hearing faculty, instructors, staff, and students share not only research that has been done but also new ideas that are being explored. The conference is a great opportunity to learn from experts in the field and to share your own experiences with others. With over 50 colleges, polytechnics and universities from around the world attending, it's a great opportunity to connect with others in your field and to learn from them. To get a sense of the conference, we've got sessions on the following themes: promotion and evaluation of teaching; teaching-learning environments; teaching in clinical settings; course and learning design; pedagogy; and mentorship.

There are many ways to keep attendees engaged throughout the conference— to interact, network, participate, and reconnect with colleagues who you might not have seen over the past two years and who you haven't had a chance to talk with virtually. The Igniting our Practice plenary session is also always a highlight, where two of our own instructors at the University of Waterloo share their teaching craft and teach pedagogical partnerships, and we're sure to learn new ways of inspiring and motivating learners.

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