



# IN THE LOOP

The Monthly Newsletter from  
The Centre for Teaching Excellence

**February 2024**

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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**

## University of Waterloo Teaching & Learning Conference

Planning for the 2024 Teaching & Learning Conference is well underway. Like last year, the conference will take place over two days: **Wednesday, May 1 with all sessions online**; and **Thursday, May 2 with all sessions in-person**.

The keynote speaker is **Jessie Moore**, Director of the Center for Engaged Learning at Elon University. The ever-popular Igniting our Practice Session will feature Waterloo instructors Craig Fortier, Associate Professor of Social Development Studies, and Suzanne Kearns, Associate Professor of Geography.



Jessie Moore



Craig Fortier



Suzanne Kearns

For more details, please visit the [University of Waterloo Teaching and Learning Conference](#)

## Upcoming Workshops and Events

For [graduate students and postdocs](#), our upcoming programming includes several workshops pertaining to student wellness:

- [Supporting Student Mental Health](#)
- [Trauma-Informed Teaching](#)
- [Social Anxiety in the Classroom](#)
- [Building Rapport with Students](#)
- [Reflecting on Diversity in the Classroom](#)

**For All Graduate Student Programming**

[CLICK HERE](#)

Incidentally, another relevant resource, developed by Campus Wellness, is a [PDF flowchart for helping](#) to identify and respond to students in distress.

For [instructors and staff](#), our upcoming programming includes workshops on:

- [VR Technologies and Cybersickness](#)
- [Introduction to the Principles of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning](#)
- [Documenting your Teaching for Tenure and Promotion](#)
- [Course Outline Builder](#)
- [Working Effectively with TAs](#)

**For All Faculty and Staff Programming**

[CLICK HERE](#)

Additionally, our upcoming multi-day programming includes the following:

### The Instructional Skills Workshop

The [Instructional Skills Workshop \(ISW\)](#) will be offered again from February 21 to 23. This three-day workshop is an intensive, collaborative, and experiential learning model that uses video-recorded micro-teaching and peer feedback sessions to support the teaching reflection and development of both new and experienced instructors. Questions? Please contact [Richard Li](#).

### New Faculty Teaching Days

Workshops for new faculty members are scheduled for February and March, including Course Design Foundations, Course Dynamics and Engagement, Who Are Our Learners?, Assessment as Learning, Course Outline Builder, and Working Effectively with TAs. Visit [New Faculty Teaching Days](#) for more information about each workshop, dates and times, and registration. Questions? Please contact [Katie Damphouse](#).

### Sparking and Sustaining Engagement...in Instructors

The upcoming UWTL conference is devoted to sparking and sustaining engagement in students. But how can instructors spark and sustain engagement in themselves? In [these three sessions](#), instructors will share strategies for how they have fostered or re-ignited a passion for teaching.



## New and Timely Resources

### Teaching Tips

CTE has a collection of more than [150 Teaching Tips](#): succinct documents that convey evidence-based ideas and strategies for effective teaching and learning. Last year, our Teaching Tips were visited more than two million times from locations around the world! Over the past year, we have been diligently upgrading, updating, and overhauling our Teaching Tips. Here are four that have been recently "refreshed":

- [Developing Online Learning Activities for Blended Courses](#)
- [Data Visualization](#)
- [Teamwork Skills: Being an Effective Group Member](#)
- [Asynchronous Online Discussions: Tips for Instructors](#)

### Open Education Week: Recordings

If you missed any of the sessions from the last Open Education Week, they are now on the Library's [YouTube channel as a playlist](#). Sessions include Adapting an OER Textbook with Student Involvement, Using Pressbooks to Publish and Host Your OER, How Can the Agile Development Team Support Your OER, and more. A growing number of [Waterloo instructors](#) are using OERs.

Plans for the 2024 Open Education Week are underway. Contact [Sarah Brown](#) in the Library if you're interested in participating.

### New Community of Practice: About AI

Interested in joining a collaborative MS Teams site about teaching in the context of generative artificial intelligence? Please contact [Trevor Holmes](#).



### Statistical Consulting and Survey Research Unit

Waterloo's [Statistical Consulting and Survey Research Unit \(SCSRU\)](#) was recently formed from the merger of the Statistical Consulting and Collaborative Research Unit and the Survey Research Centre. The SCSRU provides statistical and survey design consultation, data collection services, and top-line data analysis for Waterloo researchers. If you have questions or require more information about a consultation or project request, including projects relating to the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, please email [SCSRUsurveys@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:SCSRUsurveys@uwaterloo.ca).

### The Development of Educational Development

CTE's Director, Donna Ellis, is [featured in a dialogic essay](#) just published in the International Journal for Educational Development. In the article, Donna reflects on her position (and her positionality) as current president of the [International Consortium for Educational Development](#), as well changes in the field of educational development over her 30-year career!



The University of Waterloo acknowledges that much of our work takes place on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. Our main campus is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place across our campuses through research, learning, teaching, and community building, and is coordinated within our [Office of Indigenous Relations](#).

Centre for Teaching Excellence  
University of Waterloo  
Waterloo, ON, Canada, N2H 3G1

Email: [cte@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:cte@uwaterloo.ca)  
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