In the Loop

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

November 2024

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

November

Supporting Reflection with Journaling and GenAI
Thursday, November 7 - 10:00 am-11:30 am Online
Each term, CTE co-op students use PebblePad to reflect on their learning and showcase their growth and development during their co-op term. Since Spring 2024, our co-op students have been piloting RIFF, a GenAI tool developed at Stanford University's d.school. RIFF is designed to ask thought-provoking questions to help deepen the quality and depth of reflections. At this session, we'll hear from two of our co-op students as well as the founder of RIFF, Leticia Britos Cavagnaro. To register, contact Katherine Lithgow.

Student Led Individually Created Course (SLICC) Instructor Workshop: Introduction to the SLICC Framework
Wednesday, November 20 - 10:00am-12:00pm MC 2036
In this workshop, we will look at the Student-Led Individually-Created Course (SLICC) reflective student experiential learning framework, a framework that is inherently flexible and promotes student ownership and autonomy through co-creation of their learning experience.

December

Revisiting the TEA (for those who have taken the TEA in the past)
Thursday, December 5 - 9:30am-3:30pm MC 2036
Unlike the TEA, this day is very unstructured with the main aim being to give you the time and space to focus on a course design/redesign in the supportive and collegial atmosphere of the TEA.

Integrated Accessibility Retreat
Monday, December 9 - 9:30am-2:30pm In-person, TBD
The Integrated Accessibility Retreat is a one-day retreat, for instructors at any level of accessibility confidence, where you'll learn how to incorporate accessible education practices into your courses.

Integrated Accessibility Retreat
Wednesday, December 11 - 9:30am-2:30pm In-person, TBD
The Integrated Accessibility Retreat is a one-day retreat, for instructors at any level of accessibility confidence, where you'll learn how to incorporate accessible education practices into your courses.

Getting Started in LEARN
Wednesday, December 11 - 1:00pm-3:00pm MC 2036
This two-hour, in-person session will introduce you to LEARN (D2L Brightspace), uWaterloo's learning management system for presenting course activities and resources in on-campus and blended courses.

Getting Started with peerScholar - In Person
Thursday, December 12 - 10:00am-12:00pm MC 2036
This two-hour, in-person session will introduce you to peerScholar, uWaterloo's centrally supported peer review and group member evaluation tool.

Facilitator Development Workshop
Monday, December 16, to Friday, December 20 - 8:30am-4:30pm Conrad Grebel University College
The Facilitator Development Workshop (FDW) is an intensive 40-hour workshop held over 5 days that prepares participants to deliver the Instructional Skills Workshop (ISW) to others.

Getting Started in LEARN
Monday, December 16 - 1:00pm-3:00pm Online
This two-hour, online session will introduce you to LEARN (D2L Brightspace), uWaterloo's learning management system for presenting course activities and resources in on-campus and blended courses.

January

LEARN for TAs
Monday, January 13 - 1:00pm-2:30pm Online
This workshop is a Question & Answer session focusing on the effective use of LEARN for TAs.

THE ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION PROJECT

The Accessible Education Project is guided by the principle that good education is accessible education for all. Our goal is to improve the quality of teaching and learning, not merely to implement the recommendations set out by the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act's (AODA) Postsecondary Education Standards Committee (PSE).

Achieving accessible education will take combined effort, collaboration, and input so that our instructors, faculty, staff, and students all feel valued and prioritized, and that their knowledge and experience is properly taken into account.

How to get involved:

Attend the first annual Accessible Education Day: October 16th and 17th, where you will have opportunities to ask questions, share your perspectives and expertise, and talk through concerns with colleagues. All experience and knowledge levels are welcome.

Attend the Integrated Accessibility Retreat (choose from two days: December 9 or December 11), where you'll learn how to incorporate accessible education practices into your course.

Connect with Victoria Feth, Educational Developer, Curriculum: Accessibility and Inclusion if you would like to talk about accessible teaching practices and strategies.

Teaching Awards

Distinguished Teacher Award
Nomination Deadline is Tuesday, December 31.

Amit & Meena Chakma Award for Exceptional Teaching by a Student
Nomination Deadline is Friday, February 7.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the latest graduates of the Instructional Skills Workshop (ISW)! On October 16, 17, and 18, nine instructors from across and beyond UW took part in the ISW, a 24-hour intensive workshop focused on micro-teaching, peer feedback, and community building. We would like to thank all the graduates and facilitators of the Fall 2024 ISW for their dedication to teaching and learning and their passion for ongoing teaching development.

If you are interested in participating in a future offering of the ISW or have any questions about the ISW, please contact CTE's ISW Program Lead, Richard Li.

More Congratulations

Congratulations, also, to one of CTE's Teaching Assistant Workshop Facilitators, Karmvir Padda, who just received a prestigious P.E.O. Scholar Award!

And Still More Congratulations

Congratulations to our colleague Annik Bilodeau, CTE's Educational Developer, Research and Consulting, who has has been awarded a Scholarly Book Award for her book Pasting Up Protest: The Art of Memorializing Violence in Mexican Printmaking, forthcoming this spring with McGill-Queens. The award "funds scholarly books in Canada that make important contributions to the humanities and social sciences."

Attendees at the Fall 2024 LITE Grant Showcase

LITE GRANT SHOWCASE

Instructors and staff gathered on October 21 for the Fall LITE Grant Showcase, where recipients of LITE grants presented on their research projects.

Daniel Harley, Ville Mäkelä, and Cayley MacArthur—all from the Stratford School of Interaction Design and Business—presented on their project that examined the practical and experiential characteristics of using virtual reality in a 4th-year design course.

Vivian Dayeh (Biology), Brenda Lee (Physics), and Savannah Sloat (Manager, Science Indigenous Initiatives) presented on their project to implement a teaching and learning system based on an Indigenous Learning Circle methodology to better enhance student learning in STEM courses.

Funded by the Office of the AVPA, the LITE Grants program funds projects investigating innovative approaches to enhancing teaching and fostering deep student learning at Waterloo.

NEW OR TIMELY RESOURCES

Academic Coaching for Your Students

If you have students who are facing academic barriers, you can connect them with a Peer Success Coach from the Student Success Office (SSO) using a new Peer Success Coaching referral form. After you submit the referral form, the student will receive an email from the SSO with an appointment time to meet with a Peer Success Coach.

CTE Highlights

Highlights of our work in 2023-24, including stories about supporting faculty development, promoting student engagement, and supporting ongoing and emerging needs are now on our website.

Welcome

CTE would like to welcome Sam Hossack to our graduate programming team.

Sam will be working with us on a part-time basis until the end of this term and is happy to support departments looking for training for their TAs or interested in offering CTE's Preparing to TA at Waterloo LEARN-based module.

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