

IN THE LOOP

OCTOBER 2024

The Monthly Newsletter from
The Centre for Teaching Excellence
at the University of Waterloo



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

CTE's second annual [Instructional Innovations Week](#) takes place October 21-25 and features the following workshops:

Cheating Myths & Realities

Monday, October 21 10:00am-11:00am.

Amanda McKenzie and Julie Piatek from the Office of Academic Integrity will host a 60-minute workshop that explores common myths about cheating as well as the new realities facing instructors in an era of generative artificial intelligence.

Introducing The Artificial Intelligence Disclosure Framework (online)

Monday, October 21 12:00pm-1:00pm.

Join Kari D. Weaver (Library) in this 60-minute workshop as she introduces the newly launched [Artificial Intelligence Disclosure Framework](#).

LITE Grant Showcase

Monday, October 21 2:30pm-4:00pm.

Come hear presentations from Waterloo colleagues who are conducting scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) research, and developing or piloting innovations for the classroom supported by funding from the Learning Innovation and Teaching Enhancement (LITE) grant program.

Ignite the Classroom: Active Learning Strategies to Foster Student Success.

Tuesday, October 22 10:30am-12:00pm.

Designed for educators seeking to enhance student engagement and retention, this session will delve into the literature on active learning and explore a variety of active learning techniques that foster a dynamic learning environment.

Emerging Educational Technologies, EdTech Sandbox, and Teaching Innovation

Wednesday, October 23 9:30am-10:30am.

This workshop will provide an overview of the emerging educational technologies available at Waterloo. Tools will include Creator+, peerScholar, Vevox, and iClicker.

Trauma Informed Care as Instructional Innovation (online)

Wednesday, October 23 12:00pm-1:00pm.

In this online Lunch and Learn, we will explore trauma-informed care and feminist instructional strategies/pedagogies to empower instructors in finding meaningful ways to incorporate hard subjects into the classroom.

Three Steps to Inclusive and Equitable EdTech Including GenAI.

Wednesday, October 23 1:30pm-3:00pm.

One of the guiding principles of Waterloo's Educational Technology Governance group is "Provide inclusive and equitable access," but what does that mean in practice? Join us for a presentation and discussion about how the EdTech Advisory group has put this principle into action, and hear from members of the Centre for Extended Learning (CEL) who have used the same approach in their response to the emergence of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI).

Supporting Self-Directed Learning at UW Using the Student Led Individually Created Course (SLICC) Framework

Thursday, October 24 9:00am-12:00pm.

SLICCs help students develop skills required to succeed in our increasingly volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous (VUCA) world. The instructor sets the learning outcomes in broad strokes, and the student plans, implements, and evaluates the learning experience. The SLICC framework integrates nicely into practicum courses, capstone courses, major project-based courses, co-op, entrepreneurship courses, and more. See the [SLICCs Instructor Toolkit](#)

Student-Led Individually-Created Course Instructor Workshop: Introduction to the SLICC Framework

Thursday, October 24 1:30pm-3:00pm.

Join [Dr. Simon C. Riley](#) (University of Edinburgh) for an interactive workshop on the [Student-Led Individually-Created Course \(SLICC\)](#) framework, an approach to self-directed experiential learning developed at the University of Edinburgh.

Supporting Interdisciplinary Learning Through SLICCs

Friday, October 25 9:30am-11:30am.

Join [Dr. Simon C. Riley](#) (University of Edinburgh) as he explores how the [Student-Led Individually-Created Course \(SLICC\)](#) framework can be a powerful tool for supporting interdisciplinary learning.

CTE is also offering the following learning opportunities outside of Instructional Innovations Week:

Instructional Skills Workshop

October 16-18

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. The ISW promotes participatory learning and community building and encourages examination of teaching practices, with feedback focused on the learning process rather than on the specific content of the lesson. If you have any questions about the ISW, please contact [Richard Li](#).

Student-Led Individually-Created Course Instructor Workshop: Introduction to the SLICC Framework

November 20 10:00am-12:00pm.

In this workshop, we will look at The Student-Led Individually-Created Course (SLICC) reflective experiential learning framework. This framework is inherently flexible and promotes student ownership and autonomy through co-creation of their learning experience.

Facilitator Development Workshop

December 16-20

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. Led by FDW Trainers from the ISW Network, the core of the FDW is another ISW with the further skills of facilitation as the primary focus. If you have completed the ISW and are interested in becoming an ISW Facilitator, please contact [Richard Li](#) to register for the FDW.

CTE's complete roster of programming for the fall term is available on our [Workshops and Events page](#).

Teaching and Learning Month

In addition to CTE's [Instructional Innovations Week](#), this October the AVPA Office in collaboration with the [Teaching Innovation Incubator](#) is launching **Teaching and Learning Month**, an initiative aimed at bring cohesion to the teaching and learning supports offered at Waterloo. This month-long event will host daily sessions on topics such as generative AI, accessibility, educational technology, and instructional innovations, among others.

Each session is tailored to address key teaching challenges and innovations, so you can find the perfect fit for your professional development. View our [calendar of events](#) to secure your spots in these sessions. Registration is now open (you must register for each session individually).

NEW AND TIMELY RESOURCES

Teaching Tips

We continue to update and enhance our 150+ Teaching Tips, most recently these two:

- [Community-Based Learning with On-Campus Partners](#)
- [Student Guidelines for Communicating in Online Professional Contexts](#)

Additionally, we've developed a brand new teaching tip:

- [Exam Wrappers: Meta-Cognitive Questions to Help Students Reflect on Their Exams](#)

TA Handbook

The [TA Handbook](#) is a resource of practical tips for TAs to consult throughout their time as a TA.

To Flip or Not to Flip

[Diana Skrzydlo](#), Math Faculty Teaching Fellow and Associate Professor, has developed a [rubric](#) to help instructors decide if the flipped classroom approach might be right for them.

CHANGES TO THE LITE GRANTS DEADLINES

CTE, in conjunction with the AVPA, is pleased to announce the following changes to the LITE Seed Grant program. We believe that these changes will improve the profile of the program by elevating the competition and allowing researchers to take the time they need to complete their data analysis and dissemination.

Beginning in 2025, there will be two rounds of LITE Seed grants per year (June 1 and October 1 deadlines) instead of the current three. The total funding available and the number of grants awarded remain the same, with up to nine \$7500 grants awarded per round.

The funding period will also be extended to 18 months (from the current 12 months) to facilitate the full completion of research projects. Applicants will also need to meet with CTE's research team for a consultation at least two weeks before the submission deadline.



TEACHING AND LEARNING CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

SAVE THE DATE: 2025 UW TEACHING & LEARNING CONFERENCE

This year's conference will take place on April 30 (online) and May 1 (on campus). The call for proposals will be disseminated in October, with proposals due in January, and registration will open in February. Stay tuned for this year's theme reveal soon!

STAFF CHANGES



Raffae Kachichian

In early October, CTE will say goodbye to Raffae Kachichian who has worked with us on secondment as Program Coordinator for Graduate and Postdoctoral Programs since last fall. Raffae will return to his role as Graduate Studies Coordinator in the Math Graduate Office. We thank Raffae for being a collegial and productive member of CTE over the past three terms!



Monika Soczewinski

We also thank Monika Soczewinski who completes her term as Educational Developer, TA Training and Writing Support on October 2. Monika was covering parental leave for Kristin Brown. This month, Monika will return to her regular role at CTE as Program Coordinator for Graduate and Postdoctoral Programs.



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