

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!

January 2023

**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**

Thank you!

As we approach the end of 2022, we in CTE would like to thank you for your ongoing commitment to our students and their experiences as learners and people. And also for your support of one another as instructors and colleagues. You have shared your experiences with us and one another, and continued to engage your students' curiosity and creativity. We recognize that 2022 has had its ups and downs, but we've been glad to be on this journey with you. We hope you have a restful break, and wish you all health and happiness in 2023.



Upcoming Workshops and Events

CTE has dozens of upcoming workshops and events for the new Winter term. Here are some taking place in January but do check out [our complete roster!](#)

- **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**.
- **Getting Started in LEARN**
This two-hour, online session will introduce you to LEARN (D2L Brightspace), Waterloo's course management system for presenting course activities and resources in blended and fully online courses. **January 5, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm**.
- **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**.
- **Indigenous Knowledges Reading Series**
The online Indigenous reading group series will offer ten books to consider from an Indigenous context. This session will cover a single chapter in *Toward Braiddings* by Jimmy Elwood and Vanessa Andereotti and **can be found online. January 26, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm**.

For graduate students

Our graduate student programming for January includes a number of in-person, blended, and fully online workshops. The first one of the Winter term is described below. Details about the others are on the [Workshop and Events page](#) of the CTE website.

- **From TA to Course Instructor (CTE2170)**
This online workshop is for graduate students teaching or co-teaching their own course in the Winter or Spring 2023 terms and features a panel of recent graduate course instructors. **January 5 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am**.

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. 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!

Open Education, along with Open Access, are two components of the broader notion of [Open Scholarship](#).

CTE Resources

Over many years, CTE has developed more than [160 Teaching Tip Sheets](#) devoted to best practices and effective strategies for teaching and learning. Those Tip Sheets are now being reviewed by a team of CTE staff members with a view to culling ones that have become obsolete (for example we had one for Adobe Voice, a technology that no longer exists), updating the "Further resources" sections with more current items, making the look and feel (and citation style) consistent across all of them, and identifying gaps where new Tip Sheets are needed. Additionally, with the advent and continued development of [Waterloo's Educational Technology Hub](#), a handful of CTE Tip Sheets that are devoted to the "bells and whistles" of educational technologies will be superceded by resources on that site so that our resources can focus on using such technologies in pedagogically effective ways.

If you'd like to suggest a topic for a new Teaching Tip, please email it to [Mark Morton](#).

Staff updates

- Welcome to our new TA Workshop Facilitators, who are joining CTE as of Winter term:
 - [Luke Hagar](#) (Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science)
 - [Brandon Dickson](#) (Balsillie School of International Affairs)
- Welcome to the Graduate Educational Developer team, the following graduate students who were formerly in the TA Workshop Facilitator role at CTE:
 - [Emma McDougall](#) (School of Planning)
 - [Serena McDiarmid](#) (Department of Psychology)
- [Kristen Archbell](#), who has been on parental leave, has returned to CTE in her role as Educational Research Associate. Welcome back Kristen!

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CTE's website

The University of Waterloo acknowledges that our work is on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. Our institution is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised 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 centralized within our [Indigenous Initiatives Office](#).

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