

IN THE LOOP

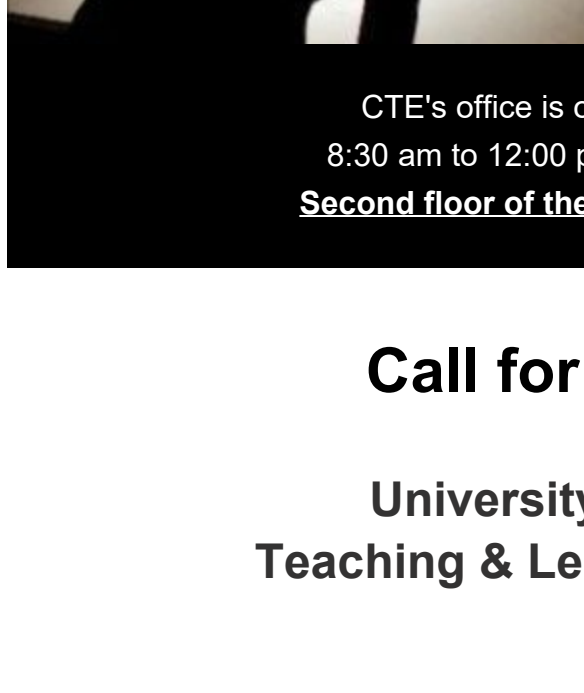
The Monthly Newsletter from
The Centre for Teaching Excellence

January 2024

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Join the In the Loop mailing list!



Happy New Term!

As we embark on a new term, there may be new-to-Waterloo instructors and staff who would benefit from receiving this newsletter. Please forward it to anyone who might be interested!

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

Call for Proposals

University of Waterloo
Teaching & Learning Conference

- Online conference — Wednesday, May 1, 2024
- In-person conference — Thursday, May 2, 2024

We encourage you to submit a proposal for our 15th annual University of Waterloo Teaching and Learning Conference (UWTL). Our conference theme is "Sparking and Sustaining Engagement."

The deadline for proposals is **January 22, 2024**. To read the Call for Proposals and learn more about the conference, please visit the [University of Waterloo Teaching and Learning Conference website](#).

Upcoming Workshops and Events

CTE offers workshops for instructors and staff, new instructors, graduate students, and postdocs in several modes: face-to-face, hybrid, fully online, and self-directed (LEARN-based). Check out the [complete schedule](#), the [self-directed workshops](#), or the [recorded workshops](#). Here are a few selected workshops:

Indigenous Knowledges Reading Series

On **Wednesday, January 24, from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**, Join Nahannee Schultemaker in a discussion of the text [The Land We Are: Artists and Writers Unsettle the Politics of Reconciliation](#). Participants should read the introduction before attending; a PDF copy of the introduction will be available for those who register. Reading the entire book is encouraged but not required.

New Faculty Teaching Days

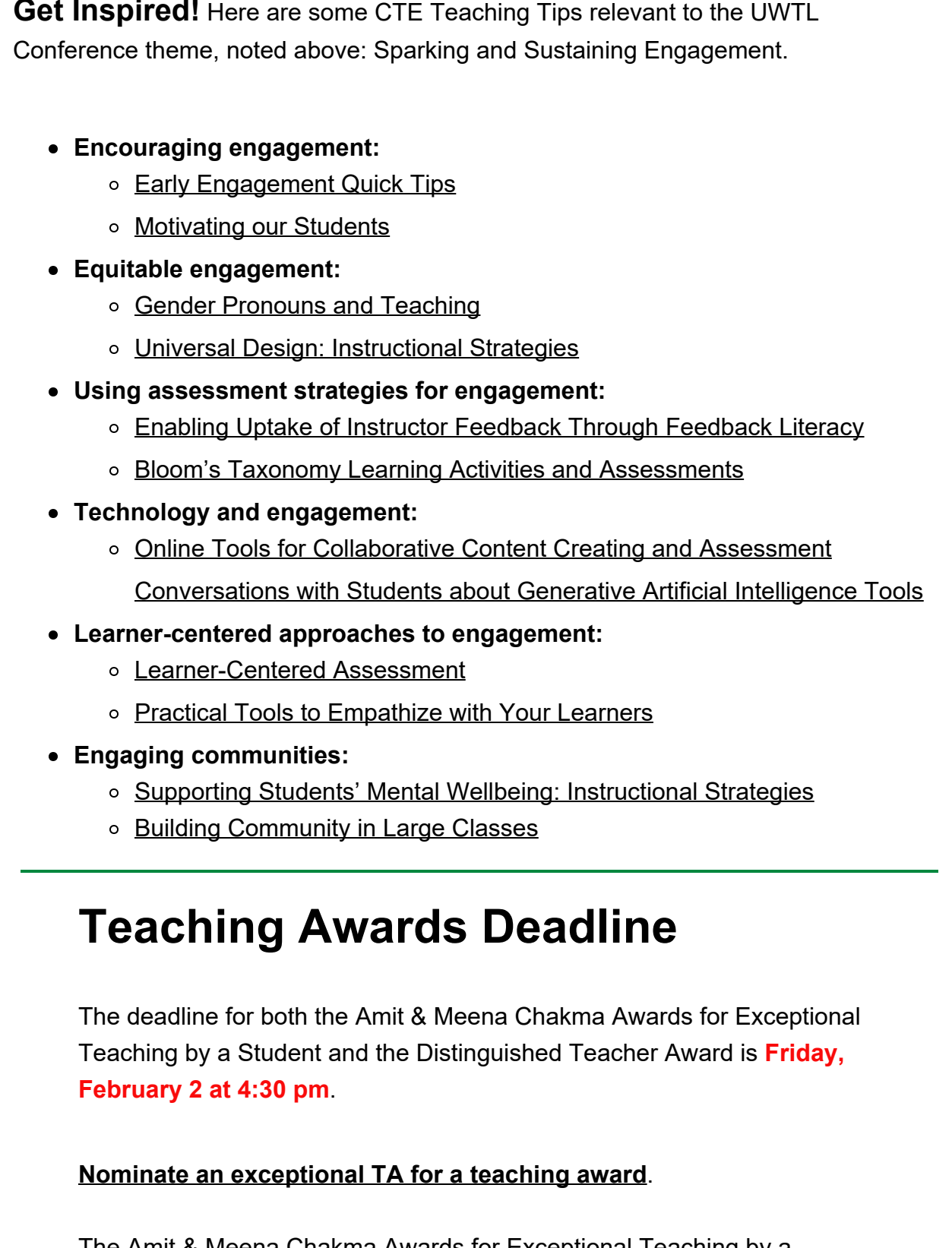
Workshops designed specifically for new faculty members are scheduled for February and March. Workshops include Course Design Foundations, Course Dynamics and Engagement, Who Are Our Learners?, Assessment as Learning, Course Outline Builder, and Working Effectively with TAs. Visit the [New Faculty Teaching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

Teaching Squares

The [Teaching Squares](#) program offers a unique opportunity for instructors to engage in reciprocal classroom visits with 3 to 4 fellow instructors. This isn't your typical evaluative classroom observation: it's a chance to self-reflect on your teaching practices while gaining fresh perspectives from your colleagues. Discover new insights, enhance your repertoire of teaching strategies, and foster a deeper appreciation for the skill and talent of your peers. The commitment is approximately six hours for the term. The only requirement is that you are actively teaching in a course. If interested, please email [Katie Damphouse](#).

Another Learning Opportunity — About AI

If you're interested in joining a collaborative MS Teams site regarding teaching in the context of generative artificial intelligence, please contact [Trevor Holmes](#).



New and Timely Resources

Teaching Tips

CTE has developed 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.

Get Inspired! Here are some CTE Teaching Tips relevant to the UWTL Conference theme, noted above: Sparking and Sustaining Engagement.

- **Encouraging engagement:**
 - [Early Engagement Quick Tips](#)
 - [Motivating our Students](#)
- **Equitable engagement:**
 - [Gender Pronouns and Teaching](#)
 - [Universal Design: Instructional Strategies](#)
- **Using assessment strategies for engagement:**
 - [Enabling Uptake of Instructor Feedback Through Feedback Literacy](#)
 - [Bloom's Taxonomy Learning Activities and Assessments](#)
- **Technology and engagement:**
 - [Online Tools for Collaborative Content Creating and Assessment](#)
 - [Conversations with Students about Generative Artificial Intelligence Tools](#)
- **Learner-centered approaches to engagement:**
 - [Learner-Centered Assessment](#)
 - [Practical Tools to Empathize with Your Learners](#)
- **Engaging communities:**
 - [Supporting Students' Mental Wellbeing: Instructional Strategies](#)
 - [Building Community in Large Classes](#)

Teaching Awards Deadline

The deadline for both the Amit & Meena Chakma Awards for Exceptional Teaching by a Student and the Distinguished Teacher Award is **Friday, February 2 at 4:30 pm**.

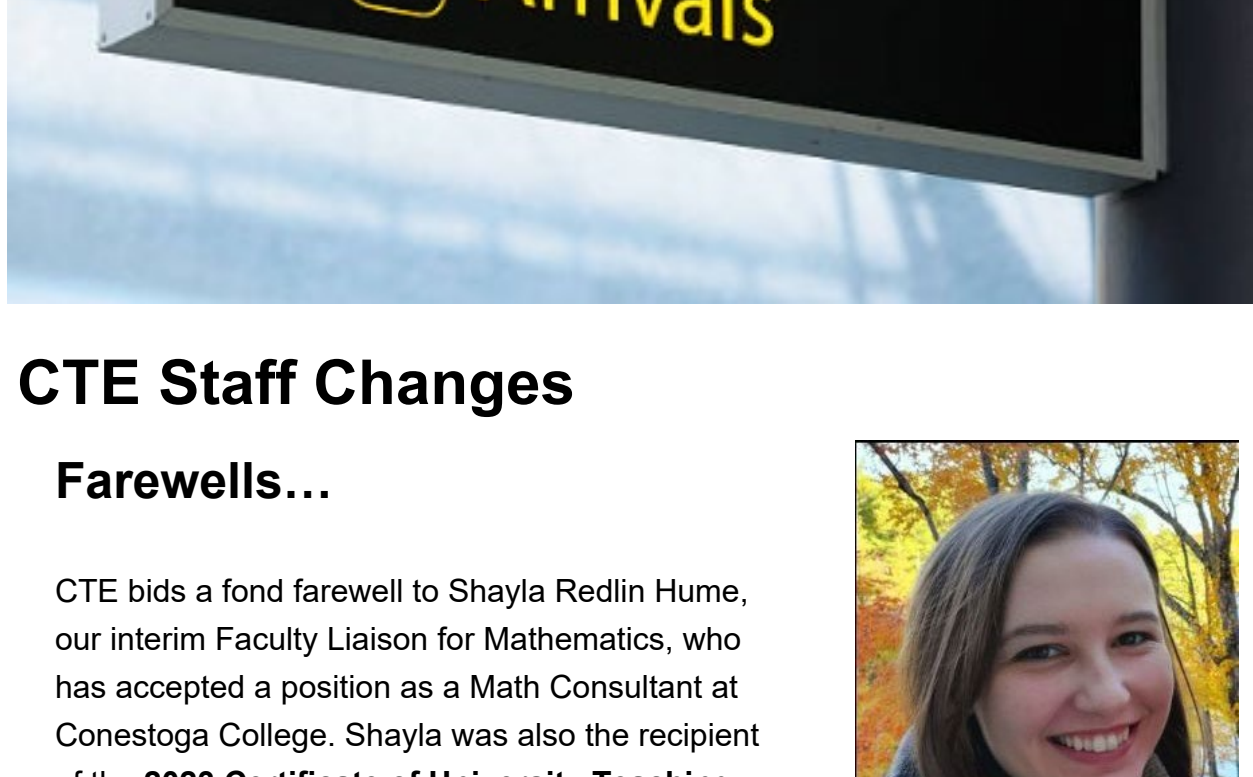
Nominate an exceptional TA for a teaching award.

The Amit & Meena Chakma Awards for Exceptional Teaching by a Student (AETS) are open to all students who have a formal teaching role at the University of Waterloo in recognition of excellence in teaching. Each award consists of approximately \$1000 as well as a certificate and acknowledgement at convocation.

Nominate an exceptional instructor for a teaching award.

The Distinguished Teacher Award is open to all those who teach students at the University of Waterloo, including tenure and teaching stream faculty, sessional instructors, lab instructors, and staff instructors. The main criterion of the Distinguished Teacher Award is an instructor's record of excellent teaching over an extended period at Waterloo. Nominated instructors should have the capacity to write about their teaching philosophy and provide solid evidence of teaching excellence, leadership, and educational innovation.

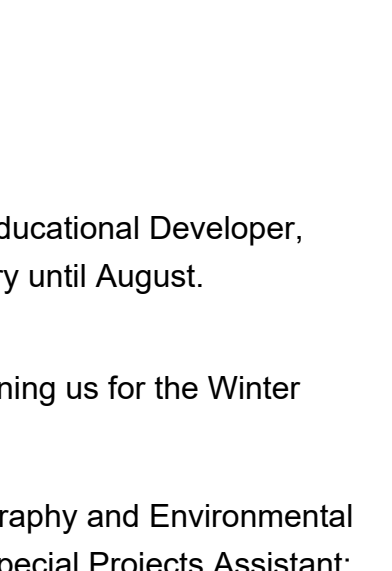
Consult the [AETS page](#) or the [Distinguished Teaching Award](#) page for full details about eligibility requirements and the nomination process. If you have questions, please contact [Sarah Seabrook](#).



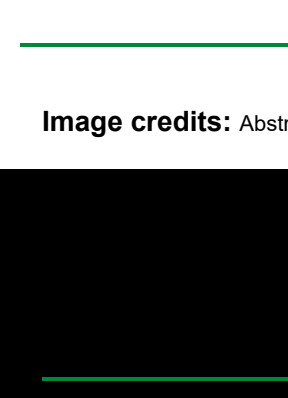
CTE Staff Changes

Farewells...

CTE bids a fond farewell to Shayla Redlin Hume, our interim Faculty Liaison for Mathematics, who has accepted a position as a Math Consultant at Conestoga College. Shayla was also the recipient of the [2023 Certificate of University Teaching Award](#). Best of luck, Shayla!



...and Welcomes

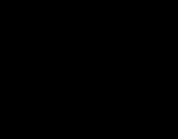


Naomi Paul has joined CTE as an Educational Developer, Indigenous Knowledges, from January until August.

We also have new co-op students joining us for the Winter Term!

- **Ashdeep Gill** is studying Geography and Environmental Management, and will be our Special Projects Assistant: Workshops/Reception/Green Office.
- **Clara Shao** is studying Arts and Business, and will be our Special Projects Assistant: Curriculum and Assessment Support.

Image credits: Abstract AI: [Beastman](#); Seedlings: [blackzheep](#); Departures: [LordRunar](#)

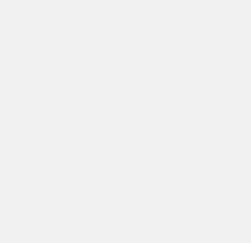


The University of Waterloo acknowledges that much of our work takes place on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. Our main campus is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. 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](#).

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