



News and more from the University of Waterloo's Centre for Teaching Excellence

## July 2022

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## Upcoming Workshops and Events

CTE is in the midst of planning our programming for the Fall term — in the meantime, here are some opportunities for the remainder of this term:

- [Getting Started in LEARN](#)  
Tuesday, August 30, 2022 with an [additional offering](#) on Thursday, September 8, both from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

CTE also continues to offer several ongoing, self-paced learning opportunities in LEARN that you can undertake at any time:

- [Independent Blended Course Design \(iBlend\)](#)
- [Supporting Student Mental Health \(for instructors\)](#)
- [Scholarship of Teaching and Learning \(SoTL\) Methods](#)

### For New Faculty

- [New Faculty Teaching Days](#) are scheduled from Tuesday, August 9 to Friday, August 12. This programming is intended for all new faculty who have arrived since September 1st of last year (2021) as well as any new faculty who were unable to attend our sessions last year or are new to their current teaching assignment. We also welcome any new faculty who arrived during the last two years and would value participating in these sessions in person.

**For Graduate Students.** New online modules for graduate students and postdocs:

- **Writing teaching statements and dossiers.** Do you know a graduate student or postdoc who is applying to academic jobs and preparing a teaching statement and/or dossier? CTE has launched a set of four self-paced online modules to support graduate students and postdocs to prepare these documents. For more information see, [Teaching Dossiers for Grad Students and Postdocs](#).
- **From TA to Course Instructor.** Wednesday, August 3, 2022 — 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM. Graduate students who are teaching their own course as a sessional instructor in the upcoming Fall or Winter term will be interested in joining this online session featuring a panel of graduate students who successfully taught their first course at Waterloo.

## Training for Fall Teaching Assistants

Is your department interested in providing training for your fall Teaching Assistants? For an overview of TA training available through CTE, visit [Teaching Assistant Training: Information for Instructors and Coordinators](#). Some of the available training and resources include:



- [Teaching Assistant Training LEARN site](#): Three self-paced, asynchronous modules (one foundational; two topic-specific advanced) available for departments, Faculties, and course instructors to offer to their TAs. These modules will be available from mid-August.
- [Workshops by request](#): CTE staff can facilitate workshops as part of your departmental or Faculty TA Training, by request, in the modality of your choice.
- [LEARN for TAs sessions](#): During the first month of term, CTE offers two sessions for TAs to introduce them to various LEARN tools.
- [Fundamentals of University Teaching Program](#): Each term, CTE offers workshops on a variety of teaching topics relevant to TAs and graduate students that can lead to a completion certificate.
- [TA Handbook](#): a resource of practical tips for TAs to refer to throughout their time as a TA.

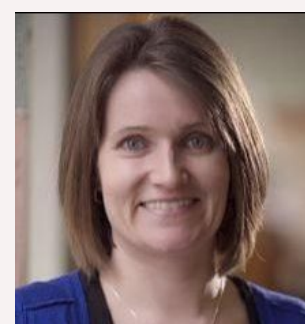
Please spread the word about TA training opportunities to your program's graduate students! If you have questions, please contact [cte-grad@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:cte-grad@uwaterloo.ca).

## WUSA Teaching Awards

The students have spoken! The Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA) has announced the [recipients of the only teaching award selected entirely by undergraduate students](#).

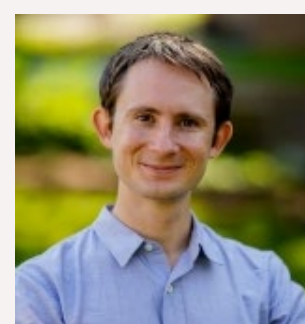
### Laura Ingram, Science

"Dr. Ingram deserves this award because she genuinely engages her students in all aspects and concepts of chemistry. She always tries her best to uplift us and make us feel less stressed and relaxed whenever quizzes, tests, or examinations are approaching. Her teaching style is fantastic, she includes active recall methods before every lecture and extra practice after every unit/module. She truly is an amazing professor and made my transition from high school into university less stressful and more fun!"



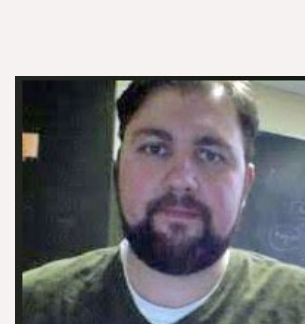
### Anton Mosonov, Math

"Anton [is] a great professor. When I was struggling in the course, he made time to help me outside of his office hours and had prepared extra practice for me. He is so kind and I will forever be grateful for his extra efforts in helping me succeed. He employed innovative teaching methods from the book he was reading at the time that were proven to be the most successful for students. By researching how to teach students in the most effective way, his dedication to helping his students succeed was evident. He was a joyful, passionate and engaging instructor and I really enjoyed his class."



### Nicholas Ray, Arts

"Nick is a brilliant professor. He engages us with humour and personal anecdotes to help us better understand the concepts we are learning and to prompt our critical thinking. His class is the kind of class you WANT to participate in and as a result our class is doing very well. He really makes the class his own rather than merely regurgitating the basics – diving into films like Ex Machina and allowing us flexibility in our projects and assignments as well as assigning us frameworks to submit information (such as online blogs and collaborative PechaKuchas). He clearly wants to see us succeed and makes himself easily available to us."



**Also, it's never too early to start thinking about nominations for other University of Waterloo teaching awards!**

[See the full list of upcoming awards.](#)

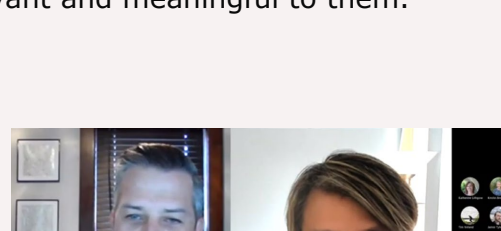
## New CTE Resources

### Teaching Tip Sheets

We've added ["Practical Tools to Empathize with Your Learners"](#) to our roster of 150+ Teaching Tip Sheets. Learn how Empathy Maps, Learner Personas, and Learner Journey Maps can help you get a better sense of your learners' lived experience. You can draw on this understanding to create learning experiences that are not only effective, but also more relevant and meaningful to them.

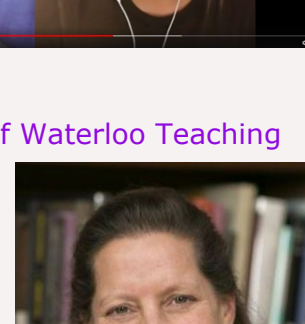
### CTE's YouTube Channel

[PebblePad Users Group: Using PebblePad in Academic Support Units](#). In this recorded session from June 2022, Kristin Brown shares how PebblePad workbooks have been integrated into the Certificate in University Teaching program; additionally, John Fedy and Chun Chih Chen discuss how PebblePad has been used in the OHD staff Leadership Development programming.



[Dr. Alison Cook-Sather: Keynote from the 2022 University of Waterloo Teaching and Learning Conference](#). In this keynote address, Dr.

Alison Cook-Sather identifies the underlying principles of pedagogical partnership. Drawing on texts she has co-authored with faculty and students, such as *Engaging Students as Partners in Learning and Teaching: A Guide for Faculty*, *Pedagogical Partnerships: A How-to Guide for Faculty, Students, and Academic Developers in Higher Education*, and *Promoting Equity and Justice through Pedagogical Partnership*, she shares examples of pedagogical partnerships between faculty and students.



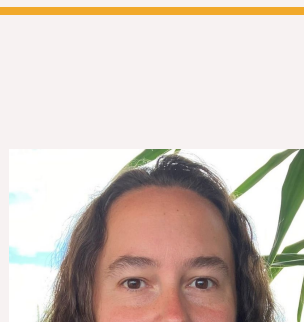
CTE has [30+ other recently recorded events and workshops](#) available on our YouTube channel.

### Other resources

An article examining the [benefits and challenges of using Extended Reality technologies](#) in teaching and learning at the University of Waterloo (as well as at Guelph and Manitoba) has recently been published in IEEEXplore. The authors of the study are Mark Morton (CTE), Gillian Dabrowski (CEL), and Amna Idrees (SYDE). Anyone interested in the article might also be interested in joining [Waterloo's Extended Reality Community of Practice](#).

This next resource has no particular connection to Waterloo but might be of interest: it's a collection of 13 "commentaries" on the topic of ["technology and educational 'pivoting' in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic"](#) — something all Waterloo instructors have experienced!

## Staff Updates



CTE is pleased to have hired [Laura Williams](#) to fill the role of Faculty Liaison for Health, Psychology, Sociology & Legal Studies, and Support Units while Natalie Chow is on leave.



We are also pleased to welcome back [Victoria Feth](#) from her leave as of August 2. Lynn Long has been filling the role of Faculty Liaison for Arts in Victoria's absence. Thank you, Lynn for being such a capable, dedicated, and personable colleague!

To subscribe to CTE's In the Loop newsletter, [click here](#).

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The Centre for Teaching Excellence acknowledges that we are located on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (Neutral), Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometers on each side of the Grand River.

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