



IN THE LOOP

The Monthly Newsletter from
The Centre for Teaching Excellence
[Hours & Location](#)
July 2024

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Upcoming Workshops and Events

CTE has scheduled its roster of summer term workshops



For all instructors:

[Course Redesign for Flipped and Other Models of Blended Learning](#) and [Getting To Know Assistive Technologies that Students Use To Enable Learning](#)

For new faculty:

[New Faculty Teaching Days](#)

For graduate students:

Registration is now open for the [two-week Fundamentals of University Teaching program](#). Boost your CV and teaching skills by completing the Fundamentals program over two weeks this Spring (July 15 to 26).

Are you teaching or co-teaching a course in the Fall 2024 or Winter 2025 term? Registration is now open for the [New Instructor Foundations Program](#), a three half-day program for graduate student and postdoc instructors, taking place from August 7 to 9.

Are you currently in the Fundamentals of University Teaching Program? If so, these upcoming workshops will be of interest: [Supporting Student Mental Health and Statements of Teaching Philosophy](#).

Digital Pedagogy Institute

The [Digital Pedagogy Institute](#)—which is organized by faculty and staff from several institutions, including Tim Ireland from Waterloo's Library—will take place from August 13 to 15. The virtual conference offers sessions that focus on the innovative use of digital technologies to enhance and transform undergraduate and graduate teaching.

Join the Creator+ Pilot: New Student Engagement Tool

The Teaching Innovation Incubator, in collaboration with Instructional Technologies and Media Services, is piloting the [Creator+ tool](#) to help University of Waterloo faculty and staff enhance student engagement in their LEARN courses. Instructors can use Creator+ to seamlessly integrate interactive digital course content into LEARN. Workshop sessions are scheduled for [Thursday, July 18, 1:30pm-2:30pm](#) and [Thursday, August 29, 11:00am-12:00pm](#). If interested, please complete the [expression of interest form](#) or contact [Pam Flutter](#) for more details.

2025 University of Waterloo Teaching and Learning Conference

We're ready to start thinking about our 2025 University of Waterloo Teaching and Learning Conference. We've always benefitted from hearing about the teaching and learning themes that you think could be our conference theme for coming year.

- What conference themes would interest you?
- What teaching and learning-related topics are relevant right now?
- What are you hearing being discussed with colleagues?

Email [Annik Bilodeau](#) to let us know your thoughts! Feel free to include as many ideas as you like. [Themes from past years' conferences](#) can be reviewed online.

Instructors Needed as Research Participants: Trauma Informed and Feminist Pedagogy

- **Who?** Instructors in the Faculties of Arts, Science, Health, and Environment or the Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo.
- **What?** Completion of a 15–20-minute anonymous survey
- **Why?** To better understand how we can support University of Waterloo instructors in the classroom and curate and toolkit to meet this need.

To participate in the survey and/or consult the letter of information and consent please visit our [online survey](#).

This study has received ethics clearance through a University of Waterloo Research Ethics Board. For more information, please contact [Rebecca MacAlpine](#).

CTE's Green Office

CTE is one of only two units on campus that has been "platinum-certified" for its diligent and ongoing participation in Waterloo's [Green Office program](#) (the other is Work Integrated Learning)! Campus units gain points by supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (STGs) identified by the United Nations. One of those STGs is Sustainable Cities and Communities, which includes efforts to engage in more sustainable transportation. Pictured here are three of CTE's staff members — Katie Damphouse, Mark Morton, and Kim Boucher — who regularly bike to work!



CTE's PD Day



On June 18, CTE held its annual PD Day in the relative coolness of the E5 building! Our staff delivered presentations on the theme of "gathering" — how we do it, how to keep gatherings meaningful, what less obvious purposes do gatherings serve — and included sessions ranging from "What Does Community Mean To You" to "Street Art." Staff members brought their own lunches and contributed to a gathering of homemade cookies, rhubarb muffins, and tarts!

New & Improved

New & Timely Resources from CTE (& elsewhere!)

Many of CTE's Teaching Tips have been translated by other institutions and agencies. Most recently, [Exploring Your Teaching Philosophy: Sample Exercises](#) has been rendered into French on the eCampus Ontario website as [Réflexion sur votre philosophie d'enseignement : exemples d'exercices](#).

Waterloo's Academic Support Units have jointly developed a [new document about generative artificial intelligence \(GenAI\)](#) that intends "to provide a foundational understanding of GenAI from a University of Waterloo perspective."

The Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning at the University of Calgary has developed and shared [A Comprehensive Guide to Working with Higher Education Curriculum Development, Review, & Renewal Projects](#).

Did you know that since its inception, the [LITE grant program](#) — coordinated by CTE coordinates and funded by the Office of the AVP-A — has supported nearly 180 research projects investigating Learning Innovation and Teaching Enhancement? (And thus the name: [LITE grants](#).) Check out the complete [catalogue of funded grants](#), each of them a valuable resource.



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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