

# IN THE LOOP

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
Centre for Teaching Excellence

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June 2023

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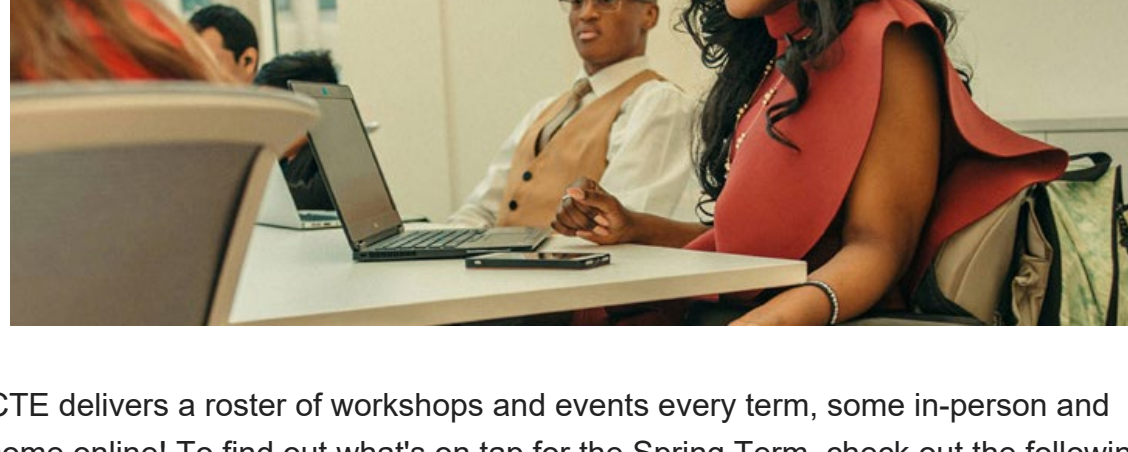
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CTE's office is open Monday to Friday  
8:30 am to 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm  
Second floor of the East Campus 3 building

## Upcoming workshops and events



CTE delivers a roster of workshops and events every term, some in-person and some online! To find out what's on tap for the Spring Term, check out the following links:

- [For All Faculty & Staff](#)
- [For Graduate Students](#)
- [Self-Directed Workshops](#)
- [Recorded Workshops](#)

Last year, we offered 130 workshops, attended by 789 instructors, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and staff!

## April and May were busy months!

April and May were exciting and busy months for CTE. After several years of pandemic-related disruptions, we were finally able to again offer four of our Signature Annual Events in person!

### Teaching Excellence Academy

Eighteen participants from across campus spent four days re-evaluating and redesigning courses in this year's [Teaching Excellence Academy \(TEA\)](#). Workshop facilitators included staff from CTE, CEL, and two faculty members. One participant commented, "I feel reinvigorated about my course and my skills as an educator!" If you're interested in next year's TEA (again in April), please contact [Mary Power](#) or [Donna Ellis](#).

### Waterloo Assessment Institute

Over a two-day intensive retreat, the [Waterloo Assessment Institute \(WAI\)](#) helped individuals and program teams redesign key assignments in their courses through peer feedback, expert consultation, and guided work time. Of 12 survey respondents, 11 rated the retreat as "excellent" and one as "good". Michelle Ogrodnik, a participant from Kinesiology and Health Sciences, cited the following as essential elements of the WAI:

- Having dedicated, protected time to work on the assessment.
- Having peers to brainstorm with, who offer different ideas and perspectives.
- Having folks from CTE available for consultations, to focus ideas into specific approaches.

In this [playlist of five very brief videos](#), CTE's Associate Director, Trevor Holmes, provides an overview of why the WAI might be for you! Contact [Trevor](#) to learn more about the next offering of the WAI.

### PebblePad Showcase

Our PebblePad Showcase featured two UW instructors (Debbie Wang, Social Development Studies, and Jennifer Yessis, Health Sciences), as well as a first-year co-op student (Brent McCready-Branch) discussing how PebblePad has been used to support teaching and learning. In addition, Shane Sutherland, CEO and Founder of PebblePad, shared how that platform can support learning from the moment students join us at Waterloo through to graduation and beyond. Recordings of all the presentations are available on [this YouTube playlist](#).

### UWTL Conference



Kelly Laurila (School of Social Work), Leslie Wexler (CTE), and Barbara Moktthewenkwe Wall (Trent University) engage in a "kitchen table" session in the UWTL conference.

The 14th Annual University of Waterloo Teaching and Learning conference was held on May 3 and 4, our first return to in-person sessions since the 2019 conference. This year's theme was "Teaching and Learning with Kindness and Care." Over the course of the two days, nearly 500 registrants benefited from 74 presentations, panels, workshops, posters, and showcases. A more detailed retrospective of the conference is on the [CTE News Reel](#).

## Staff updates

We have several staff updates to share with the university community!

**Monica Vesely**, CTE's long-time Educational Developer for Faculty Programs and Consulting, is leaving us on June 5 to take on the position of Lead, Work-Integrated Learning Designer, Curriculum Integration at Waterloo's Centre for Work-Integrated Learning. Monica has been an indefatigable champion of CTE's programming in areas such as the Instructional Skills Workshop, the Facilitator Development Workshop, and New Faculty programming. We wish her the best in this new venture!

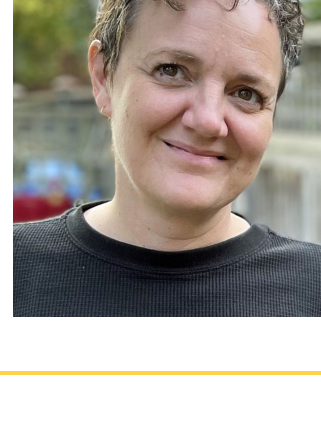


**Brianna Bennett** is changing roles within CTE: she has moved from Program Coordinator, Faculty Programs, to Educational Research Associate (replacing Kristen Archbell who accepted a position at the School of Pharmacy some weeks ago). We are very glad to have Brianna bring her eye for detail, her organizational skills, and her interest in educational research to this role!



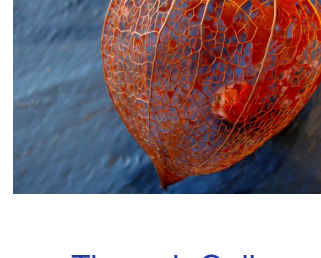
We're pleased, too, to welcome two new co-op students for the summer term: **Charley Potter** and **Lauryn Quinn**. Already their enthusiasm and skills are having a positive impact!

Lastly, we'd like to congratulate **Leslie Wexler**, CTE's Senior Educational Developer, Knowledge Studies and Anti-Racist Pedagogies, for recently defending her PhD dissertation! Well done, Dr. Wexler!



## Recipients of LITE Seed Grants

CTE is pleased to announce the recipients of the Winter Term round of the LITE Seed Grants.



- Kelly Anthony: [Evaluating the impact of an online tool for fostering constructive dialogue in the classroom](#)
- Robin Cohen: [Improving Graduate Seminar-Style Courses Through Online Delivery](#)
- Grant Gunn, Quinn Lewis: [Foundations of Geography: GeoCast](#)
- Kate Mercer, Jennifer Howcroft: [Stakeholder Café: Providing Opportunities for Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement to Support Capstone Design](#)
- Katherine Perrott: [The Design Studio Skill Kit: A New Approach to Supporting and Sustaining Student Learning](#)
- John Zhang, Mark Morton, Jeff Gostick, Mario Ioannidis, Felicia Pantazi: [Development and Assessment of 360° Virtual Reality Laboratory Modules for Deep Learning and Advanced Engineering Learning Outcomes](#)

[LITE Seed Grants](#) support small-scale teaching and learning research projects as well as attending activities to develop your instructional skills. Deadlines are February 1, June 1, and October 1.

## Timely resources

### Copyright decision tool

Waterloo's library has developed a copyright decision tool, now available on the [Copyright for Teaching](#) page on [Copyright at Waterloo](#). The tool is designed for instructors and staff to find quick answer to their questions. The library instructional design team will also be creating copyright resources for undergraduate students and welcome suggestions on content. Feel free to email them to [Lauren Byl](#). The library has also created a [citation guide](#) to assist in citing generative AI as a source.



### Inclusive Research Resource Hub

Have a look at Waterloo's new [Inclusive Research Resource Hub](#), a cross-disciplinary library of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (EDI) and Indigenous Research resources to help instructors, students, and staff incorporate these principles into research design and team planning.

### Collecting and Using Midterm Student Feedback

CTE has developed over 150 brief and evidence-based Teaching Tip sheets. At this point in the Spring Term, one that might be of interest is [Collecting and Using Midterm Student Feedback](#).



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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