

IN THE LOOP



The monthly newsletter from the
Centre for Teaching Excellence
at the University of Waterloo

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March 2023

Note: words in bolded, purple text are links!

**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**

UWTL: Registration Open!

Registration for the 14th annual University of Waterloo Teaching and Learning Conference is **now open** and will remain open until April 19.

The keynote speaker is **Barbara**



Mokkthewenkwe Wall, Professor of Indigenous Environmental Studies and Sciences Program, and Director, PhD Studies, at Chanie Wenjack School for Indigenous Studies, Trent University. Speakers for the always-popular Igniting our Practice have been confirmed:

Sanjeev Bedi, Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering; and **Tamara Maciel**, Kinesiology.

The conference will take place in-person on **May 4**, with a pre-conference program taking place online on **May 3**.

Upcoming Workshops and Events

CTE has dozens of upcoming workshops and events for instructors, new faculty, and graduate students. Here are a few coming up in March, but do check out **our complete roster** for the Winter term!

All Instructors

Introduction to the Flipped Classroom

March 3, 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm (in-person). The flipped classroom is a type of blended course where the first encounter with course content and concepts occurs outside the classroom (e.g., via recorded lectures, guided readings, etc.) and the in-person time is used to practice and deepen learning via active learning strategies (e.g., discussions, problem solving, etc.). **More information and registration.**

Using simulations in the classroom: The Northern Gateway Pipeline Negotiation

March 23, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm (in-person). During this session, **Jason Thistlethwaite** will lead us through the Northern Gateway Pipeline negotiation simulation. Participating in the simulation and the subsequent discussion is an opportunity for you to consider how you might integrate simulations into your courses, perhaps even this simulation, to provide an engaging active learning experience to your own students. **More information and registration.**

New Faculty

New Faculty Teaching Days

March 1, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm (in-person). Three sessions will be offered on this day: Who Are Our Learners; Course Dynamics and Engagement; Assessment as Learning. **More information and registration.**

Course Design Foundations

March 2, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm (in person). This six-hour workshop introduces the principles of aligned course design to instructors with little or no prior teaching experience running courses of their own. **More information and registration.**

Documenting Your Teaching for Tenure and Promotion

March 22, 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm (online). In this session, a panel of colleagues will share their experiences regarding tenure and promotion; Trevor Holmes, CTE's Associate Director, will discuss the important of a teaching dossier; and David DeVidi, Associate VP, Academic, will provide a high-level introduction to the process of documenting teaching for tenure and promotion. **More information and registration.**

Graduate Students

Trauma-Informed Teaching

March 6, 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm (online). This workshop, intended for Teaching Assistants, will explore trauma-informed pedagogy: teaching practices that are informed by an understanding of trauma, its prevalence, and its impact on learning. We will discuss some strategies you can undertake as a TA to support all students, especially those who have experienced trauma. **More information and registration.**

See our complete roster of events and workshops for the Winter Term.

Open Education Week

Waterloo's **Open Education Week** is fast approaching: **March 6 to 10!**

This annual event is an opportunity to share and learn about the burgeoning and transformative field of Open Education (OE). Open Education encourages and facilitates the creation, adoption, and adaptation of free and accessible resources, with a view to making education more available to everyone. Open Education and Open Access are part of the broader notion of **Open Scholarship**.

The week's events will include sessions on OE resources for teaching and learning with Extended Reality tools, accessibility considerations for OE projects, OE in the context of traditional Indigenous knowledge, a project in which students adapted an OE textbook, and more. The **complete schedule is available** as a Word documents. Please contact **Kathryn Blair** for further information.

Teaching Excellently!

Two intriguing examples of what Waterloo instructors are doing in their classrooms!

1. Leveraging AI in the Classroom



It seems that artificial intelligence is now at our fingertips, with DALL-E2, OpenAI, and ChatGPT, among the many contenders. (**I will buy** and send a Tim's card to anyone who knows what the GPT of ChatGPT stands for without looking it up!). One challenge now facing educators is how to leverage these AI tools to help students learn. An excellent use-case is that of Katherine Perrot, School of Planning, who had her students use DALL-E2 to generate an image using simple commands and then

iteratively refine that image into their vision of one aspect of a sustainable campus. A full story about the project is available on the **School of Planning website** and six of the images can be seen on **Kitchener-Waterloo's CBC website**.

The foregoing image was generated by Myah Sachedina, a second year student enrolled in the Design Studio Foundations course.

2. Fostering Engagement Through Blogging and Circle Pedagogy



In her course Sustainable Food: Regional Case Study, Steffanie Scott has leveraged both a relatively new technology and an ancient tradition: blogs and talking circles. **Learn more** about how she integrated these two components, along with field trips, into her course.

IKAR Initiatives

CTE's Indigenous Knowledge and Anti-Racism (IKAR) team are advancing several important projects on campus. Below is a précis of their recent work. A more complete description of each project is available as a **news item on the CTE website**.

- **The School of Pharmacy** initiated a pilot project with CTE to Indigenize their full four-year curriculum. Working with leadership, staff, and faculty within the School over the last year, we have co-designed a new course for Pharmacy in Culturally Safe Patient Care that addresses cultural safety from both Indigenous and Anti-Racist positions to prepare students for the diverse work placements, co-ops and career opportunities within the healthcare sector.
- **Faculty of Science:** Madison Hill, as an Educational Developer, Indigenous Knowledges approaches the work from her own position as a graduate from the Faculty of Environment (York University) and work within regional conservation. Within her first three months Madison designed the content for the first proto-type module on Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) as a foundational teaching in the Faculty of Science.
- **Faculties of Environment and Engineering** are leading a STEM community of practice in building faculty members' capacity through the creation of a resource hub with the support of Jessica Rumboldt, also an Educational Developer, Indigenous Knowledges.
- **Faculty of Mathematics:** Jessica has also begun developing a set of Indigenous practice principles in Mathematics for faculty to begin considering how learning outcomes and Indigenous principles of learning are aligned.

CTE Staffing Updates

Veronica Stephenson will be on study leave from March to June; **Victoria Feth** will be stepping in as Educational Developer, Curriculum & Quality Enhancement, to help provide support for a variety of curriculum design and review projects; **Trevor Holmes** will be the main contact for the curriculum area at CTE while Veronica is away.

While Victoria is filling in for Veronica, her role as CTE Liaison for the Faculty of Arts will be held by **Rebecca McAlpine**, who has been a Graduate Engineering Developer with CTE.

CTE Staff: Research and Service

To highlight the research and service contributions that our staff make to Waterloo and beyond, we'll occasionally (and proudly!) share in this newsletter some highlights of our activities, such as...

- **18 of our staff members delivered 24 peer-reviewed conference presentations or posters in the 2021-2022 fiscal year!**

We might also note that one of our Senior Educational Developers, Katherine Lithgow, has recently had a co-authored paper published: "Joining Students on their SLICCs Journey," published in the **2022 Proceedings of the Canadian Engineering Education Association Conference**. More information about **SLICCs is on our website**.

Migration of CTE's Website

CTE's website has migrated! Not to a warmer climate but to Waterloo's new Web Content Management System (WCMS 3). Almost all of our hundreds of online resources have made the trip without problem. However, we are still in the process of putting our 150+ Teaching Tips Sheets into the platform's catalogue system. We'll have this finished lickety-split. Thank you for your patience!

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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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