



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

## May 2021

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### Upcoming Events and Workshops

[Extended Reality Community of Practice: Preliminary Findings from a Research Project on the Use of XR Technologies at Waterloo, Guelph, and Manitoba](#)

Friday, June 4 — 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

[Teaching Dossiers and Philosophy Statements](#)

Wednesday, June 9 — 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

[WAI Inspired Wednesdays: Integrating Reflection into Your Course \(Waterloo Assessment Institute\)](#)

Wednesday, July 7 — 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

[WAI Inspired Wednesdays: Designing Authentic Assessment \(Waterloo Assessment Institute\)](#)

Wednesday, July 14 — 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

[Introduction to PebblePad: What is PebblePad and Why Would I Use it?](#)

Thursday, July 15 — 10:00 am to 11:30 am

[WAI Inspired Wednesdays: Academic Integrity and Alternatives to Final Exams \(Waterloo Assessment Institute\)](#)

Wednesday, July 21 — 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

[Introduction to PebblePad Part 2: Using PebblePad Features](#)

Thursday, July 29 — 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

[Supporting Student Mental Health \(for Instructors\)](#)

An ongoing, self-directed course in LEARN.

[Independent Remote Course Design Essentials \(iReCoDE\)](#)

An ongoing, self-directed course in LEARN.



### Monica Vesely: VLS Funding and FAUW Award!

CTE is proud to announce that a project led by staff member [Monica Vesely](#) (Educational Developer, Faculty Programs and Consulting) has received funding as part of [Ontario's Virtual Learning Strategy \(VLS\)](#). The VLS supports initiatives that will provide students with more flexibility and access to high-quality postsecondary education and retraining opportunities. Monica's project will develop an online version of the [Instructional Skills Workshop \(ISW\)](#), a teaching development program that is peer-based, learner-centered, and internationally recognized.



The project entails two teaching development workshops — the Online Instructional Skills Workshop (OISW) and the Online Facilitator Development Workshop (OFDW) — each with a user guide. Both workshops will come with a selection of activities and tool options to allow institutions to select those that work well for them. The project team includes colleagues from McMaster University, Mohawk College, and York University as well as Waterloo's Centre for Extended Learning (CEL).

CTE is also pleased to note that Monica has recently received an [FAUW Appreciation Award](#). The award recognizes individuals from across the University who have gone above and beyond to improve the lives of faculty members. Monica received the award for her thoughtful work on the New Faculty Planning Committee over the past few years, her leadership in redesigning orientation for online delivery in 2020, and the many other ways in which she welcomes new faculty members and helps to set them up for success. Well done, Monica!

### Waterloo Assessment Institute

Pre-pandemic, CTE offered the annual Waterloo Assessment Institute (WAI) focusing on the assignment as a means of assessing student learning. Through peer feedback and guided work time over a two-day intensive retreat, WAI helped individuals and program teams redesign key assignments in their courses. Whether you are an individual seeking to improve an assignment, or a team seeking to link an assignment or assignments "horizontally" (across courses in a term) or "vertically" (across courses in different terms or years), the WAI provides space, time, expertise, and peer feedback. We do plan to offer this again in the future when we can come together face-to-face.

For Spring 2021, we are offering instead three shorter, modified, online experiences retaining key elements of the WAI, each session focusing on one of three themes (you can choose one or more based on your own intentions for your assignment or assignments). By the end of each session, participants will leave with a draft redesigned assignment based on feedback from peers and teaching and learning consultants.

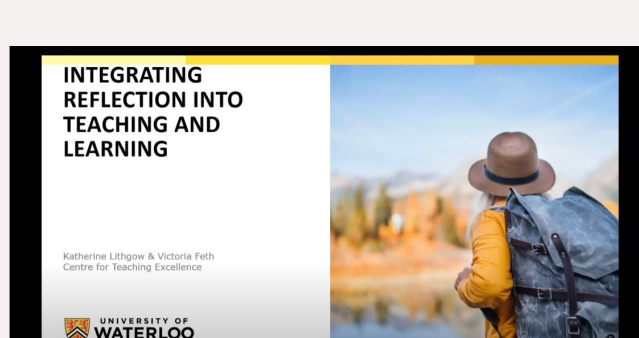
Topic	Dates/Times
<a href="#">Integrating Reflection into Your Course</a>	Workshop: Wednesday, July 7 - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  Workshop: Wednesday, July 14 - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
<a href="#">Authentic Assessment</a>	Drop-in (for participants from July 7 and 14): Wednesday, July 14 - 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Workshop: Wednesday, July 21 - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
<a href="#">Academic Integrity and Alternatives to Final Exams</a>	Drop-in (for participants from July 7, 14th and 21st): Wednesday, July 21 - 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
<b>Optional open work time for all participants</b>	Drop-in (for all past participants) Wednesday, July 28 - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

### CTE videos

The following two videos were recently developed by CTE staff members and are available on the CTE YouTube channel.

[Integrating Reflection into Teaching and Learning Webinar](#)

Presented by Katherine Lithgow and Victoria Feth



[Strategies for Maximizing the Affordances of Extended Reality Technologies in Teaching and Learning](#)

Presented by Mark Morton

### CTE Welcomes New Graduate-Student Staff Members

This term, CTE welcomed three PhD students who will be working with us as TA Workshop Facilitators: [Janet Jones](#) (ART), [Blessing Medon](#) (ENG) and [McLennon Wilson](#) (ART). In their roles with CTE, these graduate students will contribute to CTE's campus-wide TAs training programs by leading TA workshops and other sessions.

We are also pleased to have our current graduate-student colleague [Justin Murfitt](#) (ENV) starting in the role of Graduate Educational Developer. Justin will support graduate students who are participating in microteaching sessions and teaching observations.

Warm CTE welcome to our new graduate-student colleagues!

### CTE Kudos!

Did you know that CTE staff members have done a total of **17,891 consultations** with **5976 unique instructors and staff members** in the past five years?



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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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