

CTE

Centre for Teaching Excellence
at the University of Waterloo

IN THE LOOP

newsletter

September 2018

Sharing news, views, and upcoming events on teaching and learning at Waterloo



Message from the Director

In 2017, CTE conducted its first-ever Annual Review. One of the 13 recommendations emerging from that review was that we discontinue our traditional "PDF" newsletter ("Teaching Matters") as well as our CTE blog. Instead, we will communicate with the university community through this new medium, which we have named "In the Loop" in recognition that our work with Waterloo instructors and staff is both a collaborative and recursive process. "In the Loop" will be disseminated once a month, and will provide information about work that CTE has completed or undertaken, as well as upcoming activities and initiatives. If you have any feedback on "In the Loop," please let us know! -- [Donna Ellis](#), Director, CTE



CTE is on the move

As of August 1, 2018, CTE has been temporarily relocated to East Campus 3 (EC3), where we are sharing the second floor with the Centre for Extended Learning (CEL).

While the locations of offices and workshops have changed, we look forward to continuing to serve our campus community by offering our regular programs and services. If you have any questions or concerns about the move, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

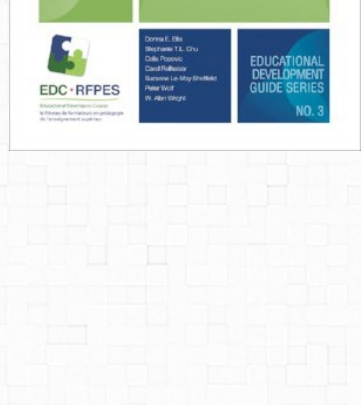
The Faculty of Environment's growth has necessitated this relocation; the search for a permanent home for our Centre is underway. Learn more about the move in the [Daily Bulletin announcement](#) from Mario Coniglio, Associate Vice-President, Academic, and Susan Tighe, Deputy Provost and Associate Vice-President, Integrated Planning and Budgeting.



LITE grants

Congratulations to the [recent LITE Seed Grant recipients!](#) The upcoming deadline for LITE Full Grants is **Monday, October 1**. More information on the [LITE Full Grants](#) can be found on our website; contact [Kristin Brown](#) to discuss your ideas and get support with your application.

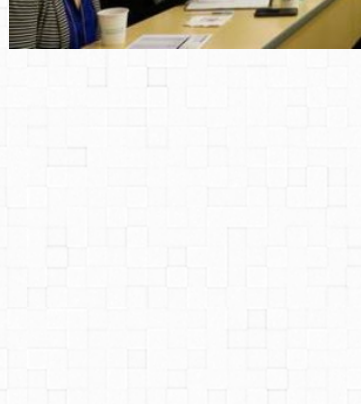
Incidentally, recipients of a 2017 Learning Innovation and Teaching Enhancement (LITE) Full Grant have launched a YouTube channel featuring 18 instructional videos with the support of the grant's funds. The channel, [Engineering Models](#), was created in 2015; the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering's Wayne Brodland, Rania Al-Hammoud, and Kayleanna Giesinger recently added 10 LITE-grant funded videos to the channel to augment key experiential learning activities that students undertake in CIVE 104.



CTE Director spearheads teaching centre review guide

CTE is excited to share the latest publication in the Educational Development Guide Series, [Centre Reviews: Strategies for Success](#), which is now available on the Educational Developers Caucus website. CTE's Director, Donna Ellis, led the development of the Guide, with six co-authors from institutions across Canada.

Centre reviews are becoming increasingly common in the field of educational development. They offer an important opportunity for members of a teaching and learning Centre to reflect critically on the direction and work of their Centre and to invite feedback from the communities and clients they serve. CTE undertook a Centre review in 2017; the [Self-Study](#) we developed for that external review distills several years of data as well as feedback solicited from numerous partners and stakeholders, and our [Final Assessment Report](#) responds to each of the recommendations made in the external review.



Record attendance at CTE's annual conference

On April 26th, faculty, staff, and students from across campus and beyond gathered to explore the roles motivation plays in how we learn and teach at the University of Waterloo's 10th annual Teaching and Learning Conference: Motivating Our Students and Ourselves.

Joe Kim, Associate Professor of Psychology, Neuroscience, and Behaviour at McMaster University, kicked off the conference with an exciting keynote talk exploring the connections between student motivation and what Kim calls "durable learning" — learning that remains with students long after the final exam.

The key to durable learning, according to Kim, is learning how to learn. This focus on metacognition was a key take-away for one of the conference attendees, Derek Robinson, Associate Professor of Geography and Environment and one of the Faculty of Environment's Teaching Fellows. "If we can learn to self-regulate," Robinson explains, "delaying immediate gratification now for greater reward later, then we would reduce mind wandering, focus our attention on a specific task, become more efficient, and subsequently be happier and less stressed."

Funded by the Office of the Associate Vice-President, Academic, the conference offers participants a full day of learning with their colleagues and peers as they share their educational research, teaching strategies, and more in interactive workshops, panel discussions, and presentations.

"It helped me build a more holistic view of motivation," said one participant, Amanda Garcia, a PhD candidate in Systems Design Engineering and recipient of the 2018 Amit and Meena Chakma Award for Exceptional Teaching by a Student. "Each of the sessions brought its own unique take on ways to motivate students, whether it be through the use of technology, classroom strategies, or teaching methods."

Garcia, who also teaches in the Faculties of Engineering and Environment, commented on how important the annual conference is to sustaining her own motivation as an instructor: "The conference is very special to me. It brings together such a wonderful teaching community. Knowing that other instructors are trying new things and taking risks gives me the impetus to do so as well."

Over 330 participants attended the conference this year, and over 150 authors contributed to the 66 sessions that filled the day – a high-water mark for conference organizers. "It was our biggest conference yet," said Crystal Tse, chair of the conference organizing committee and an instructional developer at the Centre for Teaching Excellence.

Tse attributes much of that success to participants. "Each year, participants share their feedback with us, and we listen. Last year's poster session wasn't well attended, so this year we approached the session in a new way. We were delighted to see so much engagement at the end of a long conference day."

Other new initiatives focused on inclusivity and accessibility. Name badges included a space for participants to indicate their pronouns, and were accompanied with a brief explainer on gender identity and pronoun use. The conference website linked to maps showing the locations of accessible entrances, elevators, and barrier-free and gender-neutral washrooms, and the organizing committee developed a new resource for presenters on how to design and deliver accessible presentations.

"It's not about growing larger each year," Tse says. "It's about creating a rich, meaningful environment for instructors at Waterloo to learn from and with one another about teaching and learning. We're so thankful to our volunteers, peer reviewers, and presenters for helping to make the day a success."



Experiential Learning Symposium: October 17, 2018

In recent years there has been unprecedented interest in experiential learning (EL), a hands-on process of learning in a real or simulated workplace that helps students develop skills and prepare for the transitioning to work. The EL Symposium will highlight existing EL initiatives and associated resources on campus. This full day Symposium is designed for instructors who want to integrate, or enhance their integration of EL within their courses and build sustainable capacity for experiential learning across campus. The EL Symposium will include a keynote presentation by Victor Saad, founder of the Experience Institute and breakout sessions to dive deeper into the EL themes most relevant to University of Waterloo instructors. This event is made possible through funding from the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skill Development.

CTE Events for Fall 2018

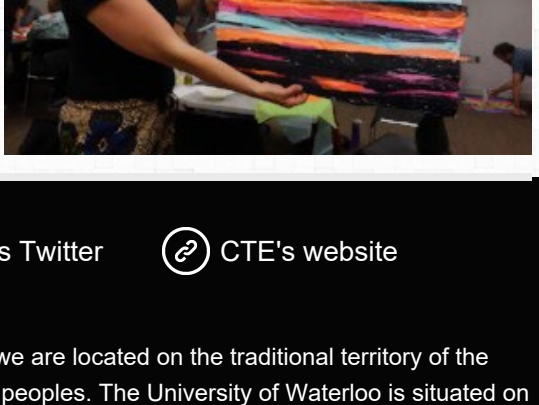
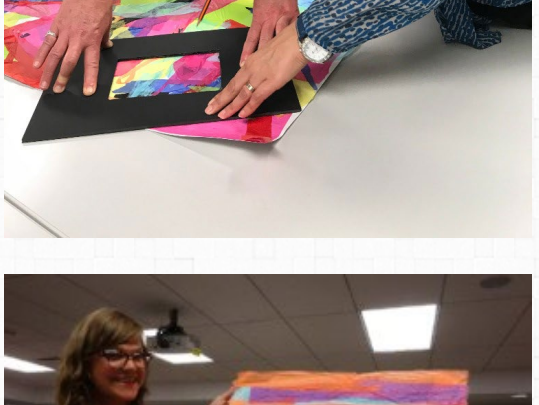
- [LEARN for TAs](#) Wed, Sept 12, 10:00-12:00
- [LEARN for TAs](#) Wed, Sept 12, 2:00-4:00
- [LEARN for TAs](#) Thu, Sept 13, 10:00-12:00
- [Designing Teaching and Learning Research](#) Wed, Sept 12, 12:00-1:30
- [Evaluating Clinical Skills](#): Program Outcomes Learning Community Group Thu, Sept 27, 9:30-11:00
- [Graduate Supervision Series](#) (Day 1 of 2) Fri, Sept 28. Further information: tholmes@uwaterloo.ca
- [Instructional Skills Workshop](#) Tue, Oct 23, Thu, Oct 25, and Tue, Oct 30, 8:30-4:30
- Collaborative Outcomes Development: Program Outcomes Learning Community Group Wed, Nov 21, 11:00-12:30

Focus on Teaching Week: October 15 to 19, 2018

- [Course Design Fundamentals](#) Mon, Oct 15, 9:30-3:30
- [Writing Effective Multiple Choice Questions](#) Tue, Oct 16, 9:30-11:00
- [Effective Written Assignments](#) Tue, Oct 16, 2:00-4:00 pm
- [Writing Cases](#) Thu, Oct 18, 1:30-4:30 pm
- [Graduate Supervision Series](#) (Day 2 of 2), Fri, Oct 19. Contract [Trevor Holmes](#) for details.
- More sessions being planned!

CTE PD day!

Our annual PD day occurred in May! Here are some photos of our staff at work and play!



CTE's Facebook page
 CTE's Twitter
 CTE's website

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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