

# IN THE LOOP



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

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September 2022

**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**

## New: Waterloo's Educational Technology Hub

The Evolving the EdTech Ecosystem project team is excited to announce the launch of the **Educational Technology (EdTech) Hub**, a new website that consolidates information about Waterloo's centrally-supported EdTech tools: that is, digital technology tools that are used to deliver and facilitate learning, learning activities, and aid in the creation and dissemination of content.

The EdTech Hub is not an exhaustive list but rather an evolving repository of EdTech tools that are supported at Waterloo under an institutional agreement and/or a recognized institutional responsibility for aspects of its use. The list of tools on the EdTech Hub supercedes the information about centrally-supported tools shared on the [Keep Learning site](#).

### What you can expect to find on the EdTech Hub:

- [Explore the centrally supported EdTech available now](#)
- [Get support on using these tools](#)
- [Review current EdTech projects and initiatives](#)
- [Learn how decisions about EdTech are made](#)

The EdTech Hub initiative was developed by staff from Information Systems & Technology, the Centre for Extended Learning, and the Centre for Teaching Excellence.

Questions can be directed to [Pam Fluttert](#), Director, Instructional Technologies and Media Services (ITMS), IST.

## CTE's New Educational Developers!

CTE is very pleased to share that as of this month, three new Educational Developers have joined our centre. [Madison Hill](#) and [Jessica Rumboldt](#) as Educational Developers, Indigenous Knowledges (IK); and [Nahannee Schuitemaker](#) as Educational Developer, Anti-Racist Pedagogies (ARP). These roles report to [Leslie Wexler](#), our Senior Educational Developer, IK and ARP. As the team forms (and they are already engaged in a number of projects that were awaiting their arrival), [Leslie](#) welcomes queries about IK and ARP initiatives in your departments and schools.

## Upcoming workshops and events

- **Thirty-Minute Thursdays: PebblePad**  
 Every Thursday till November 17 from 12:00 pm to 12:30 pm  
 Each of these brief sessions focuses on a different feature in PebblePad.
- **Teaching Squares** ([register by September 29!](#))  
**October 3 to December 7**  
 Teaching Squares provide a framework for reciprocal classroom visits and a debrief discussion that sets the stage for you to grow and revitalize your own teaching practice. **First piloted at Waterloo in 2010**, more than 110 instructors from all six faculties have participated in Teaching Squares.
- **The Instructional Skills Workshop**  
**October 13, 14, 17**  
 In this multi-day workshop, instructors help each other develop their teaching skills under the guidance of trained facilitators. At Waterloo, 345 instructors and staff have completed CTE's ISW programming, including the more recent OISW, which is the online version of the "traditional" face-to-face ISW.
- **XR Community of Practice: Extended Reality Technologies and Accessibility**  
**October 1, 1:30 to 2:30 pm online**  
 Extended Reality (XR) technologies have great potential for enhancing teaching and learning. However, accessibility is sometimes a challenge. In this session, staff from several academic support units will present on accessibility as it pertains to the use of XR technologies in teaching and learning. Although this session is part of [Waterloo's XR Community of Practice](#), everyone is welcome to attend.
- **SOTL Stories**  
**November 2 and November 9** from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm **online**  
 The scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) investigates teaching and learning and can include exploring a specific research question, engaging with the literature, collecting data, and sharing the results publicly. At Waterloo, this research is supported through the Learning Innovation and Teaching Enhancement (LITE) Grant program. Come hear from LITE Grant recipients who have conducted their own SoTL research.
- **The Facilitator Development Workshop.**  
**December 14, 15, 16, 19, 20**  
 The Facilitator Development workshop (FDW) is a five-day workshop that's taken to become a certified ISW facilitator. CTE has offered the FDW seven times, with a total of 66 completions, including 28 external participants from 16 different institutions. If interested in the FDW, please contact [Monica Vesely](#).

CTE also offers ongoing, self-paced learning opportunities in LEARN:

- [Independent Blended Course Design \(iBlend\)](#)
- [Supporting Student Mental Health \(for instructors\)](#)
- [Scholarship of Teaching and Learning \(SoTL\) Methods](#)

## Teaching and learning resources

### Back to In-Person Learning: Tips for Instructors

After years of remote learning, the transition back to in-person learning can be challenging for some students. With this in mind, the [Student Success Office](#), the [Centre for Teaching Excellence](#), [Agile Development](#) (Centre for Extended Learning), and University of Waterloo co-op undergraduate students collaborated to create [Back to In-Person Learning: Tips for Instructors](#).

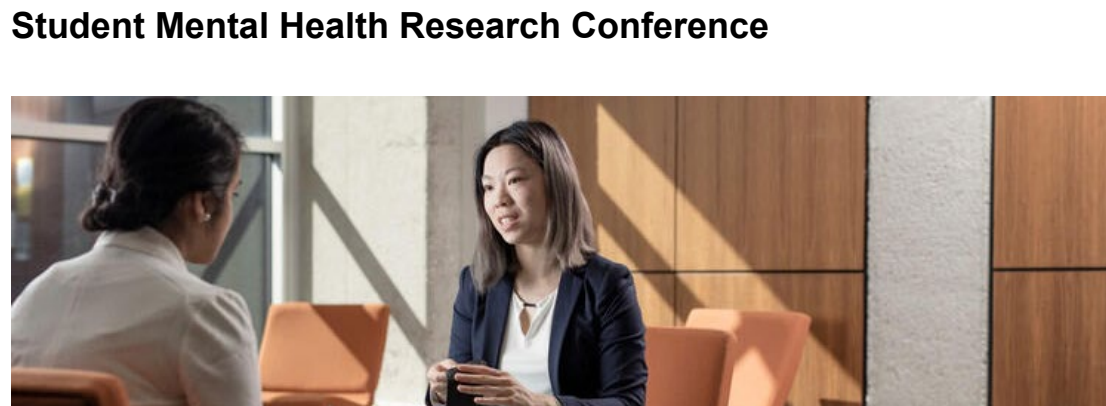
In this five-minute video (click the image below) you'll hear directly from students as they reflect on returning to in-person learning in fall 2022. We learn that students are excited to be back on campus but want their instructors to know a few things, such as students need to develop and/or strengthen key learning skills, and it's okay to ask for help. The video contains tips for instructors, and links to key resources are located in the video description.



**Abigail Edington**  
 4TH YEAR STUDENT, PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, FACULTY OF ARTS



### Student Mental Health Research Conference



The University of Waterloo **Student Mental Health Research Conference is on October 19th, 2022**, during Thrive month. The goal of this event is to bring together members of the Waterloo community to share knowledge, connect researchers, and promote mental wellness. Presentations will focus on the following themes:

- Promotion of mental health-care strategies;
- Suicide prevention;
- Impact of trauma and sexual violence;
- Equity and mental wellness e.g., effects of inequities on the mental health of equity-deserving groups such as Indigenous, Black and other racialized people, LGBTQAI2S+, people with disabilities;
- Harm reduction approaches to substance use; and
- Impact of COVID-19 on mental health.

Registration and the schedule of sessions will be available soon. Visit the [Thrive website](#) for more information.

### Teaching Assistant Handbook

CTE has developed a [Teaching Assistant Handbook](#) full of resources that will help Teaching Assistants in their courses.

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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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