

IN THE LOOP

The Monthly Newsletter from the Centre for Teaching Excellence

September 2023

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Upcoming Workshops and Events**
- **Instructional Innovations Week**
- **Instructional Skills Workshop**
- **Teaching Squares**
- **TA Training**
- **Student-Led, Individually-Created Courses (SLICCs) in the Incubator**
- **LITE Grants: LITE Grant Recipients and Next Deadline**
- **New Resources**
- **Staff Changes**

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

With the start of a new term, CTE has a full roster of workshops to offer instructors and staff, new instructors, graduate students, and postdocs. We offer workshops in several modes: face-to-face, hybrid, fully online, and self-directed (LEARN-based). Check out the [complete schedule](#).

Instructional Innovations Week

Instructional Innovations Week is scheduled for October 16 to 20. In celebration of evolving teaching practices, CTE has created Instructional Innovations Week, a series of sessions devoted to EdTech and Generative AI, Scholarship of Teaching & Learning, Student Engagement and Wellness, Sustainability, and more. Twelve sessions will be delivered over four days. Registration is free and all are welcome to attend.

Instructional Innovations Week 2023

Instructional Skills Workshop

The **Instructional Skills Workshop** will be offered again in October. This three-day workshop is an intensive, collaborative, and experiential learning model that uses video-recorded micro-teaching and peer feedback sessions to support the teaching reflection and development of both new and experienced instructors. The ISW promotes participatory learning and community building and encourages examination of teaching practices, with feedback focused on the learning process rather than on the specific content of the lesson.

Teaching Squares

Teaching Squares are ideal for instructors interested in broadening their exposure to different teaching techniques and styles by taking part in reciprocal classroom visits with other instructors. The focus is on self-reflection and take-aways gained from observing other teachers in action rather than on evaluating your peers. The total time commitment over the term is approximately 6 hours. If you are teaching this coming Fall term (2023) and you are interested in being a part of a teaching squares group, please contact [Katie Damphouse](#) by Monday, September 11, 2023.

TA Training

Is your department interested in providing training for your fall teaching assistants? For an overview of TA training available through CTE, visit [TA Training: Information for Instructors and Coordinators](#). Questions? Contact cte-grad@uwaterloo.ca.

SLICCs in TII

Waterloo's [Teaching Innovation Incubator](#) (TII) has recently accepted another important project: the [Student-Led, Individually Created Course \(SLICCs\) framework](#). Developed at the University of Edinburgh, SLICCs are a self-directed learning approach that offers benefits to both students and instructors by collaboratively shaping educational experiences. The framework aims to equip learners with the essential skills needed to navigate the complexities of our modern world, which aligns with Waterloo's strategic priority to "develop talent for a complex future."

SLICCs

Student-Led
Individually-Created
Courses

Contact
CTE's
Katherine
Lithgow to
learn more
about
SLICCs!

LITE Grants: Recipients

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

- Chris Rennick, Ada Hurst, Reem Roufai, Christine Moresoli, Derek Rayside, Sanjeev Bedi: [Sustainability Toolkit for Engineering Design Instructors](#)
- Robert Hill, Laura Ingram, Megan McCarthy, Jason Thompson: [Assessing Student Behaviour During Active-Learning Activities for Improved Student Outcome](#)
- Mathieu Feagan, Leslie Wexler, Madison Hill, Vanessa Schweizer, Knowledge Integration: [Knowledge Relations for Just and Sustainable Futures: A two-row learning approach to climate complexity](#)
- Greta Kroeker, Rebecca MacAlpine: [Empowering Instructors: A Handbook of Trauma-Informed Feminist Pedagogy Resources for the Instruction of Traumatic Historical Topics](#)
- Rania Al-Hammoud: [Efficacy of Competency Based Learning and Assessments on Student Achievement and Engagement](#)
- Brendan Riffin, Donna Kotsopoulos, Boba Samuels: [Using Open Educational Resources for Universal Design for Learning: Evaluating the Impact on Student Success and Accessibility](#)

[LITE Seed Grants](#) support small-scale teaching and learning research projects with three rounds a year. The next deadline is Monday, October 2, if you are interested in submitting a project proposal, please book a consultation with [Annik Bilodeau](#) (Educational Developer, Research and Consulting) and [Brianna Bennett](#) (Educational Research Associate).

LITE Grants: Next Deadline

The next deadline for CTE's LITE Grant program is approaching: **October 2**. LITE Grants provide support for investigating student learning and alternative approaches to teaching and assessing student learning at the individual, departmental, faculty, or institutional levels. The overall aims are to foster deep student learning and promote curiosity, reflection, and exploration in the areas of teaching and learning.

More information about the LITE Grants, descriptions of projects by previous LITE Grant recipients, and the application form are available on the [Research and Grants](#) section of our website.

New CTE Resources

We're in the middle of a big project! Namely — reviewing, updating, and overhauling our [repository of 150+ Teaching Tips](#). The Teaching Tips provide succinct, evidence-based, practical strategies to enhance teaching and learning in the classroom and online. Here are a few that have already undergone major revision.

- [Language for Effectively Communicating Assignments](#)
- [Meeting Strategies for Group Work](#)
- [Planning a Lesson](#)
- [Types of Assignments and Assessments](#)
- [Matching Assignments to the Level of Study](#)
- [Backchannel Tools](#)

We've also just published this new Teaching Tip:

- [Enabling Uptake of Instructor Feedback Through Feedback Literacy](#)

Staff Changes

CTE has several changes in staff to announce!

CTE is happy to welcome back **Natalie Chow** from her leave! Natalie is CTE's Faculty Liaison: Health, Psychology, Sociology & Legal Studies, and Support Units. We also say farewell and thank you to **Laura Williams**, who filled the Liaison while Natalie was away. Laura isn't going far though - she is joining the Faculty of Health as a definite term lecturer for the next two years! Congratulations, Laura!

Kim Boucher, as of September 5, will be CTE's new Administrative Assistant.

Additionally, **Tanraj Dulai** and **Charlie Uebele** have both joined our team as Co-op Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee Peoples.

To see a complete list of CTE's staff members check out our [profiles page](#).



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](#).

Copyright © 2023 Centre for Teaching Excellence. All rights reserved.

Centre for Teaching Excellence
University of Waterloo
Waterloo, ON, Canada, N2H 3A3

Email: cte@uwaterloo.ca
To unsubscribe from this monthly email, [click here](#)

