University of Waterloo Teaching and Learning Conference
Opportunities and New Directions
Thursday, April 30, 2015

"Making Teaching and Learning Visible"
Clarifying and Communicating Teaching and Learning Processes

CALL FOR PROPOSALS
Proposal Submission Deadline: Monday, February 2, 2015

Conference website (contains information about registration, our Keynote and Igniting Our Practice sessions, and other resources)

Conference Theme

How do we know what students already know, what they don't know, and what they have learned? How can we make the thinking underlying our instructional decisions more explicit for ourselves, our students, and our colleagues?

There is much about teaching and learning that remains unintentionally hidden and unspoken. What can we do to clarify and communicate the processes that underlie teaching and learning, so that learners and teachers are working towards the same outcomes?

For OND 2015, we welcome proposals related to the many facets and foci of making learning and teaching salient at the course or program level, during work terms or internships, face-to-face or online. We invite you to share with your colleagues any insights gained through practice and/or research.

Ideas to consider

- Using assessment as a window into what students have learned and/or where they are stumbling (consider assignment design, criteria and standards for grading, e-portfolios, ideas for providing feedback about progress, etc.)
- Connecting work-term and on-campus learning
- Clarifying course/program/degree learning outcomes and learning trajectories for students
- Defining learning in your course, program, and/or discipline
- Making content visible by clarifying course or program content (through mapping, identifying key building blocks and stumbling blocks, such as bottlenecks and threshold concepts, etc.)
- Modelling skills or ways of thinking (through demonstrations, clinics, apprenticeships, etc.)
- Encouraging student reflection, so that learning becomes visible to students
- Making the processes and products of learning visible for different people, such as teachers, students, accreditation agencies, employers, etc.

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Proposal guidelines and formats

We invite you to submit a proposal to the University of Waterloo's 2015 Teaching and Learning conference. Please consider the following when developing your proposal:

- Proposals should be related to the conference theme and/or its sub-questions.
- Proposals may be research-based, practice-based, or both.
- Consider how your work can be relevant to people from a variety of disciplines.
- Consider the following: if participants were to leave with just one useful idea from your session, what would it be?
- Individuals may *present* in a maximum of two sessions. Individuals may be *authors,* however, on more than two sessions. The proposal submission form has separate fields for listing presenters and authors.
- Proposals are limited to 300 words.

Session formats include the following options

- Presentation: 20 minutes, plus 5-minute discussion period. Share an approach (practice-based), present empirical findings, or examine theoretical or methodological issues (research-based).
- Panel Discussion: 60 minutes. With a panel of colleagues, address different topics related to the Conference theme and/or its sub-questions. Topics may include insights from practice, research, or both. Panels may relate to one discipline, several disciplines, or integrate insights gained from working in an interdisciplinary/multi-disciplinary way. Panels should involve three to five panelists, as well as a moderator, and should include a discussion period of 15 to 20 minutes.
- Workshop: 60 minutes. Take participants through the process of designing and implementing a strategy that you have used and the insights gained from using that strategy, with some hands-on time built in.

Proposal review criteria
- Clarity of proposal
- Relevance of proposal to the conference theme
- Clarity of intended session objectives and learning outcomes
- Relevance to people across disciplines
- Proposal ideas situated within the relevant literature or best practices

A blind peer-review process will be used to assess the proposal submissions. Reviewers will be faculty and staff members from the University of Waterloo, as well as past Conference attendees from other institutions. Notice of proposal acceptance will be communicated in early March 2015.

For questions about the Conference, you may contact either Dr. Julie Timmermans (julie.timmermans@uwaterloo.ca), or Dr. Crystal Tse (ctse@uwaterloo.ca) at the Centre for Teaching Excellence.

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