University of Waterloo Teaching and Learning Conference
Opportunities and New Directions
Thursday, May 1, 2014

Rethinking and Reframing the Assessment of Learning

CALL FOR PROPOSALS
Submission Due Date: Friday, January 31, 2014

Conference Theme

Assessing student learning can be both one of the most challenging and one of the most rewarding aspects of teaching. Issues of volume, time, fairness, and emotion can bring frustration. But assessment provides an opportunity to gain insight into learners' developing understanding. How can assessment be seen as a benefit, rather than a burden? What if we were to see assessment as something that is done *for learning*, rather than *to students*? For OND 2014, we welcome proposals related to the many facets and foci of assessment (course level, work-term, program-level, online). We invite you to share with your colleagues any insights gained about assessment of student learning through practice and/or through research.

Questions to consider

- How have you collected, analysed, and used assessment data to inform or change your instructional practices? How has this affected your students' learning?
- What approaches to assessment do you use that challenge norms in your discipline?
- What relationship have you observed between assessment and (deep) learning?
- What similarities and differences exist in assessing common skills or concepts across disciplines?
- What strategies have you developed for doing assessment with limited resources (e.g., time, lack of TA support, etc.)?
- How has the idea of assessment as an opportunity to gain insight into students' learning been a bottleneck or threshold concept in your teaching?
- How do you prepare students for assessment? How is space created for practice and/or failure in assessment?

Proposal guidelines and formats

We invite you to submit a proposal to the University of Waterloo's 2014 Teaching and Learning conference. Please consider the following when developing your proposal:

- Proposals must 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 be involved in a maximum of two proposals, and only one as the first author.
- Proposals are limited to 300 words.

Session formats include the following options

- Presentation: 20 minutes, plus 5-minute discussion period. Share an assessment 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 an assessment strategy that you have used and the insights gained from using that strategy, with some hands-on time built in.
- Roundtable: Facilitate a discussion of 20 minutes for a group of 8-10 people. This format is ideal for exploring emerging ideas. Facilitators will be expected to run the discussion two consecutive times during one of the concurrent session timeslots to allow attendees to participate in two roundtables. A small number of proposals for this session format will be accepted.

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
- Appropriateness of type of participant engagement

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 or rejection will be communicated in early March 2014.