

Photo by Hunter Newton on Unsplash



Focus on Teaching - April 2021

Dear Faculty,

As we close another winter term and start dreaming of warmer days, we are excited to announce our series of spring PD sessions for all faculty. This year we're launching an online version of [Interculturalizing the Curriculum](#) in partnership with the Faculty of Student Development, as well as another round of the popular [Instructional Skills Workshop](#) among other offerings.



We are also pleased to welcome Lorri Weaver (pictured) to our team! She'll be leading two versions of the Course Re-Design Institute (one [paced](#), one week-long [intensive](#)) and multiple workshop on the topics of enhancing student connection using technology and motivation, scaffolding and individual learning paths.

See you there!

COVID-19 Safety on Campus

Our top priority is your safety and that of our TRU community. Visit [TRU's COVID-19 Response website](#) to keep yourself up to date.

Professional Development

Faculty Development & Feedback

We've added a new page to the CELT web site called Faculty Development and Feedback. Here you'll find useful resources for administering your Student Course Evaluations, including a reflection worksheet; a library of tools for conducting Peer Reviews; and an overview of the Teaching Triangles program. [Check them all out here.](#)



Read One, Join One:

Not your usual book club

Tuesdays, until April 13, Noon-1 p.m. via BlueJeans



CELT and Learning Technology and Innovation are teaming up to facilitate discussions from [Critical Digital Pedagogy](#), an open-access collection of articles from the journal Hybrid Pedagogy that have been composed by world-class scholars and curated by Jesse Stommel, Chris Friend, and Sean Michael Morris.

Articles will be posted in the calendar in advance, so you can join the discussions that interest you.

April 6: [Article 10. But You Can't Do That in a STEM course!](#)

April 13: [Article #1: 26. A Pedagogy of Kindness](#); [Article #2: 14. Listening for Student Voices](#)

CELTalk: Project Based Learning Tool

Thursday, April 15, 2021, Noon - 1 p.m.



Come learn about how you can incorporate experiential, project-based learning into your courses! TRU faculty have access to the **Riipen** platform which helps higher education educators easily launch, manage, track and report on project-based learning happening in the classroom.

In this session you will learn about how short-term project-based engagements complement existing work-integrated learning (WIL) and experiential learning (EL) programs by providing opportunities for emerging talent to engage authentically with companies year-round before they complete their degree. [Register here.](#)

Virtual Writing Sessions

Fridays, 9-10 a.m. via BlueJeans

Why not put aside some time to work on your writing projects and goals?

The Library offers a weekly writing group, providing a quiet (virtual) space to join with faculty and staff at TRU. If you're interested, please reach out to Amy Paterson in the TRU Library at apaterson@tru.ca.

Attend with a Friend

April 19 - 22, Various times, via Moodle & MS Teams

These 1- hour workshops are focused on supporting you in finding a small thing that you can tweak in an upcoming course you are teaching to maximize student learning. Reach out to a colleague and sign up together!



People photo created by master1305 from Freepik

[Visit our calendar](#) to find a session that works for your schedule.

Enhance Student Connection Using Technology

Now more than ever, it is important to maintain a sense of community in our classes. The workshop draws from literature related to the **social** presence within the community of inquiry framework, but takes a practical approach.

Motivation, Scaffolding and Individual Learning Paths

Is there a big idea or process in your course that students struggle to understand? This workshop draws from literature related to the **cognitive** presence within the community of inquiry framework, but takes a practical approach.

Intro to Peer Review of Teaching and Instructional Support Wednesday, April 21, 1-2:30 p.m. via Teams

You're invited to come out and learn more about the newly developed peer review of teaching and instructional support process. It's adaptable, scalable, flexible, and iterative—and designed to support faculty in reflecting on and improving their professional practice. Come and learn how it can benefit you. All faculty are welcome. [Register here](#).

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Community of Practice Interviews and Focus Groups Friday, April 23, Noon-1 p.m. via MS Teams

Join Catharine Dishke, Director of CELT to learn about the advantages and benefits of each of these information gathering strategies to inform your SoTL projects, and more. [Register here](#).

Instructional Skills Workshop May 3-14, via Moodle

Synchronous sessions: May 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 14 @ 1-3 p.m.

The Instructional Skills Workshop (ISW) is a professional development program designed for faculty members who are interested in developing and enhancing their instructional skills. The workshop consists of teaching practice, theory application, and topical sessions specifically relevant to each instructor's context. In a supportive atmosphere, you will have opportunities to develop new teaching skills, enhance existing skills, and try new and challenging strategies. [Register here](#).



Spring Workshop Offerings (May/June)

- [Instructional Skills Workshop](#) May 3-14 (includes synchronous sessions)

- [Interculturalizing the Curriculum](#) May 11-18 {registration open soon}
- [Course \(Re\)design Institute - Paced](#) (over 5 weeks), starting May 17
- [Course \(Re\)design Institute - Intensive](#) (5 days), starting June 21

Learning Technology & Innovation

Moodle Support

Every Tuesday-Thursday, 10 a.m.- Noon & 2-4 p.m.
[Drop-in and meet with a Moodle expert.](#)

To see the programming available and to register visit the [Learning Technology and Innovations Calendar](#)

Connect by accessing [Support for Virtual Delivery](#) or email moodlesupport@tru.ca.



Learning Technology Podcast

[You Got This](#) is produced by the Learning Technology and Innovation (LTI) team at Thompson Rivers University to provide just-in-time teaching and learning encouragement and support to our campus community. It's designed to support you when you need it with weekly episodes offering tips, advice, insights, and conversations with folks from across our campus community.



Your Host:

Brenna Clarke Gray, Coordinator, Learning Technology, LTI @ TRU

Conferences

Visit our [External Conferences](#) page to get up to date information on upcoming conferences, including links and submission deadlines.

Here's a sneak peek at what's on there right now: [\[See More\]](#)



Apr 27-29, 2021 Cascadia Open Education Summit (Online) [Conference website](#)

Apr 28-29, 2021 University of Waterloo Teaching and Learning Conference (Online) [Conference website](#)

May 3-5, 2021 Taylor Institute, University of Calgary Conference on Postsecondary Learning and Teaching (Online) [Conference website](#)

May 30 - Jun 1, 2021 Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education (2020)
(Online) [Conference website](#)

Jun 7-11, 2021 STLHE Annual Conference (Online) [Conference website](#)

Jun 17-18, 2021 University of Windsor International Teaching Symposium (Online)
Submission deadline: March 19, 2021 [Conference website](#)

Jul 7-10, 2021 Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia
Brisbane, Australia [Conference website](#)

Opportunities

International Journal on Innovations in Online Education

Deadline: May 1, 2021 for the Summer issue

[Call for Submissions - Scholarship of Online Teaching and Learning](#)

Did you know that CELT has a blog?

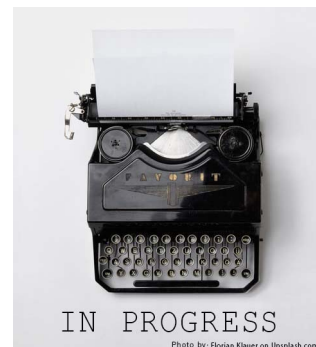
It's called *In Progress*. [Click to view our latest posts.](#)

[Success worth keeping: From remote to Face-to-Face](#)

By Lorraine Weaver

As we look forward to being back in the classroom in the fall, we think about the pleasure of being back face-to-face with students... [{more}](#).

Do you have a tip or strategy to share with colleagues? An idea for an article? Would you like to be a featured author on our blog? Contact Carolyn Ives at cives@tru.ca with your idea!



Cascade Journal of Knowledge

The Cascade Journal of Knowledge disseminates knowledge (open-access) from scholars and enhances the scholarship of teaching and learning. The journal achieves this through a unique and innovative journal format: scholars submit a screen-cast/video/podcast (3-8 minutes) of an academic topic that is double-blind peer-reviewed. This year you may be interested in creating a screen-cast, podcast, or video assignment with your students!



Visit the [website](#) to learn more or contact Russell Currie in SoBE.

Recommended Readings

Cangialosi, K., (2020). But You Can't Do That in a STEM Course!. *Critical Digital Pedagogy*. [Link](#).

Denial, C. (2020). A Pedagogy of Kindness. *Critical Digital Pedagogy*. [Link](#).

Haverila, M. & Rangarajan, A. (2021). Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions. *Cascade Journal of Knowledge*, volume 2 (1), 7:42. [Link](#).

Morris, S.M. & Friend, C. (2020). Listening for Student Voices. *Critical Digital Pedagogy*. [Link](#).

Have you written, performed, or created something you'd like to share? Email us at CELT@tru.ca to put it in our next newsletter!

P.S. Don't forget you can rewatch your favourite or discover a new **CELTalk** anytime!

Focus on Teaching is the monthly newsletter of the Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT). We showcase instructional development opportunities and resources for TRU faculty and staff, and up-to-date information on current projects, initiatives and professional development opportunities. To read past issues of Focus on Teaching or to subscribe to our mailing list, visit our [Newsletters page](#).

We respectfully acknowledge that TRU is located ne Secwepemcúl'ecw, in unceded Secwepemc territory.

To contact CELT, email celt@tru.ca and we will do our best to respond within 24 hours. Please note that our team is working remotely for the time being.

