

# Teaching Commons

## Faculty Newsletter

Teaching Commons Faculty Newsletter January 2021

To view all our upcoming offerings, [here is the link to our events calendar](#)



The Teaching Commons is a positive and safe space where faculty, graduate students, and staff from across our campuses can engage in professional development activities related to any aspect of teaching and learning. We offer a broad range of learning opportunities including individual workshops and consultations, comprehensive courses, certificates, and research related to teaching. Our team is ready to help you explore best practices and innovative strategies, support program renewals and course design, and offer guidance specific to York institutional priorities. We are here to help connect you to a network of colleagues, scholarly resources, and evidence-based practice to explore and develop your teaching in new and unimagined ways.

### eCampus

eCampusOntario has released its call for Expressions of Interest (EOIs) in support of the Government of Ontario's \$50 million Virtual Learning Strategy (VLS). This strategy is intended to expand the possibilities of traditional and life-long learning through the accelerated use of both online and hybrid learning. For more information about the Virtual Learning Strategy please visit:

English: <https://vls.ecampusontario.ca/>

Français: <https://vls.ecampusontario.ca/fr/>

You are invited to submit an EOI between January 6 and **February 3, 2021 at 11:59pm ET**. Please download EOI documentation for more details on eligibility. For further questions please contact: [inquiry@ecampusontario.ca](mailto:inquiry@ecampusontario.ca).

### Invitation to join the "Early Career Educators" Learning Community

We invite all early career educators in the first three years of teaching to join a dedicated learning community. Through synchronous and asynchronous forums, you will have a "place" to discuss and reflect on your teaching practices and develop a community of scholars. The learning community is framed around the Engaged teaching model at York University.

[Here is the link to join](#)



---

## Now Open! Winter 2021 Courses in the Certificate of Proficiency in Teaching for eLearning

Enhance your expertise in the pedagogy of online teaching and learning with this certificate, delivered wholly online. The Teaching Commons is pleased to announce four courses over the Winter 2021 semester which can be taken as stand-alone offerings or count towards completion of this certificate.

[Here is the link to learn more about the Certificate of Proficiency in Teaching for eLearning.](#)

For more information and to register in Winter 2021 courses, click on the course title below.

- [Creative Course Content: Instructional Strategies for Online Learning \(Jan. 25-Feb. 26, 2021\)](#)
- [Assessing Learning Online: Grading, Evaluation, and Feedback \(Feb. 22-Mar. 26, 2021\)](#)
- [Taking It Online: Making the Transition From the Face-to-Face Classroom \(Mar. 22-Apr. 16, 2021\)](#)
- [Access and Equity in Online Teaching and Learning \(Mar. 22-Apr. 23, 2021\)](#)



---

## Experiential Education Symposium – January 28, 2021

The Experiential Education (EE) Symposium showcases experiential education at York and celebrates the achievements of students and faculty who have participated in EE. This multi-disciplinary, annual event will be held on January 28, 2020. All faculty, staff, and students are invited to attend! This year's event will be held virtually.

[Here is the link for more information and to register to attend](#)

---

## Reading for Teaching – Winter 2021 Kick Off Meeting

A collaborative program co-facilitated by the Teaching Commons and York University Libraries; our Reading for Teaching program is an informal, collegial opportunity to engage with colleagues from across campus interested in reading together. We are launching a semester-long opportunity to read collectively and collaboratively with the goal of exploring topics in online or remote learning.

Join us on Tuesday, January 12 from 10-11:30am at our launch event on Zoom to learn more and to help us decide on our common read. Participants will connect asynchronously throughout the term before meeting again on Zoom in April to reflect and debrief on their common reading experience.

[Here is the link to register](#)



## **Inclusive Design: Building Principles of Equity into Teaching and Learning (Feb. 3-Apr. 16, 2021)**



This online course is offered to course directors as an opportunity to integrate pedagogical principles of equity and inclusion within their own teaching contexts (online/remote, blended, or face-to-face) through a peer-based format. With an emphasis on Universal Design for Learning (UDL), we will explore how to increase flexibility and accessibility by applying a framework for multiple means of representation, expression, and engagement. A key goal of this course is to address issues of accessibility, inclusivity, diversity, and academic honesty.

[Here is the link to learn more and to register](#)

---

## **Teaching and Learning in Experiential Education**



This is a one semester program offered virtually (using Zoom and eClass) to course directors as an opportunity to explore the pedagogy and planning involved in designing, facilitating, and assessing experiential education activities in their courses through a peer-based format. Its main purpose is to provide guidance in the development of an experiential education course or an experiential activity as part of a course. At the end of the course, you will have a personalized action plan to help you with your current or future experiential education endeavors. The Winter 2021 session begins on Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>.

[Here is the link to register](#)

---

## **Join a Teaching Commons CoP (Community of Practice)**



The Teaching Commons is seeking members of our York Community to come together as teaching and learning community of practice (CoP) to help enhance our teaching and learning practices. CoPs will offer opportunities to engage in collegial professional development as you discuss and share experiences. We welcome any topic related to teaching and learning in higher education.

For more information or to request a CoP proposal form, please contact Mandy Frake-Mistak at [mfmistak@yorku.ca](mailto:mfmistak@yorku.ca)

---