



Focus on Teaching - February 2021

Dear Faculty,

Though we miss gathering with everyone in person, we look forward to joining together in a new format this year at TPC 2021. This year's theme, [Teaching and Learning Without Walls](#), will showcase a variety of approaches and strategies that TRU community members have used to support the student experience in an unprecedented year of challenges.

February is also [Black History Month](#), which highlights opportunities to learn more and honour the contributions of Black Canadians to the community. We encourage everyone to take a look at the [reading list](#) of books available in the TRU library as well as this page of [educational resources](#). [Niagara College](#) also has an excellent set of resources for faculty who wish to learn more.

We here in CELT continue to work remotely, but that doesn't mean we are far away. Use our [consultation form](#), or [email](#) us directly to work through sticky teaching challenges, or brainstorm new approaches to student engagement.

COVID-19 Safety on Campus

Our top priority is your safety and that of our TRU community. However, reducing the spread of COVID-19 is a shared responsibility. Please be mindful of your actions and the impact they can have on members of our community. Visit [TRU's COVID-19 Response website](#) to keep yourself up to date.



Professional Development

Read One, Join One:

Not your usual book club

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



Photo by Danny Müller on Unsplash

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.

February Articles:

(click on the article title to register)

February 2: [Article 18. Librarian as Outsider](#)

February 9: [Article 7. Critical Pedagogy: Intentions and Realities](#) & [Article 15. On, on, on](#)

February 16: No Book Club (TPC)

February 23: [Article 6. Our Bodies Encoded: Algorithmic Test Proctoring in Higher Education](#)

New(ish) Faculty Community of Practice

Tuesday, February 9, 2:30-4 p.m. via MS Teams

February's topic: Academic Integrity

All faculty are welcome! During this session we will talk about the current climate and trends of academic integrity at TRU. Focus will be on how to create a climate of integrity, how to prevent departures of integrity, and how to detect departures of integrity. We will end this session answering questions and connecting participants to available supports at TRU. [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.

TRU Faculty Merit Awards Submission Deadline

Sunday, February 14, 11:59 p.m.

The Faculty Excellence Award, President's Distinguished Teacher Award, and the Award for Excellence in Interculturalization recognize outstanding faculty.

For more information, including criteria and how to submit an application package, please visit our [Awards & Fellowships](#) page on our website.

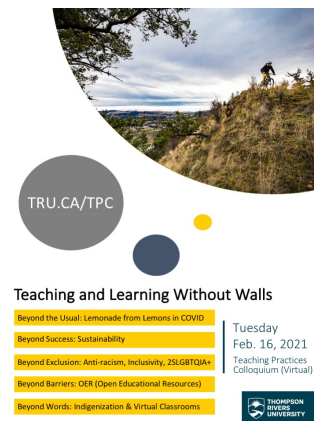
17th Annual Teaching Practices Colloquium

Teaching and Learning Without Walls

Tuesday, February 16 (Virtual Format)

The 17th Annual [Teaching Practices Colloquium](#) will be held on February 16, 2021 in a virtual format. This year's theme, *Teaching and Learning Without Walls*, explores five distinct themes that encourage us to *go beyond*. Visit the [TPC webpage](#) to learn more.

- Beyond the Usual: Lemonade from Lemons in COVID
- Beyond Success: Sustainability
- Beyond Exclusion: Anti-racism, Inclusivity, 2SLGBTQIA+
- Beyond Barriers: OER (Open Educational Resources)
- Beyond Words: Indigenization & Virtual Classrooms



Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Community of Practice

February 26, 1-2 p.m. via MS Teams

Interested in learning more about SoTL? Or maybe you're already engaged in a SoTL project? Wherever you're at, these monthly gatherings will connect you with other faculty and helpful resources and information to start, advance, or finalize a SoTL project. Please join us! [Register here](#).

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

Open Education Resources

Community College Consortium for Open Education Resources Faculty Showcase: Inclusive Open Course Design and Materials Wednesday, February 10, 9 a.m. - Noon

The OER movement is deeply rooted in ensuring equitable access to information; but there is more we can do to help increase equity, diversity, and inclusion in our course resources. Join us for a showcase of how faculty are making their course design and teaching materials more inclusive. Faculty from the humanities, social sciences, and STEM disciplines will present. [Learn more and register here.](#)

Cascadia Open Education Summit April 27-29 2021

This free digital conference explores innovation, research, and best practices in open education around the theme of “Regional influence. Global impact.” [Learn more here.](#)



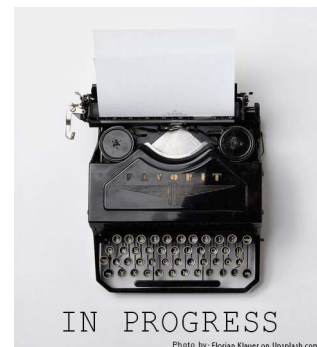
Opportunities

Did you know that CELT has a blog?

It's called [In Progress](#), and it features two new posts:

[Pandemic Pedagogy Tip #3: Audio, Video, or Both?](#) by Cael Field from TRU's Respiratory Therapy program.

And [Pandemic Pedagogy Tip #4: Authentic Assessment](#) by Ben Lovely from TRU's Trades program.



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!

Research Funding Opportunity (Up to \$6,000) BCcampus

This research funding opportunity is specifically targeted to Indigenous researchers who are investigating a range of topics related to teaching and learning in higher ed including:

- **Online learning and teaching**, with a special interest in projects about “pivoting” online; strategies for alternative assessments and exams (e.g., moving away from online or face-

to-face proctored exams); experiential learning online (e.g., how to do hands-on or lab work online); and digital literacies

- **Open educational practices (OEP)**, including implementing open assignments and activities and the impact of OEP on teaching and learning in post-secondary education
- **Indigenization and decolonization** in B.C. post-secondary teaching and learning
- **Trades education** in B.C. post-secondary teaching and learning
- **Equity, diversity, and inclusion** in B.C. post-secondary teaching and learning

Deadline for submissions: Sunday, February 14, 2021. Visit [BCcampus Research Fellows 2020-2021](#) for more information.

Educational Developers Caucus 2021 Conference

February 17 & 18, 2021 via Zoom

Sessions include:

- Keynote by Klodiana Kolomitro & Natasha Kenny - Caring for our community: When will well-being be a priority?
- Self-care sessions by professionals
- [Facilitated discussion sessions](#) on EDI in educational development (ED), ED in times of change, Indigenization in ED, contract positions in ED, transitioning from college to university, and pivoting with the pandemic to respond to instructors needs.
- Celebrate 5 minute video sessions to share tools, strategies, and practice

Learn more and register on the [conference website](#).

International Centre for Academic Integrity Conference

March 1-4, Noon-4 p.m. via Whova (Desktop or Phone)

Technology, Current Research, Policy Issues, and Student, Institutional, and Practitioner experiences

If you are interested in attending the 2021 International Centre for Academic Integrity Annual Conference, or any part of the 4 day event, please forward your name to AIC@tru.ca before registering.

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

Almeida, N. (2020). Librarian as Outsider. *Critical Digital Pedagogy*. [Link](#).

Bali, M. (2020). Critical Pedagogy: Intentions and Realities. *Critical Digital Pedagogy*. [Link](#).

D'Souza, M.S., Nikku, B.R., & Field, C. (2021). Interdisciplinary teaching practices: Reflections from a teaching triangle. *Journal of Nursing Education and Practice*, 11(5). [Link](#)

Swauger, S. (2020). Our Bodies Encoded: Algorithmic Test Proctoring in Higher Education. *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!

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.

