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**From:** Rajiv Jhangiani  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 9, 2021 6:56 AM  
**To:** Teaching and Learning Commons  
**Subject:** A few updates, and a lot of gratitude



Dear faculty colleagues,

As we near the close of the Fall semester I really hope that you will be able to enjoy a supremely well-deserved holiday break. Our team in the [Teaching & Learning Commons](#) witnesses daily your continuing and inspiring efforts to care for and serve the needs of our students. After six tiring semesters, I think we all look forward to the day when we can let go of the additional cognitive load this pandemic has imposed on us. But for now allow me to say—because it can certainly never be said enough—that we greatly respect and admire your work in the classroom. We see the enduring impact of your work through the meaningful and transformative experiences that you design and provide for our learners. As educators, you are at the heart of this institution and it is a sincere privilege to support and serve all of you.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to share a few relevant updates with you:

#### [Foundations in Teaching Excellence program](#)

As you may know, this semester we launched our new, comprehensive framework for educational development. Known as the [Foundations in Teaching Excellence](#), this program includes flexible, modular, and self-paced training around five core domains: learning design, learning assessment, learning technologies, inclusive teaching, and reflective practice ([watch this video for a quick introduction to this program from our Commons team](#)). Each domain takes 4-6 hours for completion, and some include optional synchronous or facilitated experiences. We have poured a lot of energy in creating this new program for you and we hope that you get a lot out of it. All of this training is available to you now, via self-registration at <https://tlevents.kpu.ca>

#### [Hardware Updates](#)

The Commons continues to support our colleagues in IT as they [deliver more new laptops to our instructors](#). But beyond this major investment we are also working with IT to build a second recording studio for your use (at a different campus from Surrey, where [you can already book our existing studio](#)), to build and pilot a classroom with lecture capture technology, and to equip yet another demonstration cart, this one for use in Science labs. Stay tuned for more updates about these developments.

#### [Software Updates](#)

We continue to expand [our suite of learning technology platforms](#), with the latest addition being [Hypothes.is](#), a popular tool for collaborative digital annotation that is now integrated with Moodle. We are also in the process of procuring Poodl, a tool that supports accessibility in Moodle for voice-to-text, text-to-speech, and audio forums.

#### [Coming Soon: Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Learning Technologies](#)

If you are an early adopter of learning technologies and interested in giving us feedback on our technology tools, you should know that we are creating an ad hoc advisory committee to assist us with our learning technology selections and also to serve as a user test group when adopting new platforms. This committee will not have any regularly scheduled meetings and will have an initial commitment of two years. Please look for this call for expressions of interest next week.

Coming Soon: Strategic Planning for Teaching & Learning

As discussed recently at various Senate Standing Committees, the Teaching & Learning Commons will embark on a strategic planning process early in the new year that will shape our goals and accompanying strategies for the next few years. With the major shifts in the landscape of higher education, we are excited about planning for future of how we will support KPU's faculty and instructional staff as we move towards the "new KPU." You will hear more about this in the new year, including the opportunities for you to provide your input and feedback. In the mean time, if you have any feedback for us at all, whether these are suggestions for new types of training or new learning technologies (or even just feedback for our hardworking team!) please continue to reach out at [tlcommons@kpu.ca](mailto:tlcommons@kpu.ca)

Thank you, once again, for your dedication to our students and for your tireless efforts throughout the last six semesters. As always, the Commons is ready and eager to partner with you and to support your efforts.

Wishing you the very best for the holiday season and a restful break.  
With gratitude,

Rajiv



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At KPU, we work, study, and live in a region south of the Fraser River which overlaps with the unceded traditional and ancestral lands of the Kwantlen, Musqueam, Katzie, Semihamoo, Tsawwassen, Qayqayt, and Kwikwetlen peoples.