

Subject: Preparing for the Fall semester: Updates from the Teaching & Learning Commons
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Dear faculty colleagues,

As we prepare for the start of the Fall semester amid a continually-evolving public health landscape, I want to assure you that the Teaching & Learning Commons remains ready and eager to support you in every way that we can. I would also like to share a few updates and helpful reminders:

Redesigned & Updated Website

The Teaching & Learning Commons team has been busy these past few months preparing and enhancing our various supports for your essential work with students. These are showcased on [our redesigned and updated website](#), which makes it far easier for you to discover and browse through our many [learning opportunities](#), [supports](#), and [communications channels](#).

Foundations in Teaching Excellence Program

By now most of you will have heard about our new [Foundations in Teaching Excellence program](#), which is our new, comprehensive, and flexible framework for educational development. The FTE is built around the five domains of learning design, learning assessment, learning technologies, inclusive teaching, and reflective practices. Each domain includes modules that take between 4-6 hours to complete, and some include optional synchronous or facilitated learning experiences. The Learning Technologies modules are already open for registration, with Learning Design and Learning Assessment modules scheduled to be released on September 10. The Inclusive Teaching and Reflective Practice modules will follow later in the semester. As with all of our workshops, you may register for these modules at <https://tlevents.kpu.ca>

Knowledge Base and Joint Support Portal

If at any point you find yourself in need of support, we recommend that you first search in our [FreshDesk Knowledge Base](#) (where we have been continually adding how-to guides and other instructions) or otherwise submit a support request ticket to the [joint T&L/IT joint service portal](#).

New Educational Consultants

This Fall we are thrilled to welcome five new faculty Educational Consultants to the Commons:

- Jennifer Anaquod (Indigenization)
- Farhad Dastur (Scholarship of Teaching & Learning)
- Gillian Sudlow (ePortfolio Advancement)
- Catherine Chow (Teaching Excellence, Faculty of Science & Horticulture)
- Gerard Laverty (Teaching Excellence, Faculty of Trades & Technology)

This incredibly innovative group will join the amazing and continuing EC team of Jennifer Hardwick (Universal Design for Learning), Christina Page (Intercultural Teaching), Nishan Perera (Course Design), and Gillian Sudlow (Course Design) to provide you with support, including via pedagogical consultations.

Learning Technologies

Our learning technologies team has been hard at work and will have some exciting announcements to share soon, but for now would like to share a few reminders:

- Our new [recording studio is bookable](#) for your use (please visit the website to review the instructions or book a consultation).
- Our growing learning technology suite includes [Camtasia \(video recording and editing\), available by request](#) on all KPU-issued devices.
- For Fall instructors, we recommend setting up your gradebook in Moodle prior to evaluating any assignments. In our experience this ensures a smoother implementation of your grading scheme.
- For Summer instructors, please do back up your Summer 2021 Moodle shells if you wish to reuse those resources/activities in the future.

Our team has been working on a number of other projects, including a Teaching & Learning Orientation resource for new faculty (separate from the general employee orientation provided by HR) as well as an orientation and training for curriculum developers. I look forward to sharing more details about these and other projects soon. For now, we hope that you look upon us in the Commons as your partners as you design and provide supportive and meaningful learning experiences for your students. As always, our work is rooted in community, ethics, creativity, and care.

Wishing you the very best for the new semester,
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.