

Teaching & Learning Commons

NEWSLETTER

April 2026



A MESSAGE FROM THE AVP

As the seasons turn, I'm deeply grateful for the focused time spent with faculty colleagues over the past few months. Partnering with you to design

program and teaching practice changes that respond to our current context—and align with emerging priorities—is one of my favourite parts of this work. It's inspiring to see colleagues engage thoughtfully with the changes needed to move programs forward, even when that work is hard. Recent conversations have been especially grounded in what students need from us now and into the future.

Last week, I attended the Colleges and Institutes Canada (CiCan) Connection Conference. Many sessions centred on workforce development and the growing need for post-secondary institutions to deepen partnerships—with industry and with one another—to respond to rapid change. I also presented with three faculty colleagues on the use of ePortfolios to advance institutional priorities. Together, we showcased several KPU ePortfolio templates, all developed in partnership with faculty. These interdisciplinary, scalable tools are designed to support meaningful practice change without adding unnecessary labor for educators.

A few highlights from the past several months include:

- Leading the AI Assistive Devices Working Group
- Redesign of the HRMT Post-Baccalaureate program
- Supporting seven time-release special projects focused on generative AI, ePortfolios, the UN SDGs, and open education
- Launch of the UN SDG Community of Practice
- Development of the new Teaching and Learning Strategic Plan (coming soon)

Together, this work reflects teaching and learning commitment to partnering with educators and departments to drive meaningful, sustainable educational change. By collaborating, we share expertise to support innovation across curriculum, design, and delivery. If you have a change you would like to make in your course or program, reach out; we would love to partner.

Appreciatively, Leeann Waddington

JOIN US FOR KPU DAY

May 8, Surrey campus

Human Library

Drop in. Talk Teaching.
Leave Inspired.

Maple 2820, 1:00-2:00PM

We can help you get support with strategies to increase student success, learn how gen AI can enhance your teaching, find authentic assessment alternatives, and more!

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Relaxation Zone

9:00-11:00AM, Fir 142

Need a quiet moment? Stop by our relaxation zone. We'll have puzzles, colouring books, soft music, and a cozy spot to relax.



We at Kwantlen Polytechnic University respectfully acknowledge that we live, work and study in a region that overlaps with the unceded traditional and ancestral First Nations territories of the Musqueam, Katzie, Semiahmoo, Tsawwassen, Qayqayt, and Kwikwetlem; and with the lands of the Kwantlen First Nation, which gifted its name to this university.



NEW RESOURCE!

Place-based Education with an Indigenous Lens



This website is a collaborative effort done in consultation with Indigenous colleagues at KPU.

In this resource, you'll find an abundance of rich information about what place-based learning is and how to implement it into your courses. Rooted in the local, place-based learning is community-based, experiential, learner-centered, process-oriented, and encourages fruitful relationship building. It can take many forms, providing a variety of options to build into your course. See examples of place-based learning, discover the benefits, and more.

Discover the possibilities by clicking here



MAY 20 & 24

MOODLE DOWNTIME

Moodle downtimes to support vendor-led infrastructure updates have been scheduled in May. The update affects only the underlying infrastructure and there will be no changes to Moodle's appearance or functionality once service is restored.

May 20 (Wednesday) - CPS, community sites and external users

Continue: 5:00 AM – 8:00 AM

Community, Share: 5:00 AM – 5:00 PM

May 24 (Sunday)- all courses

Courses and Trades: 5:00 AM – 5:00 PM

All times listed are in PST

[Read the full announcement here.](#)

GENERATIVE AI AT KPU

website launch

In an effort to ensure the KPU community has foundational information related to Gen AI at KPU, a centralized website has been created as a single point of entry. This project was a collaborative effort between the Office of the Provost Curriculum Services Unit (CSU) and the Teaching & Learning Commons, and we are appreciative of all this who contributed resources, ideas and effort to the development of this site. This new site replaces the previous Generative AI WordPress site and now serves as the primary hub for all Generative AI resources at KPU. We encourage all members of the KPU community to begin using this site and update any existing bookmarks accordingly.

Click here to view the full announcement

Click here to view the website


T&L COMMONS NEWS CORNER



The TL Commons continues to be committed to developing community around teaching and learning. And to that end, you'll find below the latest blogs, communities of practice, and upcoming faculty development sessions to support you in your practice development.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

- The Heart of Teaching: Crafting Your Teaching Philosophy Statement, a Hands-On Workshop - Starts May 7
- Assessing ePortfolios with PebblePad and ATLAS - May 22
- Reflect and Redesign: Intentionality and Iterative Course Design - Starts May 25
- Designing Learning with PebblePad Workbooks and Templates - June 5
- Designing online with intention: Moving in person courses to online - Starts June 15
- Unlock WordPress: From Novice to Website Creator - Starts Aug 24

Click the title of the workshop to learn more and register 

NEW BLOGS

- **Two Paths, One Purpose: How Fair Dealing and Open Education Work Together**
- **Why Place Matters: Ten Ways Local Learning Strengthens Student Success**

Click the title to read the blog!

NEW WORKBOOKS

UN SDG Advancement Interactive Workbook

The workbook makes it easy for faculty to bring the SDGs into their courses in meaningful and engaging ways! Featuring 17 adaptable templates, these ready-to-use activities link course content to local and global challenges and can be used as standalone exercises, reflective assignments, or editable templates across disciplines.

[Click here to view the workbook](#)

[Click here to get a copy of the workbook](#)

[Watch a video to learn more here](#)

Anti-Racism Pedagogy Tool Kit: Educator Workbook

This self-paced PebblePad Workbook is a companion workbook to the Tool Kit - designed to help guide educators' journey as you translate the Tool Kit into practice—through reflection, planning, and evidence of your progress and change in your courses and teaching. The Workbook's design facilitates intentional use of specific Tools to meet an individual educator's goals.

[Click here to view the workbook](#)

[Click here to get a copy of the workbook](#)

ZTC PEERS & CHEERS EVENT

March 6, 2026

The ZTC (Zero Textbook Cost) Peers & Cheers event celebrated faculty who have taught ZTC courses and/or been OER (open educational resource) champions. This work represents courage and generosity. Creating open resources requires time, creativity, and a willingness to challenge traditional models, and we wanted to give thanks to their hard work.

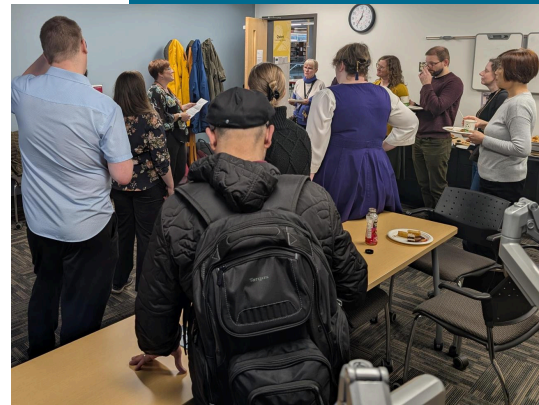
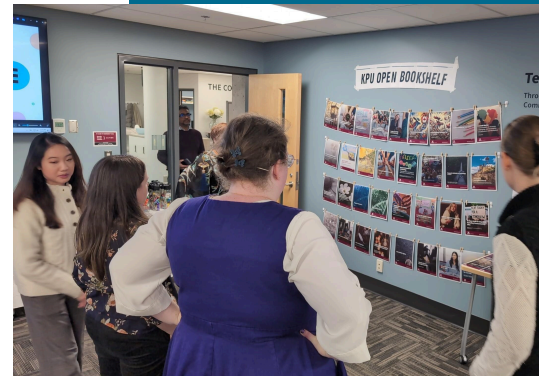
Our journey with OERs reflects a deep institutional commitment to teaching excellence and student success. KPU has emerged as a leader to open education, not simply through adoption numbers, but through a culture of collaboration and innovation. For many students, the cost of textbooks is not a minor inconvenience, it can determine whether they purchase required materials, delay courses, or even consider continuing their studies. Thank you for opening the doors to equity.

ZTC Successes

- ★ Cumulative cost savings: \$16 million
- ★ 881 ZTC courses
- ★ In AY 24/25, an average of 28% of all KPU course sections were ZTC

Courses that are 100% ZTC:

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| • ENGQ | • APSC |
| • FREN | • BIOQ |
| • GLBL | • BUQU |
| • ISDN | • CADA |
| • LANC | • CHEQ |
| • LING | • CNPS |
| • SPAN | • COOP |
| • WRTG | • EACS |



CELEBRATING YOU!



Teaching & Learning Commons

Through active intentional partnering, the Teaching & Learning Commons provides pedagogical leadership that is grounded in community, ethics, creativity, and care.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Through active intentional partnering, the Teaching & Learning Commons provides pedagogical leadership that is grounded in community, ethics, creativity, and care.



VISIT THE COMMUNITY CORNER



Arbutus 2400 (2nd floor library)

We invite you to spend time in the T&L Commons Community Corner. Enjoy our spacious seating and large screen to cast to.



Check us out on SharePoint!

- [T&L Commons SharePoint home page](#)
- [Simple Syllabus](#)

ICYMI 
In case you missed it

Generative AI: Faculty Perspectives Webinar Series

If you missed our most recent webinar, *Sprinting Towards AI and Stepping on Privacy*, it is ready to view by [clicking here](#).