

Teaching & Learning Commons NEWSLETTER

January 2026



A MESSAGE FROM THE AVP

As we begin 2026, I invite you to pause—not to rest in what is familiar, but to notice what is emerging. Transformation in teaching is rarely loud or linear; more often, it unfolds through quiet shifts in practice, intentional questions, and the courage to try something new. What are you noticing, wondering about or willing to try?

At the Teaching & Learning Commons, our focus this term is supporting those moments of becoming. Whether you are redesigning an assessment to better reflect student learning, experimenting with blended or technology-enhanced approaches, or simply seeking a conversation about what's working (and what isn't), we are here to partner with you. Our work is grounded in community, ethics, creativity, and care—and in a belief that meaningful change in learning happens when educators feel supported to teach with intention.

The start of a new year is not about reinvention for its own sake, It is about alignment: aligning our teaching choices with our values, our students' realities, and the kind of learning experiences we hope they carry forward. Small, thoughtful shifts can open up new possibilities for engagement, belonging, and deeper learning.

In the months ahead, the Commons will be offering spaces, resources, and collegial support to help you explore those possibilities in ways that make sense for your context. I encourage you to connect with us, join a conversation, or simply browse what's available and see what resonates.

Thank you for the care, creativity, and commitment you bring to your teaching every day. We look forward to learning alongside you in 2026.

L Waddington

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](#).

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 BLOGS

Designing for Student Success: Crafting a Meaningful, Inclusive Syllabus
Zoom as a Catalyst for Engaged Learning

Click the title to visit the blog



The podcast studio from Civic Plaza campus is moving to Surrey to increase ease of use and access. It will be in close proximity to Teaching & Learning support staff.

COMING SOON

BOLO

Be on the lookout

We are committed to providing KPU faculty with timely information, resources, and updates throughout the year. The **Tuesday Telegram** is intended to support ongoing connection and awareness across the KPU community. This newsletter will operate as a pilot through June, and we welcome your feedback during this period! Should there be topics or resources you would like to see included, please let us know so they may be considered in future issues.

CLICK HERE

Email your suggestions or requests to tcommons@kpu.ca

PLAYTIME WITH ZOOM

DROP-IN SESSIONS

With BigBlueButton retiring April 24, 2026, we want to ensure that faculty are comfortable navigating Zoom.

Stop by for Playtime with Zoom—an informal space for KPU educators to explore and practice Zoom tools. Join us in a supportive environment where you can try out features, ask questions, and experiment with teaching ideas. Whether you're new to Zoom or eager to explore tools like breakout rooms and whiteboards, these sessions are designed to help you create engaging, student-centered online experiences. No preparation required—just bring your curiosity! Each session supports both your pedagogical and technical needs.

Welcome
Welcome to the first edition of the TL Commons new weekly newsletter, **The Tuesday Telegram**. We are committed to providing you with timely information, resources, and updates throughout the year. The Tuesday Telegram is intended to support ongoing connection and awareness across the KPU community. This newsletter will operate as a pilot through June, and we welcome your feedback during this period. Should there be topics or resources you would like to see included, please let us know so they may be considered in future issues.

Workshops
Be in the know!
Explore our full list of Spring 2026 Workshop offerings, including registration details, [HERE](#)

Tech
Moodle Upgrade
Moodle underwent an upgrade from version 4.1 to 4.5 this past December.
To learn more about the new features click [HERE](#)

Webinar
Generative AI: Faculty Perspectives - Sprinting Towards AI and Stepping on Privacy
Fri, 16 Jan 2026, 12pm - 1pm PST
Join Mike Larsen for a discussion on the implications of the rapid development and deployment of GAI applications and more. [REGISTER HERE](#)

tcommons@kpu.ca www.kpu.ca Teaching and Learning Commons - Home



SCHEDULE

- Tuesday, January 27, 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM
- Wednesday, February 18, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM
- Monday, March 9, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
- Tuesday, April 2, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- Wednesday, April 22, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

[Click here to join the Zoom meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 653 4361 0111
Passcode: 491433

[For more information, click here for the Zoom transition SharePoint page.](#)

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.



DEVELOPING YOUR PRACTICE

SPRING 2026 WORKSHOPS



[Click here to register for workshops!](#)



Generative AI Workshop Series - Cohort 1

4-part series (attend all 4 sessions),
all in person, KPU Surrey campus, Arbutus 2410
Fri, Jan 23, 10AM-3PM, Gen AI Readiness
Fri, Feb 20, 10AM-3PM, AI Use in the Classroom
Fri, Mar 27, 10AM-3PM, Gen AI in Professional Practice
Fri, Apr 24, 10AM-3PM, Prompt Engineering

Assessing ePortfolios with PebblePad and ATLAS

Fri, Jan 30, 9:30AM-12:30PM, online

ZTC Quest: Finding Quality OER for Your Students

Mon, Mar 2, 1-3PM, online

Maximizing Moodle Gradebook

Tues, Mar 3, 9:30AM-12:30PM, online

Foundations First: Designing OER Textbooks for Student Success

Thurs, Mar 5, 1-3PM, online

From Annual to Perennial: Renewable Assignment Design

Fri, Mar 6, 1-3PM, online

Teaching Across Delivery Models: Strategies for Every Setting

2-part series (attend both sessions).
all in person, KPU Surrey campus, Arbutus 2410
Mon, Mar 23, 11AM-2PM, KPU Surrey campus, Arbutus 2410
Thurs, Mar 26, 11AM-2PM, online

Generative AI Workshop Series - Cohort 2

Fri, Apr 10, 10AM-3PM, Gen AI Readiness
Thurs, Apr 16, 10AM-3PM, AI Use in the Classroom
Fri, Apr 17, 10AM-3PM, Gen AI in Professional Practice
Fri, May 1, 10AM-3PM, Prompt Engineering

Creating Engaging Educational Media - Video

Mon, Apr 13 (asynchronous)
Mon, Apr 20, 10AM-12PM, online
Mon, Apr 27, 10AM-12PM, KPU Surrey campus, Arbutus 2410
Mon, May 4, in person, drop by 10AM-3PM

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE



- Generative AI Network
- ePortfolio Matters at KPU
- Mindfulness Matters
- Decolonizing Educational Practices

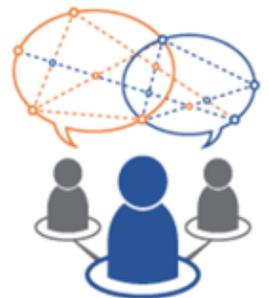
Click the name of the CoP to learn more!

2025 WEST COAST TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS SHOWCASE FEATURING OUR VERY OWN AWARD RECIPIENT, DR. LEE BEAVINGTON

From BCCampus:

January 29, 2026, 12:30 to 2:00 PM PT

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



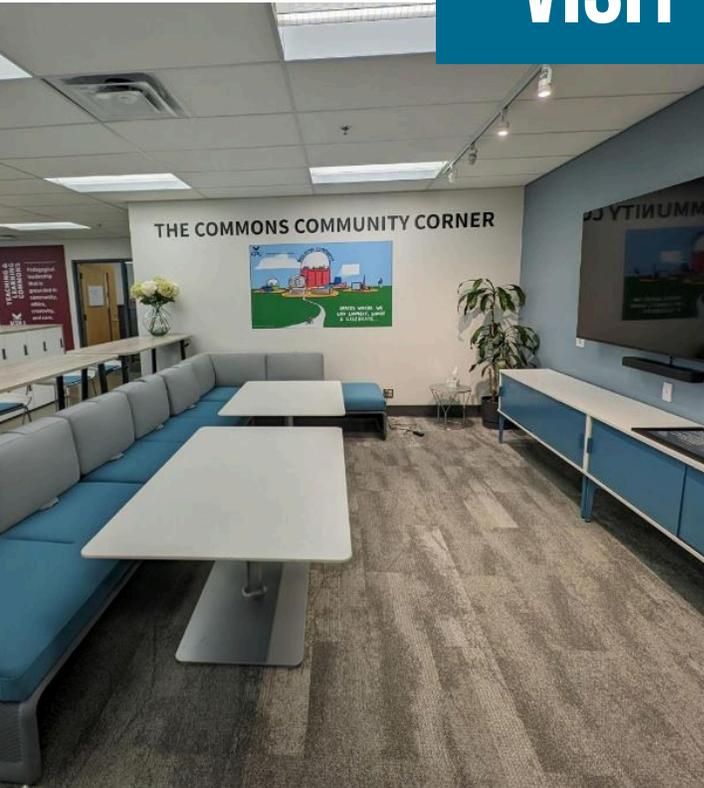
In this 90-minute virtual showcase, the three 2025 recipients of the West Coast Teaching Excellence Awards will share their award-winning approaches to teaching and pedagogical innovation with colleagues across BC and the Yukon. In the Q&A that follows, they will also answer questions about their experience being nominated for this relatively new teaching award aimed at recognizing excellence in post-secondary education.

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](#)
- [2025 Professional Development Series](#)
- [Simple Syllabus](#)

We welcome 8 KPU faculty designated to work on strategic teaching and learning projects related to UNSDG, open education resources, ePortfolios, and generative AI:

- Kristen Alm
- Landon Kleis
- Vera Lantinova
- Leanne MacKenzie
- Jeffrey Meyers
- Neil Roberts
- Andrea Sator
- Dianne Simmons

STAFFING UPDATE

Congratulations to Nadia Gao who will be heading off on maternity leave at the end of January. We welcome Akua Boakye-Ansah to our administrative coordinator role, supporting our planning and partnership throughout the organization.