

Teaching & Learning Commons Newsletter | November-December 2020

Statement of Values: The Teaching & Learning Commons provides pedagogical leadership that is community-oriented, ethically-minded, encourages creativity, and is grounded in a pedagogy of care

Message from Rajiv Jhangiani, Pro Tem Vice Provost, Teaching & Learning
As we approach the end of an unforgettable and challenging year, I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude.

First, to our incredible faculty, for your herculean efforts to redesign your courses, to provide more flexibility to your students, and for reaching out to us in the Commons whenever you needed support. We have learned as much or more from you than we have shared, and we remain committed to supporting you through and beyond the remainder of the pandemic.

Thank you also to our colleagues in other units across the university, those of you who directly support students and those of you who indirectly support students by looking after the rest of our university community. Your support, many small kindnesses, and willingness to roll up your sleeves in support of the university's mission has been an inspiration.

And perhaps most of all, thank you to our talented, hardworking, generous, and kind Commons team. Working with all of you during this turbulent time has been an honour and will always be a personal and professional highlight. You have more than risen to the challenge, you have made a real difference in the lives of our educators and our students, and you are a big reason why I am so optimistic about the future of teaching and learning at KPU.

Here's wishing all of you a restful, joyful, and rejuvenating holiday break filled with connection, meaning, down time, and self-care.

New Appointments

The Commons is delighted to welcome a few new members to our team this Fall, including **Dr. Joel Murray** as Interim Director, Flexible Learning and Academic Integrity, **Julia Vergara** as the Project Coordinator and Learning Navigator on a two-year Ministry-funded project supporting working adults and lifelong learners, **Chris Ryan** as our second Teaching and Learning Technology Strategist, and **Umair Hafeez** as our second Learning Support Analyst. Please join us in welcoming these wonderful new members of the T&L team!

Survey Launched on Teaching, Research, and Library Supports

This important survey of faculty and instructional and research staff was launched on December 3 and will remain open until **January 17**. The survey will take about 15-20 minutes to complete. Your responses will be anonymous and participation is entirely voluntary. Aggregate results and verbatim comments will be reported and the results will be made available to the University community.

We urge you to complete this survey as your feedback is integral to help define our directions, supports, and priorities to better address your needs. The survey results will inform future opportunities for KPU's educators and researchers.

First Award from the Teaching & Learning Innovation Fund (TLIF)

The recipients of the first award from the new **Teaching & Learning Innovation Fund** are **Dr. Larissa Petrillo, Dr. Jennifer Hardwick, and Elton Pond** from the Faculty of Arts. This award will advance a pilot program for service learning assistants, which will empower exceptional student-leaders to help ensure service-learning projects are transformative, meaningful, and reciprocal. Service Learning Assistants (SLAs) are paid student leaders who help coordinate and support service learning courses at KPU. SLAs are typically assigned to support 3 service learning courses per semester, working with faculty, students and community partners. This pilot program is adapted from the **SLA program at Tulane University**. The Faculty of Arts and School of Business will be the initial pilot program site for the Service Learning Assistants program.

About the Teaching & Learning Innovation Fund
The Teaching & Learning Innovation Fund (TLIF) is designed to support pedagogical innovation at KPU. Recognizing the diverse array of programs and instructional approaches that are necessary and valued at a polytechnic university, the TLIF takes an inclusive approach by supporting a broad range of projects that advance teaching practices at KPU (**Goal 2 of Academic Plan 2023**). Regular instructors and staff with instructional responsibilities (e.g., lab instructors, etc.) are eligible to apply to the TLIF. Applications for the TLIF are accepted on an ongoing basis, until the annual funding is exhausted. Applications to the TLIF will be adjudicated within two weeks, in order to support the rapid implementation of teaching and learning innovation.

For more information please visit: <https://www.kpu.ca/teaching-and-learning/tlif>

Digital Pedagogy Webinar Series

Our inaugural **Digital Pedagogy Webinar Series** features five exceptional and internationally-renowned speakers who each bring deep expertise and a unique perspective on pedagogy in this digital age. This year's series critically explores topics including digital literacies, creativity, privacy perils, and inclusion.

All webinars are recorded and made available online for later viewing.

Watch the recording of our first two webinars:
Igniting Our Collective Imagination, *Dr. Bonni Stachowiak*, October 20, 2020
Digital Literacies for Digital Pedagogy, *Dr. Bonnie Stewart*, November 24, 2020
The third webinar will be held on **Tuesday, February 23, 2021** and features **Tara Robertson**, who will speak on **"Activism Outside and Inside the Institution: Strategies and Tactics for Increasing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion."** Register at: <https://www.kpu.ca/dpws>

DIGITAL PEDAGOGY WEBINAR SERIES

Information & registration: [kpu.ca/dpws](https://www.kpu.ca/dpws)

Activism Outside and Inside the Institution: Strategies and Tactics for Increasing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

In this session I will share some of the research on diversity, equity and inclusion, some of my personal experiences as an activist and DEI practitioner, strategies and tactics for advocating for systemic change both outside and inside institutions. Together we will co-create some tactics for making post-secondary education a more diverse, equitable and inclusive place.

FEBRUARY 23, 2021
12:00 - 1:00 PM
ONLINE

TARA ROBERTSON

Tara Robertson is fascinated by people. She is an intersectional feminist who uses data and research to advocate for equality and inclusion. She has more than 10 years experience making open source and tech communities more diverse and welcoming, including 3 years leading diversity and inclusion at Mozilla.

@tararobertson
[tararobertson](https://www.kpu.ca/dpws)

Riipen

Another new way to facilitate online delivery of your course...Riipen

KPU has been given the opportunity through **RBC Future Launch** to bring more project-based learning to KPU students. Riipen is a technology platform that facilitates experiential learning opportunities, enabling educators to easily connect in-class assignments with businesses and nonprofits that have real-time projects for your students to work on. This license continues for a second year with continued funding.

Here are some examples of some WIL experiences:

Virtual Internships
Please visit the [library of virtual internships](https://www.kpu.ca/virtual-internships) to see what other educators are posting.

Courses (educator-driven)
[Applied Economics Projects](#)
[Technical Communication Consultancy](#)

Projects (posted by partner)
[Project Evaluation Plan: Resettlement Assistance Program \(RAP\) - Polycultural Immigrant and Community Services](#)
[Researching youth engagement tactics on environmental issues - Environmental Defence Canada](#)

If you are interested in learning more, please **book a call with Oja**, the dedicated Onboarding Specialist for KPU. If you have any questions about experiential learning, you can contact: Larissa.Petrillo@kpu.ca

KPU Complete

KPU Complete is a new initiative that is designed to ensure a smooth transition to post-secondary education for experienced and mid-career learners who are 25 years of age and older. Coordinated by Teaching & Learning, KPU Complete offers an educational experience tailored to the needs of more experienced learners. Students who have taken advantage of KPU Complete have registered into a special spring section of EDUC 1100: Introduction to Higher Education, which is being specifically designed to meet the needs of experienced learners. The course introduce or re-introduce them to post-secondary education, enhancing their understanding of the purposes of higher education and developing their skills for university study. In addition to a customized curriculum, these experienced learners will receive coaching and support from Julia Vergara, who will also help them to navigate the process of applying for an assessment of their prior learning, including the knowledge and skills they may have acquired through non-formal learning, work or training outside the formal post-secondary system.

Julia knows first hand the challenges that experienced learners face while pursuing post-secondary studies and dealing with family and work responsibilities: she is an experienced learner herself. She started her undergraduate work at KPU when she was in her mid- to late-twenties, and graduated in 2016 with a Bachelor's degree in Journalism and a minor in Creative Writing. She then went to work and three years later, returned to school to begin a Master's degree program in English at UBC, from which she will graduate next year. Her academic research interests include Critical Race and Gender Studies, Psychology, and the Rhetoric of Mental Health. With her personal understanding of the challenges and rewards of being an experienced learner, Julia is well-suited for providing experienced and mid-career learners with help and guidance as they take advantage of KPU Complete.

Open Education

Students Save Millions with Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Initiative
Canada's first ZTC initiative has reached new heights! During the pandemic alone, ZTC courses have saved students over \$2 million. Since the initiative was launched in Spring 2018, students have saved over \$5.2 million. Students can expect to browse over 420 ZTC courses in the Spring 2021 course timetable, the most offered in a single semester.

Read more about our ZTC milestones in a recent [Happenings @KPU article](#).

Open Educational Resources (OER) Grants

REGULAR FACULTY CAN APPLY FOR UP TO \$4000 IN FUNDING TO CREATE OER OR UP TO \$2000 TO ADAPT EXISTING OER.

CREATE

- ✓ Author new open textbooks in areas of need.
- ✓ Create open courseware, including videos, lecture slides, learning activities, and more.
- ✓ Establish open access journals.

ADAPT

- ✓ Update or localize existing textbooks.
- ✓ Incorporate interactive components through HSP applications.
- ✓ Develop ancillary resources (such as question banks), including collaborating with students through open pedagogical practices.

In Spring 2020, **Statistics Canada** collected data from over 100,000 postsecondary students reporting on the impacts of COVID-19.

48% of students with a job reported either losing their job or being temporarily laid off.

Results from a 2017 study of BC postsecondary institutions, including KPU, showed that 54% students did not purchase a required textbook at least once. Study after study, including at KPU, has also shown that students have achieved the same or better outcomes when using OER.

Applications for Spring 2021 will be accepted until **JANUARY 15**

To apply and for more information visit [KPU.CA/OPEN/GRANTS](https://www.kpu.ca/open/grants)

For more information or support with open educational practices and OER, please contact the **Office of Open Education** [KPU.CA/OPEN/CONNECT](https://www.kpu.ca/open/connect)

The **Open Education Newsletter** now lives on an online journal platform and can be found [here](#). It is published once a semester.

ICYMI: Recent Blog Posts

Our **Friday Morning Coffee** blog features posts from members of the Teaching & Learning Commons team (and friends). Catch up on these recent posts:

- [The silver linings in the COVID pandemic? Two educators' musings](#) (December 4) by Leeann Waddington and Laurel Tien
- [Overcoming the challenge of implicit expectations](#) (November 20) by Christina Page
- [Introductory and community-building discussions in online courses](#) (November 6) guest post by Dr. George Veletsianos
- [Who comes first in the 'new normal' of pandemic pedagogy? The teacher or the learner?](#) (October 23) by Gillian Sudlow

Beyond the Chalkboard: Season 3

Season 3 of 'Beyond the Chalkboard' podcast has launched!

[Listen on Spotify](#) or [Watch it on YouTube](#)

Latest episodes:
Beyond the Chalkboard Season III: Episode 1 - Level Up
Beyond the Chalkboard Season III: Episode 2 - Level Up Participants Reflect



Learn Tech Bits and Bytes

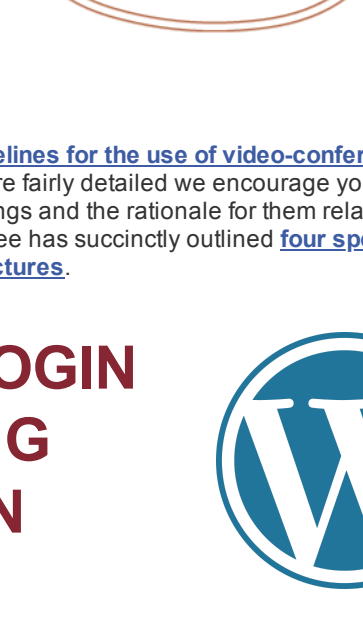
• From Sept. 1 to Nov. 30 the **Learn Tech team** resolved **2,542** tickets, our faculty **Educational Consultants** completed **206** pedagogical consultations, and we had **300** workshop participants.

• Review our [FreshDesk resources](#)

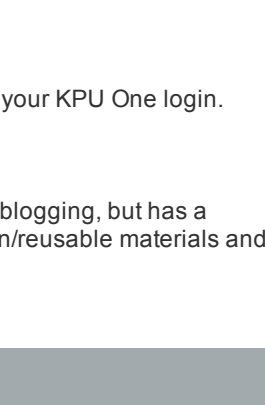
• **PebblePad**: Get started by [creating an account](#) and look at the resources and guidance on [our PebblePad page](#)

• **Zoom**: Get started by requesting an account and following the instructions on [our Zoom page](#)

• KPU's privacy committee has prepared a set of [guidelines for the use of video-conferencing for teaching and learning](#). While these guidelines are fairly detailed we encourage you to review them as they outline the default platform settings and the rationale for them related to privacy and security. In addition, the privacy committee has succinctly outlined [four specific steps that must be taken when recording video lectures](#).



FACULTY CAN NOW LOGIN TO WORDPRESS USING THEIR KPU ONE LOGIN



Getting your **KPU WordPress** accounts just got easier!

Simply login at: <http://wordpress.kpu.ca/wp-admin>

If you already have an existing account, your accounts have been merged with your KPU One login. [Follow these step-by-step instructions](#).

New to WordPress?

WordPress is a flexible, open, and online platform. It is most popularly used for blogging, but has a great variety of use cases in education, including as a platform for creating open/reusable materials and assignments, for e-portfolios, websites, and more.

For more information, visit: <https://www.kpu.ca/wordpress>

Upcoming Workshops (Jan-Feb 2021)

<p>Learning Technologies</p> <p>Muddling Through Moodle Jan 13, 20, & 27 (3 sessions)</p> <p>Harnessing the Power of Conferencing Tools Jan 14, 21, & 28 (3 sessions)</p> <p>Learning Technology Virtual Drop-In Hours Jan 5, 12, 19, 26 & Feb 2, 9, 16, 23</p> <p>Open Education</p> <p>Introduction to Open Pedagogy Jan 19</p> <p>Linking to Library Resources Jan 29</p> <p>Copyright Awareness for Online Teaching Feb 26</p>	<p>Level Up: Learn to Teach Online Feb 2, 9, 16, 23, & March 2 (5 sessions)</p> <p>Inclusive Pedagogy Conversations About Accommodations Jan 15, Feb 3</p> <p>Getting to Know Your International Students Feb 2</p> <p>Foundations of Intercultural Teaching Practice Feb 16 & 19 (2 sessions)</p>
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Register Now

INTRODUCING THREE NEW WORKSHOPS FOR SPRING 2021

The What? Why? When? and How? of Moodle Lessons
Ever wonder about the Lesson option in the Moodle activities menu? The lessons are largely under-utilized in course design, but faculty who do use them, love them, and so do their students. Here's your chance to find out why!

This series of three, 60 minute, weekly synchronous / asynchronous sessions will introduce participants to the pedagogy and practicality of Moodle Lessons in Moodle 3.9. **The What?** will provide a brief overview of Moodle Lessons. **The Why?** will focus on the pedagogy of using Moodle Lessons; **the When?** will focus on when it is best practice to use Moodle Lessons; and **the How?** will focus on how to create Moodle Lessons. Participants will have the opportunity to plan, develop and receive feedback on a sample lesson either individually or collaboratively. So, bring a friend and discover the secrets of Moodle Lessons!

Rollin Stones PebblePad Tour
Are you ready to get innovative in your teaching practice by using a technology that supports effective pedagogy? Do you want to become a facilitation Rockstar? Then come along with the Teaching and Learning Commons on the PebblePad Rollin' Stones Tour starting in January 2021! The PebblePad Rollin' Stones Tour is a low time commitment high reward asynchronous opportunity that will provide a practical introduction to Pebble+ and the mobile app PebblePocket. This series of activities will allow KPU faculty to engage with this platform, learn the basic features actively, and effectively navigate and create in this personally managed, password-protected space. Over nine weeks, for thirty minutes per week, participants will be provided with easy to digest content and activities that will have them well on their way to Rockstar status! Participants will choose what they create and are only limited by their imagination - whether it's for professional development, assessment design, or just a showcase of hobbies, the result will be a product to be proud of! The series will be capped off with a showcase competition that participants can choose to enter their Pebble+ creations with the KPU faculty community for a chance to win visa gift cards! Do not miss the bus, the tour bus that is, and join us on the exciting PebblePad Rollin' Stones Tour!

Harnessing the power of conferencing tools to support best pedagogical practices
Educators want to engage and connect with students virtually, and KPU's three supported conferencing tools (the used to hold office hours, deliver content and feedback, and create opportunities for students to connect, collaborate, discuss and reflect on key course topics and concepts. In this multi-day virtual workshop offering, faculty will explore exemplar activities that can be used with KPU's three conferencing tools to support best pedagogical practices.

NOTE: This workshop will focus on pedagogical approaches using KPU's supported conferencing tools and NOT the "how to's."

All three 90min sessions are held online, and each session is hosted in a different tool as follows:

- Session #1 in BBB
- Session #2 in Teams
- Session #3 in Zoom

If you have not logged into BigBlueButton, Teams or have yet created a KPU Zoom account, you will be required to do so before attending the first session.

It is recommended that participants watch the following videos before attending the first session: [LINK TO VIDEOS AND RESOURCES](#)

We ask participants to log in 5-10 minutes early to ensure we can start each session on time. We also recommend participants log in with a microphone and, if comfortable, be prepared to use their webcams to participate in all the session activities.

NOTE: Due to recent changes in our system, KPU employees logging into our events site for the first time will need to wait up to 24 hours for their accounts to be activated before registering for any upcoming workshops. We therefore encourage you to log in now so that your accounts may be activated ahead of when you need to register for a workshop. You can log in using your Banner ID and password.

Register Now