

# Memo

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To: Liz Clarke, Chair, T&LPC

From: Rajiv Jhangiani, Vice Provost, Teaching and Learning

Date: August 28, 2024

Subject: **Report of the Vice Provost, Teaching and Learning**

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[brocku.ca](https://brocku.ca)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a regular report to the members of T&LPC. The following is a summary of relevant activities between May 1 and August 28, 2024:

## Centre for Pedagogical Innovation (CPI)

- Professional Learning Educator Survey
  - CPI invited input from instructors, TAs, and librarians about their professional learning needs. There were 80 responses that will help shape programming and resource development over the next year. Key insights will be available at [brocku.ca/cpi](https://brocku.ca/cpi)
- National Day of Truth and Reconciliation
  - Monday September 30, 2024 is a non-instructional day. CPI is partnering with multiple departments across campus, led by Brad Clarke, VP student services and Dr. Robyn Bourgeois, AVP, Indigenous Engagement, to provide a day of meaningful reflection. Visit [experienceBU](https://experienceBU) to view the many events. Everyone is encouraged to wear their orange t-shirts on September 30.
- Teaching Day
  - CPI invites all instructors, teaching assistants, marker-graders, and course-coordinators to join us on the Thursday September 5 in the Rankin Pavilion for a morning of professional development to help you prepare to teach. Asynchronous offerings will be available to provide maximum flexibility. [Registration is open.](#)
- Faculty Fellows in Accessibility
  - Coming soon! CPI will be launching this exciting initiative in October.
- Distinguished Teaching Award
  - The Brock University Distinguished Teaching Award was adjudicated by a cross-faculty committee, chaired by CPI. After receiving a lot of feedback, CPI has streamlined the criteria for the [2025 Distinguished Teaching Award](#) to be more aligned with the Academic Plan and to provide a simplified process for nominees and nominators.
- Course Outline Template
  - In light of recent changes to the undergraduate evaluation policy, CPI has updated the course outline template, which is available on the [CPI website](#).
- Changes to Turnitin + Brightspace
  - Turnitin's primary tool, Turnitin Similarity Check, remains unchanged and will function just as it has for many years at Brock University. Brock's simplified Turnitin service, now "Turnitin Originality" instead of "Feedback Studio", offers a more straightforward experience and removes features not utilized by the Brock community. These changes do not affect how Turnitin is enabled in Brightspace Assignments or how it generates reports with student submissions. See [Turnitin changes at Brock](#) for more details.
- Changes to Teams + Brightspace
  - Beginning in the Fall term, the [Teams Connector in Brightspace](#) will become the primary

way for instructors to create Teams sites for their courses. The Teams Connector allows Brock instructors to create Teams sites using a widget located new the bottom of the page in all new course sites. Teams sites created with this method include all students, TAs, and instructors within the Brightspace site.

- Brightspace Sessions
  - CPI has a variety of [Brightspace sessions](#) for beginners, advanced, and drop-in sessions.
  - Sessional instructors will gain access to Brock systems 30 days before their contract begins. CPI is also available for individual consultations, regardless of contract status. Reach out to [cpi@brocku.ca](mailto:cpi@brocku.ca) to set up an in-person or online meeting.
- Generative AI in the Classroom
  - CPI has formed a working group to provide additional resources to improve our [Guidance on Generative AI](#) and [Designing Assessments to Mitigate the Use of Generative AI](#). The team has been invited to numerous departmental meetings and retreats to offer guidance and customized workshops.
- New Faculty Welcome
  - CPI worked with the office of the provost to welcome 15 new faculty members to the Brock campus and share University Resources. We are grateful for the thoughtful and wise advice provided by the early career faculty panel, Gavin Hester, Faculty of Math & Science, Samantha McAleese, Faculty of Social Sciences, Mohammed Estaiteyeh, Faculty of Education, Sarah Stang, Faculty of Humanities, John Krzeczowski, Faculty of Applied Health Sciences, Sadia Jahanzeb, Goodman School of Business, and Nicole Stradiotto, Library.
- Course Design Institute
  - This August, CPI hosted our first multi-day course design institute to help instructors craft their learning outcomes, design inclusive assessments, create accessible Brightspace course sites, and connect with campus partners like experiential education, learning services, library, and Hadiya'dagénhahs First Nations Métis and Inuit Student Centre.
- As always, CPI is available to provide custom workshops, confidential course, dossier, and program consultations in person or online. Reach out to [cpi@brocku.ca](mailto:cpi@brocku.ca) for more information.

### **Co-op, Career, and Experiential Education (CCEE)**

- Scotiabank Donation to Indigenous Plus Program
  - On August 7, Brock announced a [generous gift of \\$500,000 from Scotiabank to support our forthcoming Indigenous Plus program](#). Currently in development by CCEE, in partnership with the Hadiya'dagénhahs First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Centre, this new immersive, experiential learning program will expose Indigenous learners to a wide range of career and mentorship opportunities, including many led by Indigenous community members.
- CEWIL Canada iHub funding
  - Through the 2024 funding period, Brock University was one of only five institutions across Canada to secure the maximum amount of [funding through CEWIL Canada](#) of \$1,000,000. This funding is supporting 17 innovative work-integrated learning opportunities in addition to a university-wide bursary to reduce barriers for all eligible students participating in work-integrated learning across all Faculties. Hundreds of students will benefit from direct financial support for their participation in these opportunities, and dozens of community partners are being supported through these projects, including Niagara Health, Bethesda, the World Rowing Championships, the Niagara Falls Hotel Association, and partners from across the

Grape & Wine Industry.

- On-campus recruitment events this Fall
  - CPA Days (September 11-12): Over 30 employers secured to attend CPA co-op and new graduate students hiring event
  - Teacher Recruitment Fair (September 25): More than half of the tables have been sold for organizations interested in recruiting teacher candidates
  - HireU (October 2): More than half of the employers have been secured to attend the New Grad Recruitment event
  - Graduate & Professional School Fair, in collaboration with FGSPA (October 22)
- Leadership transitions and appointments
  - Julia Zhu was appointed Director, Co-op, Career, and Experiential Education, effective May 1
  - Alesia Dane was appointed Associate Director, Co-operative Education and Workplace Partnerships, effective July 29
  - Melissa Beamer has been appointed Associate Director, Career Education, effective September 9
  - The search process for the Associate Director, Experiential Education role is expected to conclude shortly

### **Professional and Continuing Studies (PCS)**

- New non-credit programming model
  - Began implementation, along with our campus partners, of the new [non-credit programming model at Brock University](#)
- PCS Programming
  - Welcomed our first two cohorts of Continuing Teacher Education candidates in June and August, with over 300 enrollments
  - Opened registration for the [Professional Certificate in Business Administration](#), with start date of October 7
  - Received funding from the [Ontario Government's Micro-Credential Challenge Fund](#) to develop a micro-credential on Supervisory Skills in Advanced Manufacturing
- ESL
  - Welcomed 80+ students as part of the Summer English Language Program for ESL
- Other notable activities
  - Hosted the second annual "[Speaking with Pride](#)" event in partnership with Pride Niagara
  - Supported promotional activity for the Code of Conduct for Human Trafficking Protection in the Niagara region, in partnership with TOES Niagara, including community outreach and webinar. Began development of training materials for Niagara businesses centered around human trafficking prevention
  - Announced that PCS and Brock University will be hosting the [Canadian Association for University Continuing Education Conference \(CAUCE\)](#) for 2025

### **Open Education**

- OER Adoption Grant
  - The next application deadline for this program is September 30, 2024. Visit the [OER Adoption Grant](#) page for more information.
- OER Adaptation Grant
  - We are expanding our OER grant program to support OER adaptation projects. The details

of this program will be available soon.

- Data dashboard
  - We are developing a dashboard that will showcase the uptake and impact of institutional supports for OER. We anticipate making this dashboard public sometime during the Fall 2024 term.

### **Other notable activities**

- Key meetings
  - Attended the Board of Trustees cycle 4 meeting on May 2
  - Attended the Spring AGM of the Social Justice Research Institute on May 15
  - Participated in the meeting of the Tenure & Promotion Equity Audit Working Group on May 16
  - Participated in meetings of the Strategic Plan Steering Committee on May 17 and 23
  - Participated in a board meeting of Open Education Global (OEG) on May 20, OEG board committee meetings on June 4, July 11 and 22, and August 21 and 26, and the OEG general assembly on August 28
  - Continued monthly meetings with BUSU leadership on June 3, July 2, and August 13
  - Continued biweekly meetings in support of the Student Ombuds
  - Presented at the Board Financial Planning & Investment Committee on June 26 and attended the Board of Trustees cycle 5 meeting on June 27
  - Attended a meeting of the BC Ethical Educational Technology Working Group meeting on July 4
  - Chaired meetings of the Open Education Working group on June 7 and July 25
  - Participated in a site visit of the Burlington campus under construction on August 9, along with other members of the Burlington Site Steering Committee
  - Participated in the first meeting of the Curriculum Delivery Initiative Steering Committee on August 23
- Events
  - Attended convocation ceremonies across the week of June 10-14
  - Attended and spoke at the opening reception of the annual conference of the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education on June 11
  - Attended the ESL student summer picnic on July 17
  - Attended sessions during the Open Education Network's Engage event from July 22-26
  - Attended the Spring closing ceremony of the Intensive English Language Program (IELP) on August 9
  - Presented at new faculty orientation on August 22
- Served as a reviewer for the Brock University Alumni Brilliance Awards and the Open Education Global Awards for Excellence