Centre for Teaching and Learning: Celebration of Teaching and Faculty Showcase

9:00 – 10:20am Pre-Conference Workshop - IC120

Developing your Teaching Portfolio

*Dr. Karen McCrindle, Associate Dean, Teaching and Learning; Director, Centre for Teaching and Learning.*

A key to efficiently becoming an expert teacher is to have a reflective teaching practice. A Teaching Portfolio can assist in developing that reflective practice and is a significant component of tenure, promotion and teaching award files. This event (open to faculty and all levels of career) will consider the purpose of a portfolio and the different components of it. The earlier you start, the easier the process.

10:30 – 11:50am: Plenary Speaker – IC204

Developing a stance of informed curiosity: An inclusive approach to supporting our students (and ourselves)

*Dr. Jessica Dere, Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream, Department of Psychology, UTSC*

Today’s post-secondary educators are increasingly faced with complex challenges rooted in high rates of student mental health concerns and the recognized need to foster learning spaces that are informed by principles of equity, diversity, and inclusivity. Despite the best of intentions, many educators can feel overwhelmed by the varied ways in which they are asked to support and engage with their students, many of which may be outside of their skill set. This session will offer a culturally-informed framework for thinking about and approaching the issue of student mental health, broadly defined. This framework emphasizes self-reflection, awareness, and humility, and counters the often implicit assumption that one must hold expertise in order to approach difference or complexity. Strategies and tools for developing a stance of informed curiosity will be introduced and explored through reflective exercises.

12:00 – 1:00pm: LUNCH – IC Atrium

1:10 – 2:50pm: Interactive Workshop – IC300

Teaching Conversations: A hands on session unpacking the complexities of inclusive teaching

*Dr. Sarah King, Associate Professor, Teaching Stream*
*Dr. Nancy Johnston, Associate Professor, Teaching Stream*
*Heather-Lynne Meacock, Lecturer - CTL English Language Development Support*

In recent surveys, UTSC students say they feel included when professors are intentional about creating a safe and supportive learning environment, are flexible with deadlines, and offer a range of learning formats. They also identify their ideal learning environment as a small class with extensive opportunities
to interact with the professor. Clearly, while designing inclusive courses is an important goal, there are practical obstacles that can seem impossible to surmount.

Join colleagues from across UTSC for an afternoon of positive, practical, collegial and creative discussion around what it means to engage in inclusive teaching, why it is important for all students, and how we can do it without exhausting ourselves. Our goal in the session is to create the conditions that allow great teaching conversations—the kind that lead you to see some aspect of teaching differently—to happen. We will generate and explore strategies, and it is our hope that participants will leave the session energized by the conversation, and feeling better equipped to make courses, spaces, and teaching more inclusive.

3:00 – 4:00pm: **Reception and Poster Session – IC Atrium**