

# Teaching Commons News

## Happy New Year!

Happy holidays to our readers! We hope you have had a chance to recharge your batteries. At the Teaching Commons we have planned many exciting course, workshops and events for 2015. View the opportunities for professional development and support at <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/professional-development/>



## 2015 Teaching in Focus (TIF) Conference at York

Teaching in Focus (TIF) Conference is the pan-university conference in Teaching and Learning at York University. This peer reviewed conference is for all who teach or support student learning at York to celebrate teaching, share experience and innovations in teaching practices, make connections, and build and expand a community and scholarship of teaching and learning. This year the conference will be held on May 21<sup>st</sup> and May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Call for proposals:** we invite you to submit your proposal by January 31, 2015  
<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/conferences/teaching-in-focus-2015-conference/>

For more information regarding the conference see  
<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/teaching-commons-conferences/>

## York Teaching and Learning Resources

### New Teaching and Learning website

Learn more about teaching and learning at York by visiting the new Teaching and Learning website <http://teachingandlearning.yorku.ca> This website was developed by the Office of Associate Vice-President Teaching and Learning and features our topnotch professors, work focused experience for students, community focused experience for students and learning through technology.

### Student guide to elearning

Whether you're teaching a fully online course, a blended learning course, or using web-enhanced learning in your course, the Student Guide to eLearning available online at <http://elearning-guide.apps01.yorku.ca/> provides useful information for your students. There is advice, resources and information on such topics as, what to expect when you study online, netiquette, and checking your online learning readiness

This year, TIF will be focusing on several themes including the purpose of a University education, Experiential Education, first year experience, and eLearning. If you are teaching at York, please consider sharing your experiences using innovative and effective approaches to teaching.

Read more about Teaching and Learning at York at Celia Popovic's guest blogger post on the HEQCO blog  
<http://blog-en.heqco.ca/?p=253>

## TC News

We are very pleased to welcome two educational developers to the Teaching Commons.

**Mandy Frake-Mistak** holds her PhD (York, 2013) specializing in critical policy studies, degree level expectations and outcomes based learning, quality assurance, and the marketization of higher education. She completed a Graduate Diploma in Postsecondary Education at York, holds an Honours BA in Physical Education, a BA of Education, and a MEd from Brock University. She has instructed numerous courses in education and physical education and kinesiology, at York, Wilfred Laurier, Brock and Trent University. Her ED work will be in the development and delivery of the Learning, Teaching, and Assessment Course, offered to new and contract faculty. Mandy facilitates professional development workshops for both faculty and graduate students, and is an Instructional Skills Workshop trainer. Mandy also facilitates a number of SEDA accredited courses related to teaching in higher education. Mandy is committed to the advancement of teaching, learning, and scholarship of teaching and learning at York University.



**Geneviève Maheux-Pelletier** holds a PhD in Second Language Acquisition and Teacher Education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Master of Education from Arkansas Tech University. Her roots are in *La Belle Province* (The Beautiful Province) where she received a Bachelor of Arts from Université du Québec à Chicoutimi. She has several years of university teaching experience in Canada, the USA and France. She comes to us from the University of Alberta where she spent over 8 years first as a faculty member and the head of the French Language Program and later as an educational developer. Her passion for rethinking and transforming higher education wakes her up in the morning, so it is with great enthusiasm that she joins the Teaching Commons! Her responsibilities will include supporting and advancing practices and scholarship around evidenced-based teaching and providing guidance vis-à-vis Experiential Education to York's teaching community. She will be our liaison at Glendon College, *en français s'il-vous-plaît!*



## News from the Library

The new Reserves web based request application has many enhancements that are going to be of great benefit to faculty who place items on reserve for their courses. It can be found at [reserve.library.yorku.ca](http://reserve.library.yorku.ca) or on the [library website \(http://www.library.yorku.ca/web/ask-services/facultyinstructor-support/places-items-on-reserve/\)](http://www.library.yorku.ca/web/ask-services/facultyinstructor-support/places-items-on-reserve/).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### EE Information for AIF Applicants

January 13<sup>th</sup>,

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Registration:

<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=216910>

### Introduction to Learning, Teaching and Assessment

January 14<sup>th</sup>,

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Registration:

<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=14621>

**A new Community of Practice (CoP)** for faculty teaching a 1000 level course will be meeting from 10:30 – 12:00 on the third Tuesday of the month beginning January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Register for any of the CoPs by visiting <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/community-of-practice/>

This newsletter is available as a .pdf at <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/tcnewsletter/>