CAE Newsletter

Crystal Kotow

This issue of the CAE Newsletter is dedicated to Crystal Kotow. Crystal was passionate about the CAE newsletter project. Her creativity and talent for writing helped lead the team to an innovative redesign. Crystal's knowledge and skills contributed to many exciting ideas and intriguing conversations about teaching & learning. We greatly miss her kind spirit and verve for academia. Her memory lives on through these newsletters, and will be forever cherished in the Centre for Academic Excellence.

Always on our minds, forever in our hearts

NEWSLETTER

ST. CLAIR COLLEGE
CENTRE FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

"LEARN IT TO EARN IT" TUTORIAL LAUNCH RESOUNDING SUCCESS

By Panayota Papadeas & Randy Semeniuk

84%

The CAE is pleased to report that 84% of registered students this semester have successfully earned their "Learn It To Earn It" tutorial certificate of completion, accounting for over 12,000 students!

Building a culture of academic integrity requires intentional approaches on the part of educational institutions. Strategies for building a culture of integrity include a "spectrum of prevention," a tiered approach that includes institution-wide education, context-specific prevention, and individual remediation.

We recognize that students come to college from different backgrounds and experiences, and that norms for academically acceptable behaviour vary among the student population. To address this, an academic integrity tutorial, mandatory for all students entering our programs, has been designed to "meet students where they're at." This initiative was launched at the start of the Winter 2022 semester and included all currently registered students. The academic integrity tutorial, "Learn It To Earn It" is a 90-minute, self-paced, online tutorial housed in Blackboard as a course. The tutorial is interactive and takes a values-based approach to academic integrity. Upon completion, students who participate in its learning activities should be able to:

- Identify why academic integrity is important within the St. Clair College community.
- Describe the values associated with academic integrity.
- Recognize ways in which academic integrity is violated.
- Define the risks associated with academic misconduct and how to avoid them.

The academic integrity tutorial is one part of the overall strategy to foster academic integrity on our campuses and in our classrooms. Building a culture of academic integrity requires the support and commitment of all stakeholders. We wish to thank faculty, the Academic Integrity Committee, SRC, TSI, academic administrators, and senior leadership for their ongoing commitment and collaboration in these efforts.

Newsletter Highlights

Tutorial Aims to Build Culture of Integrity at SCC

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A Message from the Executive Director: Reflections on One Year in the Role

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Experiential Learning: SCC Strategic Direction 2021/2022

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Open Education Week 2022 Review

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EES #11: Taking Responsibility

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING: SCC STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2021/2022
By Crystal Kotow

This winter, the CAE delivered its first set of professional development sessions on Experiential Learning (EL), including an overview and a focused session on critical reflection for EL. One of the objectives in St. Clair's 2021/2022 strategic direction states that "All new and existing academic programs contain appropriate levels and types of Experiential Learning," so in order to support faculty as the College works toward meeting this objective, the CAE has begun releasing resources through the Intranet and will continue to offer professional development sessions. Additionally, the CAE website will soon be updated to include a section devoted to experiential learning. Watch for future resources posted to the Intranet as well as PD offerings on EL.

If you would like to book an EL course or assessment consultation, email the CAE or visit us in room 272 South Campus.

PD NEWS: OPEN EDUCATION WEEK 2022
By Antoinette Bertucci

During the week of March 7-11, 2022, the CAE and Library Services joined forces for St. Clair College Open Education Week (OE Week). OE Week kicked off with a newsletter with entries from Irene Stewart and Brian Nairn. The newsletter was the first of its kind and provided insight and links to many eCampus Ontario resources including Pressbooks and H5P. There were two eCampus Ontario workshops on H5P and Pressbooks, as well as a Virtual Coffee House session with Irene Stewart where participants shared excitement and possibilities for OER while learning from colleagues. We encourage you to learn more about OER and look forward to seeing you during March 2023 OE Week!

Resource Launch: Frequently Asked Questions with the CAE

In January the CAE launched a new monthly resource CAE: Frequently Asked Questions. Each month a new FAQ will land in your inbox covering any variety of topic areas, from curriculum quality assurance, to teaching and learning, to academic integrity and professional development. The March 2022 FAQ will arrive soon - keep an eye out!

A Message from the Executive Director

Beginning of January 2022 marked the end of my first year as the Executive Director, Academic Excellence (EDAE) of the Centre for Academic Excellence & Quality Assurance (CAE). Reflecting on the events of the past year, I realized that it has been filled with accomplishments and a few challenges. Some activities worth highlighting include: the CQAAP audit;establishment of a strong Academic Integrity framework that included re-establishment of the Academic Integrity committee and implementation of supports for faculty, students, and administration; successful application that secured funding for increasing our digital capacity that enabled us to develop a Quality Assurance Framework for online delivery and a number of resources, supports for our internal quality assurance processes (annual, cyclical, impact reviews), and development and delivery of training and PD. All these, and more, have only been possible through the hard work and dedication of the CAE Team (past and present members).

The CAE has experienced some changes as well. New members have joined the team while others decided to continue their journey as educators in academic departments or to pursue other career opportunities. In addition, the name of the CAE was expanded to include quality assurance, an area that the CAE has always overseen, but it is now more prominent in the CAE profile.

Even through times of uncertainty and transition, the CAE Team members have remained strong supporters of the CAE's purpose and values and have been understanding and encouraging to me as I navigated the ups and downs of learning a new role. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you! I am very lucky and grateful to work with this amazing group of people and look forward to our future as we support the College's Strategic Directions and College's Vision of "Excellence in All We Do."

LINDI PRENDI, EDAE

EES #11: TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ONE'S OWN ACTIONS, DECISIONS, AND CONSEQUENCES

By Brian Nairn

This overview is meant to give you a little peace of mind as well as a starting point for considering EES #11: Take responsibility for one's own actions, decisions, and consequences in your course.

The focus of this particular Essential Employability Skill is centred on Personal skills. The defining skills as outlined by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities include: managing self; managing change and being flexible and adaptable; engaging in reflective practices; and demonstrating personal responsibility. In this case, EES #11 targets the latter two skills: engaging in reflective practices and demonstrating personal responsibility.

At first glance, it may seem daunting to try to teach and/or asses this skill, but once we really drill down to what is being asked, we'll see it's actually not so bad.

One key aspect of the skills associated with EES #11 revolves around the notions of self-reflection, self-assessment, and being able to identify within oneself personal barriers and efforts to improve.

Another focus of this EES is being able to develop goals and execute a strategy to achieve those goals. This includes being able to assess the feasibility of those goals and plans, being able to adjust accordingly, and knowing where to find the proper resources to support them. Now that we have a better grasp of what this skill is about, we can focus on how to implement and assess it in your own class.

One relatively easy way is to implement peer and self-assessment activities for group or individual assignments. On a slightly larger scale, assessment strategies such as capstone projects can allow for opportunities to debrief and self-assess. Students can self-reflect on their own contribution throughout the process and overall.

Reflective journals or portfolios also provide an avenue to address both self-reflection and goal development and strategy execution. Regular entries can include prioritizing action items and how those goals were or were not met, and what the next steps would be to continue advancing the project. Keep an eye out for PD sessions on reflection, as well as resources soon to be posted to the CAE website.

It's also important to remember that you are not expected to teach and/or assess every single EES, so it is completely okay if this particular skill doesn't fit within your course.

For additional information, including more definitions and examples, check out the references and resources listed below. And as always, you can find support from the CAE Curriculum Coordinator for your program, or by emailing the CAE directly.

REFERENCES AND RESOURCES FOR TEACHING AND ASSESSING EES #11

Visit the following links to explore various resources for teaching and assessing EES #11: take responsibility for one's own actions, decisions and consequences.

- Samples of EES Learning (Algonquin College)

- Essential Employability Skills (Durham College, Centre for Teaching and Learning)

- Module 1: Essential Employability Skills (George Brown College, Office of Academic Excellence)

- Essential Employability Skills (Ministry of Colleges and Universities)

- The Reflective Toolbox (writeonline.ca)