Exploring Innovations in University Teaching and Learning
A Community of Practice

with
Nicole Conrad, Paul Muir, Will Kay

The Studio for Teaching and Learning would like to invite interested SMU full-time and part-time faculty members to engage in a new Community of Practice (CoP) that will take place during the 2017-2018 academic year.

This CoP will be co-facilitated by Nicole Conrad (Psychology), Paul Muir (Mathematics and Computing Science), and Will Kay (Educational Developer, Studio for Teaching and Learning). Proposed plans for this CoP include meeting approximately once a month, with each session being an hour and a half in length. The sessions will be held on the following Friday afternoons, at 1:30 pm: Sept 29, November 3, and December 1 in AT212. Sessions for the Winter semester will be selected at a later time.

At the first session, CoP participants will work together to identify a teaching and learning idea for each of the subsequent sessions, as well as identifying "champions" for each session. The champions will later work with the CoP facilitators to develop the content and activities for their sessions.

As a structural model, the CoP approach offers a framework for creating learning communities to engage in sustained conversations focused on enhancing their professional practice. In the higher education context, CoPs can "provide professional support for academics who are increasingly overwhelmed by continuous change, excessive workloads and research output demands" (McDonald & Star, 2006). The primary purpose of this CoP is to encourage engagement and access expertise within the Saint Mary's University teaching community. Therefore, all sessions will foster collegial discussion and a sharing of ideas.

Please come out and join us in this exciting new teaching and learning experience!
Please contact Will Kay at *William.Kay@smu.ca* to sign up! Please bring some suggestions for teaching and learning ideas to the first session that the CoP might consider during the first session.

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