

## August Newsletter

### Top Stories This Month



# Announcing the 2024 Carleton University Teaching Award Recipients

Please join us in congratulating the six outstanding educators named 2024 Carleton University Teaching Award winners!

#### **Provost's Fellowship in Teaching Award**

- Aaron Doyle (Department of Sociology and Anthropology)
- Katie Lucas (Institute of Environmental and Interdisciplinary Science)

#### **New Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award**

- Matthew Pearson (School of Journalism and Communication)
- Laura Pickell (Department of Health Sciences)
- Fateme Rajabiyazdi (Department of Systems and Computer Engineering)

## **Excellence in Learning Support Award**

- Larry Thompson (MacOdrum Library)

[Learn More](#)



## **Brian Greenspan Named 2024 Carleton University Chair in Teaching Innovation**

Brian Greenspan, an Associate Professor in the Department of English Language and Literature and the College of the Humanities, has been named the 2024 Carleton University Chair in Teaching Innovation for his commitment to student success and novel approach to digital storytelling.

[Learn More](#)



STORIES FROM THE ELH:

## **Co-Op Student Highlight: Virtual Reality Development at the Experiential Learning Hub**

Bella MacCulloch, a third-year co-op student in the Interactive Media and Design (IMD) program, is helping the Experiential Learning Hub (ELH) make strides in exploring the

development of virtual reality experiences for teaching and learning purposes.

Read on to discover Bella's journey and how she's contributing to the future of VR in education at Carleton University.

[Read the story](#)



## Apply for the Certificate in University Teaching

Registration for the Fall cohort of TLS's Certificate in University Teaching (CUT) is now open! Available to faculty members, contract instructors, lab coordinators or anyone working in an instructional-focused position with a recent, current or upcoming teaching assignment at Carleton, CUT is a blended 10-week program designed to help you further develop your understanding of pedagogy and enhance your teaching skills. [Register for the program today.](#)



## Educational Technology News & Updates

### Continuing Pilots

**Assign2 & Gradescope:** We are excited to continue our pilots of [Assign2](#) and [Gradescope](#), innovative grading workflow tools designed to streamline the grading process and enhance feedback for students. These tools can help reduce grading time, ensure consistency, and provide detailed analytics on student performance. If you're interested in trying these tools, [let us know](#) and we will get you onboarded and integrate it into your Brightspace course page.

### Tuesday Drop-In Sessions for Teaching & Learning

# Support

Join our weekly drop-in sessions every Tuesday from 10–11 a.m. in the Future Learning Lab, room 483. Bring your laptop and any course-related questions. Our Educational Technology Coordinators and Instructional Designers are ready to assist with Brightspace, assignments, grade books, syllabus structure, learning outcomes, and more. No registration is required!

## Enhancing Accessibility in Brightspace

Interested in increasing the accessibility of your Brightspace course page? Submit a [Course Consultation](#) request to meet with our team one-on-one. In the meantime, consider the following practices:

### Use Accessible Content Formats:

- Ensure all course materials, such as documents, slides, and videos, are in accessible formats. Adding both Microsoft and PDF formats ensures all learners can access the content.
- All learners benefit from captions and transcripts for video and audio content.

### Implement Clear and Consistent Navigation:

- Design a clear, consistent, and logical navigation structure. Use headings, subheadings, and consistent layouts to help students easily find and access materials.
- Avoid complex menus and ensure that all links are descriptive and meaningful, helping students using screen readers to understand the context.

### Provide Alternative Text and Descriptions:

- Add alternative text (alt text) for all images, graphics, and charts to describe their content for visually impaired students.
- Use descriptive links instead of "click here" or "read more" so that screen readers can provide context about the linked content.

### Utilize Accessibility Features and Tools:

- Take advantage of Brightspace's built-in accessibility features, such as the [Accessibility Checker](#), which identifies and suggests fixes for accessibility issues in course content.
- Using Quicklinks in Brightspace reduces your workload when copying content from one course to another because they are relative links!

### Ensure Accessible Assessments:

- Create accessible quizzes and assignments by using question types and formats that

can be navigated easily by all students. Avoid relying on timed assessments which can be challenging for neurodivergent learners.

- Offer alternative assessment options, ensuring that all students have equal opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge.

## Improving Brightspace Navigability

We've made some exciting updates to the Brightspace NavBar to enhance your teaching experience! **For instructors only**, these new additions have been added to streamline your workflow:

- **Classlist and Content Reports:** Now under the "Progress" menu, you can easily access your [Classlist](#) and [detailed content reports](#) to monitor student engagement and progress.
- **Rubrics:** Located under the "Tools" section, you can quickly find and manage [rubrics](#).

## Fall Semester Reminders

- **Merge your courses prior to adding content:** If you're teaching multiple sections of the same course and want to merge them into one in Brightspace, fill out the course merge request form before you've built any course content. Courses can only be merged prior to student activity in the course.
- **Activate your course to allow students access:** Courses are hidden by default when they are created. You'll need to activate your course to share it with your students. The TLS team is ready to consult with you about your fall semester: complete the course consultation request form for any course request need. TLS is ready to help!

Whether it's creating navigable Brightspace courses or checking up on course design and configurations, TLS is here to help you! If you have questions, or require assistance, please reach out via the [TLS Support Portal](#).

## More News

- **Faculty of Science AI Summer Series:** The Faculty of Science is hosting a series of exciting collaborative workshops on Artificial Intelligence in the classroom throughout July and August. The next in the series will be *Writing in the Age of AI* on August 2 from 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. No sign-up is required. Full series information can be found [here](#).
- **Submit Your Textbook Adoptions to the Carleton Bookstore:** The new term is fast

approaching, which means it's the perfect time to submit your textbook adoptions to the Carleton Bookstore! The earlier you submit, the more likely the Bookstore will have the textbooks your students need in stock in time for the new term. [Adopt a textbook now](#).

## Upcoming Events and Workshops

- [Faculty of Science AI Summer Series](#), August 2, 16, and 30, 10:30 a.m. - noon
- [Drop-In Sessions: Teaching & Learning Support](#), August 6, 13, 20, and 27, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
- [Hands-On AI: An Introduction to AI and AI Tools](#), August 13, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- [Aligning Your Gradebook with Your Goals](#), August 20, 10 a.m. - noon
- [Contract Instructor Orientation – Fall 2024](#), August 20, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- [Improving Student Learning with Wooclap](#), August 21, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- [Experiential Learning Hub \(ELH\): XR Orientation and Exploration](#), August 21, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- [Immersive Learning with EON-XR: Enhancing Student Learning Experiences](#), August 22, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- [Approaching Challenging Teaching Situations](#), August 27, 10:30 a.m. - noon
- [Teaching and Learning with 3D Scanning](#), August 27, 1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.
- [Making and Sharing H5P](#), August 28, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- [Foundations of Multiple-Choice Testing](#), August 28, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Missed an event? Watch recorded sessions on our [Mediaspace channel](#).

[View all events](#)

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Need help? [Request a one-on-one consultation.](#)



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