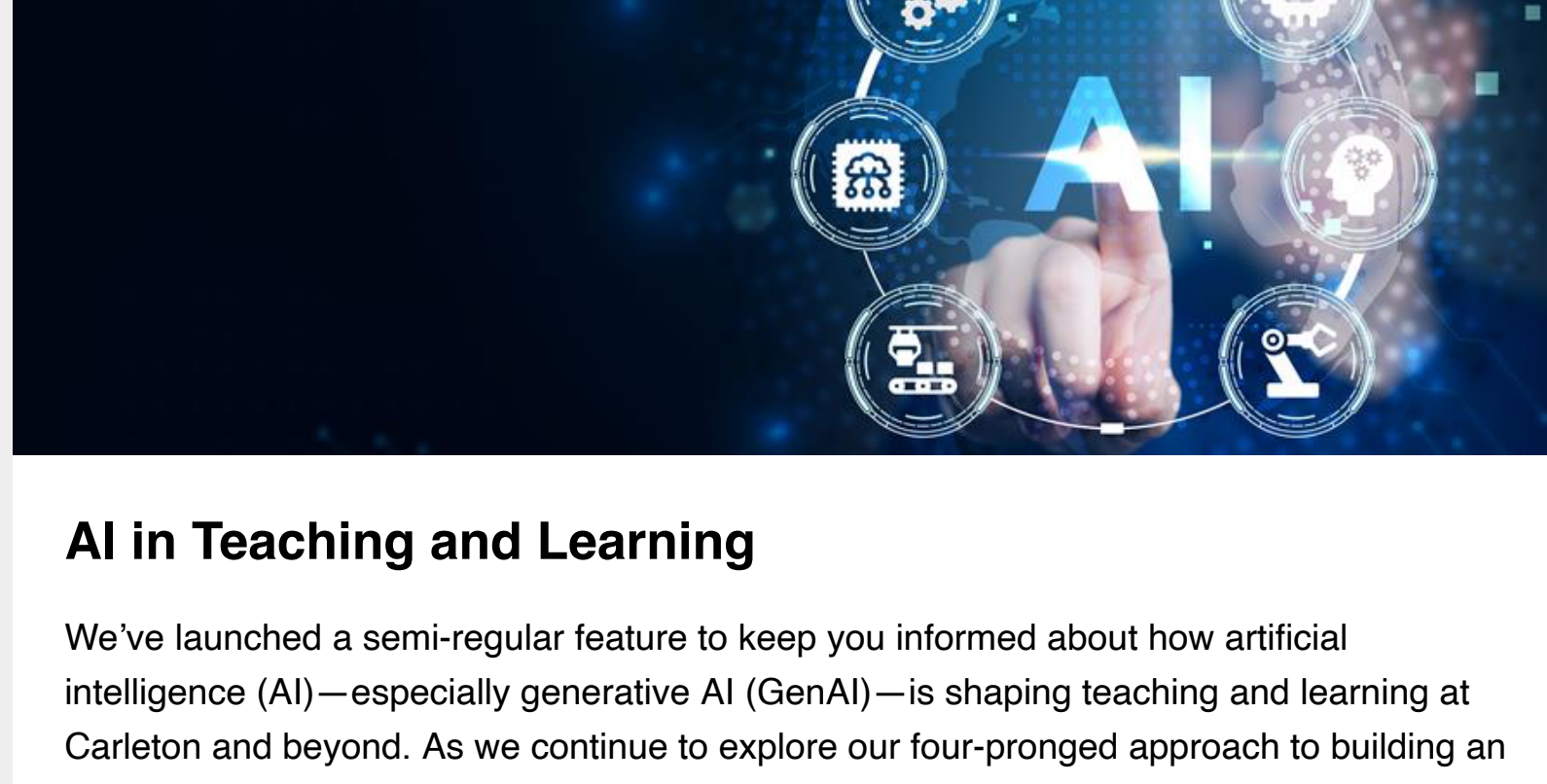


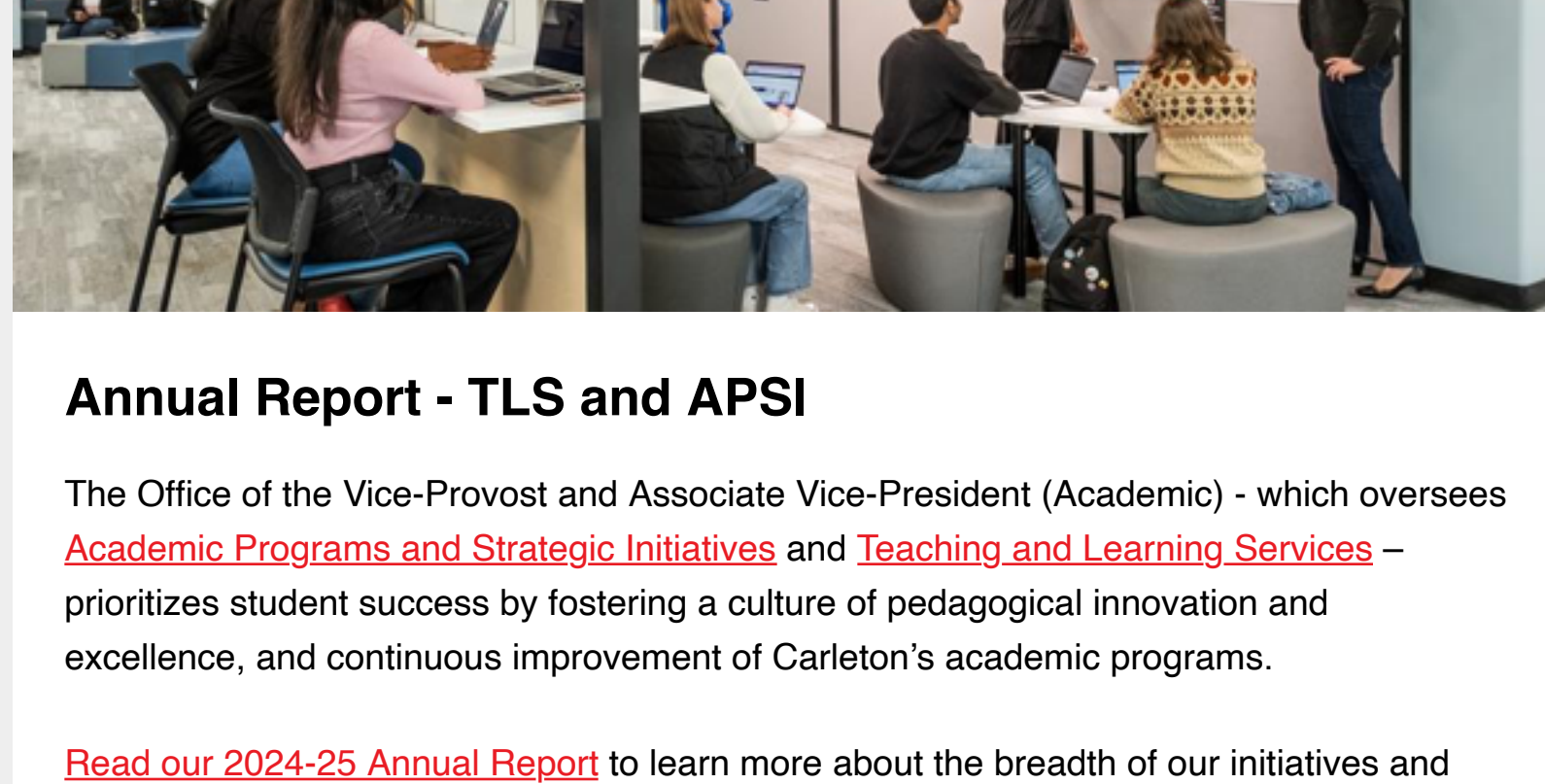
August Newsletter

Top Stories This Month



AI in Teaching and Learning

We've launched a semi-regular feature to keep you informed about how artificial intelligence (AI)—especially generative AI (GenAI)—is shaping teaching and learning at Carleton and beyond. As we continue to explore our four-pronged approach to building an [AI strategy for your course](#), this month's focus is on prong No. 2, the AI Talk, to help set the stage for AI use in your course. The AI Talk is about more than just rules—it's a chance to open a conversation. [Read more about the AI Talk](#) and this month's feature tool - Microsoft Copilot.

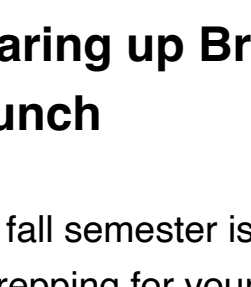


Annual Report - TLS and APSI

The Office of the Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic) - which oversees [Academic Programs and Strategic Initiatives](#) and [Teaching and Learning Services](#) - prioritizes student success by fostering a culture of pedagogical innovation and excellence, and continuous improvement of Carleton's academic programs.

[Read our 2024-25 Annual Report](#) to learn more about the breadth of our initiatives and activities that contribute to student success, pedagogical innovation, teaching excellence, and welcoming and inclusive learning spaces.

This year, we've continued to make progress on initiatives that ensure Carleton remains at the cutting edge in Canadian higher education, including fostering collaboration between instructors and students, supporting immersive learning experiences, and securing \$1.425 million dollars in new funding to support teaching and learning.



Educational Technology News & Updates

Gearing up Brightspace for Fall: What to Know Before You Launch

The fall semester is just around the corner. Whether you're wrapping up summer teaching or preparing for your next course, here are a few reminders and updates to help set you up for success:

- **Merging courses?** Be sure to complete the [Course Merge Request Form](#) before you start adding content or students begin engaging with the course. Courses can only be merged before activity begins.
- **Don't forget to activate!** By default, new Brightspace courses are hidden from students. Once you're ready, be sure to [activate your course](#) to make it visible.
- **Need support?** TLS is here to help with course checkup, tool selection and teaching strategies. Submit a [course consultation request](#) to get tailored support for your fall planning.

CuPortfolio: New Student Support and Upcoming Workshop

We've launched a new [self-enrol Brightspace course](#) to help students learn how to use cuPortfolio. It includes step-by-step video and text instructions, plus a discussion forum for peer-to-peer support.

If you're an instructor who wants to explore how cuPortfolio can support reflective, student-driven learning, join us for the [Introduction to cuPortfolio workshop](#) running online on Aug. 21. We'll demo the tool, showcase use cases and give you time to start building your own portfolio.

Brightspace Updates You Might Have Missed

- **Quizzes – reopen submitted attempts:** Accidentally submitted? Timed out? You can now reopen a learner's latest attempt and let them resume from where they left off—with the option to extend time limits and without the need to start over.
- **Assignments – flexible submissions:** We've long been awaiting this feature! You can now accept file uploads, text entries or both in a single assignment. To make this change, you'll need to create a new assignment.
- **Groups – bulk enrolment via CSV:** Instructors can now quickly enrol students in (or un-enrol them from) groups using a spreadsheet.

Check out the [What's New with Brightspace? page](#) for ongoing updates.



FeedbackFruits Feature: Discussion on Work and Topic, and Self-Assessment of Work

As part of our expanding educational technology toolkit, all instructors now have access to our full suite of [nine FeedbackFruits tools](#). To help you get started, we've been rolling out two featured tools per month. In previous months, we've highlighted tools that can help with peer review, group work, interactive engagement and social reading. August brings the final three tools:

Discussion on Work: [Discussion on Work](#) helps students reflect on and engage with each other's submitted assignments through structured peer discussions. After uploading their work, students provide comments and participate in guided conversations—either anonymously or openly—fostering dialogue, critical thinking and collaborative learning. The tool supports constructive feedback, encourages diverse perspectives, and includes features like participation tracking, customizable prompts and optional reflection steps to deepen learning.

Discussion on Topic: Use [Discussion on Topic](#) to spark conversation around a course concept, prompt or issue—even when there's no formal submission. Instructors post a discussion topic and students respond with thoughtful posts, reply to peers and upvote contributions to foster collaborative learning. The tool supports both individual and group discussions, offers anonymity options and includes a reflection step to deepen understanding. Ideal for warm-up questions, case studies, debates or low-stakes engagement, it promotes critical thinking, inclusivity and a sense of community.

Self-Assessment of Work: With [Self-Assessment of Work](#), students evaluate their own assignments using instructor-defined criteria such as rubrics, guiding questions or open reflection prompts. This process fosters metacognition, builds critical thinking and encourages students to take ownership of their learning. The tool supports both individual and group assessments, offers customizable grading options, and can be used for a wide range of deliverables—from essays to presentations—making it ideal for reflective or developmental assignments.

We invite you to explore the full FeedbackFruits suite in Brightspace ([via the Existing Activities button](#)) and discover how it can support authentic, student-centred learning.

Interested in training? Check out the in-person [Social Reading and Annotation Activities for Small Seminars and Large Classes workshop](#) on Aug. 26.

Already using one of these tools? We'd love to hear how it's going! Reach out [via the FeedbackFruits link in our TLS Support Portal](#).

A Musical Collaboration for Social Change

In spring 2025, music professor [Jesse Stewart](#) and his graduate seminar, [Music and Social Justice](#), joined forces with participants from [Total Communication Environment \(TCE\)](#) for a five-week collaborative songwriting journey.

Week by week, the group gathered to create and connect through music, culminating in the co-creation of an original piece titled [No Day Wasted](#). Their musical partnership came to life in a heartfelt performance at the Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre in April 2025.



This video, produced by TLS's New Media team, captures the spirit, creativity, and connection that defined their five weeks together.



Celebrating Student Innovation at CityStudio Ottawa's HUBBUB 2025

On April 2, Carleton University students, staff and faculty joined Ottawa Deputy Mayor Marty Carr and other city employees at Algonquin College's Nawapon Indigenous Learning Commons for the annual [CityStudio Ottawa \(CSO\) HUBBUB](#) event to showcase select student projects from the initiative this year.

CSO is a collaboration between the City of Ottawa, the University of Ottawa, Carleton University, Algonquin College and La Cité Collège. The program brings students and faculty from the different post-secondary institutions together with employees from the city to explore municipal challenges from different perspectives.

This academic year, 317 Carleton students participated in CSO projects matched with 22 city employees. Discover some of the [projects that were presented at the showcase](#).



Accessible Teaching Tip: Visual Elements

Visual elements, including images, icons, graphs, charts and diagrams, are an important part of effective and inclusive presentation of content. They can support learning by making complex information easier to understand, remember and engage with. This month's accessible teaching tips will help you ensure the visuals in your courses are accessible:

- **Always add alt-text to any visuals that are non-decorative and convey essential content:** [Alt-text](#) (alternative text) is a short, written description that conveys the visual's content and meaning. If the alt-text description is very long, consider adding it as text to the content itself.
- **Describe non-decorative elements in live presentations or video recordings:** Verbally describe the content and meaning of non-decorative elements in detail.
- **Make sure that all visuals are good quality and clear:** Use sharp, high-resolution images and ensure all font is legible and large enough in charts and graphs.
- **Avoid relying on colour alone to differentiate information:** When designing graphs and charts, use labels, patterns or shapes in addition to colour so content remains understandable for colour-blind users.
- **Carefully consider the use of images as decoration:** Avoid using images that don't support content or enhance the user experience. Ensure that images and icons used are universally recognizable by your audience.
- **Use images of text only for decoration or if the information absolutely cannot be presented any other way:** When the textual information in the image is related to or conveys important content, add it as alt-text or to the content itself.



Reminder: Changes to Production Services event support

As of July 1, 2025, [Production Services](#) will be limiting the types of internal events that it supports to those that are deemed essential to the university's reputation and linked to the [Strategic Integrated Plan](#). Events that will no longer be supported include:

- Departmental events, talks, seminars, meetings, luncheons/banquets/socials
- Thesis defences (in person, hybrid and online)
- Book launches, readings
- Film screenings
- Departmental retirement events/gatherings/holiday parties
- Professional development and training sessions
- Departmental conferences not booked through Conference Services

We highly encourage you to try to book classrooms and/or departmental rooms for these types of events as technology exists in these spaces at no charge to you.

If you have any questions about these changes, please email productionsservices@cunet.carleton.ca.

More News

- **New AI Resource Hub:** Artificial intelligence is changing the way we live, work and learn. Carleton's new [AI Resource Hub](#) can help you navigate this rapidly evolving field. You'll find a collection of resources and professional development opportunities to help you explore and experiment with AI, including tips on developing a course-level AI strategy, sample syllabus language around the use of AI in your course, and ideas about how AI tools can be used in different types of assignments to enhance student learning.
- **Contract Instructor Orientation:** Are you a new contract instructor preparing to teach a course this fall? Or simply looking for a refresher? Don't miss our orientation. Review materials online before joining a Q&A session on Zoom on Aug. 19 at 5:30 p.m. You'll be able to ask questions about the resources provided and any other teaching and learning questions you might have. [Learn more and register here](#).

Upcoming Events and Workshops

- [From Conflict to Connection: The Case for Constructive Dialogue Skills in the Classroom](#), Aug. 18, 1 to 2:30 p.m.
- [Designing Grading Rubrics](#), Aug. 19, 1 to 3 p.m.
- [Contract Instructor Orientation Q&A](#), Aug. 19, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- [Hands-On AI Retreat](#), Aug. 20, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- [Introduction to cuPortfolio](#), Aug. 21, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- [Applying Inclusive Practices in Your Course Design](#), Aug. 21, 1 to 2:30 p.m.
- [Increasing Engagement in Large Enrolment Courses with Polling](#), Aug. 25, 2:30 to 4 p.m.
- [Social Reading and Annotation Activities for Small Seminars and Large Classes](#), Aug. 26, 1 to 2:30 p.m.
- [Reimagining Group Work: Collaboration in the Classroom](#), Aug. 27, 1 to 3 p.m.
- [Encourage Participation and Streamline Communication in Large Classes by Using Intelligent Agents](#), Aug. 28, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- [CityStudio Ottawa Information Session](#), Aug. 28, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.
- [Effective Lesson Planning That Benefits Students and Instructors](#), Aug. 29, 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Don't forget we host [drop-in sessions](#) every Tuesday in the Future Learning Lab (room 483) from 10 to 11 a.m. to help you with your course needs. Bring your laptop and any teaching-related questions you have.

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](#).

