

CTL CONNECTS



Issue 5 - Summer 2024

Summer teaching can be wonderful, most of the time, but it also has its complexities. You might feel lonely or disconnected, and certain amenities you're used to may not be available. While many of us relish packing away coats and boots, others loathe hot and humid days. So, what can you do to maximize the wonderful aspects and offset the downsides? Read on for some suggestions from our CTL team and enjoy your summer the best way you can!

Adopting an Equity, Social Justice and Indigenization Lens

The EDIB Centre is offering **Cultures of Belonging Module 1 and Module 2** and would like to give you the opportunity to register.

Both modules are self-paced EDI&B trainings. These online modules are available for free to Georgian faculty and staff.

Module 1 is ideal for those starting out on their EDI&B journey and are looking to demystify the language and core concepts of EDI&B, wanting to explore practical strategies for building more equitable workplaces, and begin a deeper exploration of our various identities and how these shape our lived experiences. If you feel lost about where to begin, this course is a great place to start.

In the second module, we will build on the concepts from module 1. You will be able to consider the ways in which you have experienced or unintentionally contributed to experiences of marginality in the workplace. This will be countered with belonging strategies such as inclusive language, micro-affirmations, amplification, and the formation of alliances to create meaningful change. These strategies will empower you to contribute to more equitable, inclusive workplaces for all.



Although these modules can be completed at your own pace, they will also be supported by the [Equity, diversity, inclusion & belonging](#) via optional drop-in hours for learners to reflect on the material, ask questions, and discuss how the material can be applied in our roles at Georgian. If interested in module 1 or module 2 or connecting in the drop-in sessions, please register.

[Register here](#)

Any questions before you register? Reach out to edibcentre@georgiancollege.ca.

Competency Framework Updates

In the winter of 2022, (yes, we did say winter... sorry!), Dale Ripley, an educator from K through post-sec and researcher, shared the "...ten qualities I believe are essential if someone is to be a great teacher":

1. Relationships
2. Knowledge
3. Feedback
4. Balance
5. Continuous Improvement
6. Teaching Awareness
7. Support
8. Storytelling
9. Awareness of Students' Culture
10. Negotiation



You can read more about this list in the article, [What Makes a Teacher Great? in Canadian Teacher Magazine](#).

Our key takeaway is that our role as educators deserves attention and that our competence can grow and develop as we support the same in our students.

Through the [Georgian Faculty Competency Framework](#), we are leaning in and enjoying the opportunity to connect with peers and celebrate the qualities we have and the gifts we bring to our classes.

If you haven't had the chance to learn about the Georgian Faculty Competency Framework, check out our [website](#) and learn how you can connect with our teaching community, grow your practice and gain recognition for your competence.

Watch the Brave Teaching Journey's Community of Practice in the fall to take a guided adventure through the framework with peers.

Interested? Save your spot now by emailing tracy.mitchell-ashley@georgiancollege.ca or jain.robertson@georgiancollege.ca



Upcoming CTL Events

Focus on Universal Design for Learning 2024

Hold the date for our Focus on UDL (FoUDL) on

August 27th from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.



New Faculty Orientation

Do you have any new faculty joining your teaching team? Share this [New Faculty Orientation link](#) with your new faculty so they can register.

Connection Opportunities & Generally Neat Stuff Happening at Georgian

Be updated about what you need to know

Want to keep up-to-date with the goings on at CTL and Georgian College? Check out these communication channels to learn what we are doing:

- Staff News (get the most up-to-date information about Georgian's happenings) in the [Employee Portal](#)
- CTL Connects (this newsletter)

- CTL Weekly (direct to your email every Monday morning with this week's events and opportunities)
- [CTL website and CTL calendar](#)
- CTL Central (in Blackboard Organizations)



CTL Team Updates

Faculty Developer Team

Summer on Campus: Making the Most of the Season's Opportunities

Summer can be an enjoyable time for all kinds of reasons (weather, #nosnow, relaxed vibe). It can also be quiet and some even might say lonely on campus.

What can you do to make the most of the goods and offset the downsides?

Enjoy the outdoor environment:

- Take your class outside,
- Incorporate nature/outside/local locations into your assessments,
- Encourage students to share recipes for their favourite summer snacks or refreshments,
- Take a thought-walk or meeting walk rather than meet online.



Did you know? All faculty have access to **CTL Central**, a Blackboard organization, that houses excellent resources on "Course Essentials", "Blackboard", and coming soon in August "UDL" and "Accessibility and Copyright". All these resources are designed for faculty by faculty. Find CTL Central in BB under Organizations (left menu).

Craving connection? Join us in our last **Teaching in the Summer Community of Practice** at noon on July 23rd. Meet in K203 and bring your lunch! We'll chat about whatever topics interest you.

[Register here](#)

Short on time and aren't able to attend a CTL session? Have an assessment that you're struggling to mark, or your students struggle to complete? Or do you want some non-judgmental feedback on your syllabus, assessments or other course material from someone who isn't a subject matter expert? Reach out to learn more about how the faculty developer team is supporting you: [Faculty developers offering one-on-one support](#).

Instructional Designer Team

Finding Balance in Summer Teaching: Tips to Avoid Educator Burnout

Summer teaching offers a unique opportunity to engage with students in a more relaxed atmosphere, but it also presents challenges that can lead to burnout. Balancing the workload, maintaining connectivity, and setting clear boundaries are crucial to prevent exhaustion. Here are some strategies to help you find balance and enjoy your summer teaching experience.



Managing Workload

Overloading yourself with tasks is a quick path to burnout. To manage your workload effectively:

- **Consider Your Assessment Schedule:** Spread out assessments to avoid overwhelming yourself and your students. Frequent, smaller assignments can be less stressful than large, infrequent ones. If teaching multiple classes, compare your assessment schedules to identify potential overlaps in student submissions.
- **Make a Plan:** Set aside specific times for lesson planning, grading, and personal time. This ensures you stay organized and don't let work spill into your personal life.
- **Be Mindful of Student Workload:** Assignments should be meaningful but manageable. Overloading students can lead to disengagement and more work for you in terms of grading and support.
- **Take Breaks:** Incorporate regular breaks into your schedule to recharge and prevent burnout. Short, frequent breaks can improve focus and productivity.

Building a Sense of Community

Feeling isolated can increase stress. Foster a sense of community among your colleagues and students:

- **Engage with Colleagues:** Join or form professional learning communities where you can share experiences and strategies. Check out the [CTL Workshop schedule](#).
- **Stay Connected with Students:** Regular check-ins and interactive activities can build a supportive classroom environment, even if you're teaching online.

Setting Clear Boundaries

Blurred boundaries between work and personal life can lead to burnout. To maintain clear boundaries:

- **Define Work Hours:** Establish and communicate your working hours to students and colleagues. Stick to these hours as much as possible to ensure you have personal time.
- **Create a Dedicated Workspace:** Whether you're teaching from home or in a classroom, having a specific area for work can help you mentally switch between work and leisure.
- **Practice Self-Care:** Prioritize activities that promote well-being, such as exercise, hobbies, and spending time with loved ones. Ensuring time for self-care can help maintain a healthy balance.



Additional Resources

Listening to podcasts can provide new perspectives and tips on maintaining balance:

- **[Time for Teaching Podcast:](#)** This podcast aims to collect, curate, discuss, & suggest strategies for applying teaching & learning principles and ideas, while appreciating both the challenges and joy of teaching in higher education.
- **[WorkLife with Adam Grant:](#)** Available on TED, this podcast explores work-life balance and offers research-backed insights into managing work-related stress.

By managing your workload, fostering a sense of community, and setting clear boundaries, you can enjoy a fulfilling and balanced summer teaching experience.

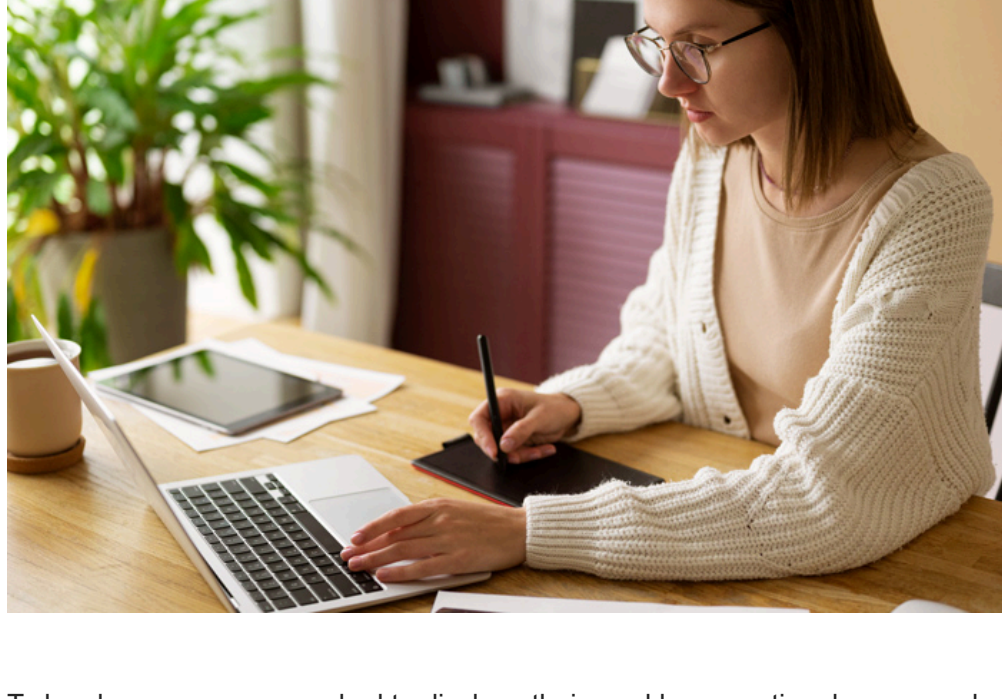
Remember, you can't pour from an empty cup.

Instructional Design Technologist Team

An IDT Team's Journey of Digital Literacy

This past spring the Instructional Design Technologist team launched a new series of workshops aimed at improving faculty and staff's digital literacy skills.

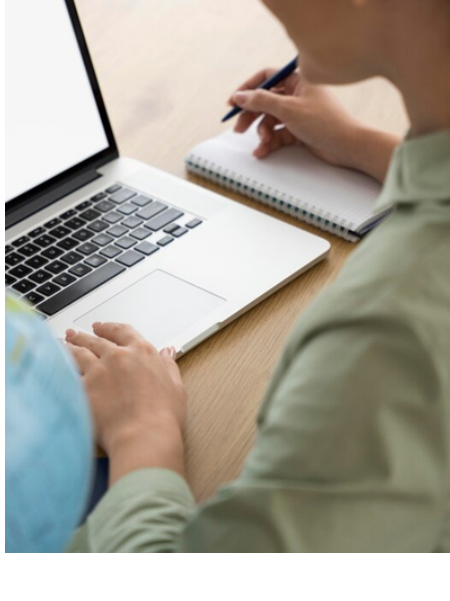
And, at first glance you might assume it was a Microsoft Office marathon, but if you attended any of the sessions, you might have explored the concept of digital literacy at a more personal level.



To be clear, no one was asked to disclose their weekly screentime hours or asked to create complex Excel formulas (phew... right?).

But we did ask questions, such as "What influences, events, objects, and/or people contributed to the digital learner that you are today" or "What are some of the significant memories or events that shaped what you believe today about technology and yourself as an independent digital learner?" (personal communication, September 2023).

Although we (faculty, staff, administrators, and students) sometimes feel the compulsory nature of honing our 'skills' -- specifically our Microsoft Office 365 abilities -- our team wanted to include in our session an opportunity to remind everyone about the connection we have with technology, how we arrived at that connection, and where others are coming from.



If you have not had a chance to join in some of these discussions, please join us in the fall for more Digital Literacy Skills sessions – start your journey at the CTL Workshops Schedule:

[See CTL Workshops Schedule](#)

Multimedia

Educational Infographics: Making Learning Fun and Accessible

Ever wondered how to turn those tricky, mind-boggling ideas into something students can easily grasp?

Enter infographics - the superheroes of simplification in education! These colorful, info-packed graphics blend visuals, data, and bite-sized text to make even the most complex concepts crystal clear.



Think of infographics as your trusty sidekick in teaching. They transform daunting datasets and intricate processes into fun, easy-to-follow steps and eye-catching visuals.

Students love them because they're not just informative—they're engaging! Infographics spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and help students remember key details long after the lesson ends.

Still not sure? Check out this article on [How to effectively use infographics for data storytelling in education marketing content](#).



With a splash of creativity and the right tools, you'll simplify learning and make complex concepts a breeze for your students!

So, where do we begin? Here's an article from the University of Hull summarizing the 5 stages of creating an infographic: [Hull University Infographic Creation Guide](#).

And the best part? You can create your own stunning infographics in minutes, thanks to Canva's easy-to-use infographic maker. It's perfect for adding that extra flair to your lessons or presentations. Check out Canva's free infographic maker:

[Create infographics with Canva](#)

And while you're at it, here are 9 ways to make sure your educational infographics accomplish their purpose: [9 Ways to Create Better Education Infographics](#).

Happy infographicking!

Summer Life Hacks

Trying to keep your items out of melting ice (yucky!) water in your cooler? Will Morrison on Facebook suggests placing a plastic garbage can in the cooler and storing stuff that needs to be cold and not wet in it.



Retrieved from Facebook post Wed., July 3rd by Will Morrison "Saw this today and wanted to share".

[Diyncrafts.com](#) suggests some amazing summertime hacks:



Have a gathering? Use a muffin tray to serve condiments. It will also help you cut down on dishwashing.



Want to stock your fridge with ice-cold drinks? Use a binder clip to keep bottles and cans from rolling.

Retrieved from [20 Genius Summer Lifehacks That Will Blow Your Mind - DIY & Crafts \(diyncrafts.com\)](#).

Last, tired of digging around in the cooler to find the beverage you want, try this neat organization hack: [Cool Cooler Hack](#).

Fun Activity

Summer work has its ups and downs! Why not take a relaxing break and solve a free digital

puzzle? Here are two suggestions.
Click the link and click “Solve
puzzle”.

- [Solve Hummingbird lights
jigsaw puzzle online with 64
pieces \(jigidi.com\)](#)
- [Solve Turtle love jigsaw
puzzle online with 81 pieces
\(jigidi.com\)](#)



Looking for something to do this summer, consider some of these bucket list ideas:
[200+ Fun Summer Bucket List Ideas for Adults \(2024 Guide\) \(awaytothecity.com\)](#)

Get Involved

Interested in sharing ideas for CTL Connects? We'd love to hear your thoughts.

Please email tracy.mitchell-ashley@georgiancollege.ca

Contact Us

Guess what. There are four ways to
connect with us:

Blackboard Ultra

For general questions about Blackboard
Ultra:
facultybbsupport@georgiancollege.ca

Faculty Development

For questions for our faculty development
team: [facultydevelopment@georgiancollege](mailto:facultydevelopment@georgiancollege.ca)
[.ca](#)

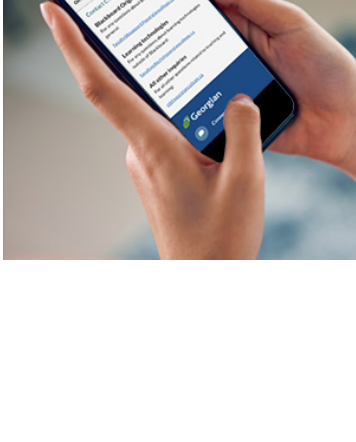
Learning Technologies

For questions about learning technologies
outside of Blackboard:
facultyedtech@georgiancollege.ca

All other inquiries

For all other questions related to teaching
and learning:
ctl@georgiancollege.ca

Or visit us on our [website](#),
[Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [LinkedIn](#), or [X](#)
([Twitter](#)).



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