



Western Conference on Science Education 2019

Call for Proposals

The Western Conference on Science Education (WCSE) is a unique biennial event that gathers passionate teaching and research faculty, students, librarians, publishers, and edutech vendors to collaborate on improving our responses to the myriad opportunities and challenges facing modern STEM education in our colleges and universities. Although issues in the Canadian context are highlighted, the conference welcomes colleagues working outside the country or outside the traditional disciplines of science.

Fueled by the insightful contributions of diverse conference delegates from coast to coast (including several 3M National Teaching Fellows), WCSE provides a vehicle for networking and community-building across disciplines as well as a venue for enhancing engagement in the scholarship of teaching and learning. The Theme for WCSE 2019 will be “Beyond Content”. Although broadly applicable innovation, research, and wisdom of practice related to teaching disciplinary content is always welcome at WCSE, in 2019 we encourage participants to think bigger and beyonder. For instance, you might wonder: How are you and your students affected by the institutional, geographical, cultural, community, andragogical, policy or built environment within which learning happens? How do you and your students locate one another within the shifting landscape of your respective roles, rights and responsibilities? Which of your educational outcomes are content-independent? Do your students develop skills and attributes that will support their thriving in an unpredictable future? What barriers to inclusive practice do you encounter? How do you promote well-being for yourself and your students?

Our opening Symposium will launch the conference with discussion of such topics as Implicit Bias, Inclusivity and Critical Reflection. We will also host a Community Dinner, EduTech Test Kitchen, Expert Panel of undergraduate students, and mentoring by 3M Fellows.

“Beyond Content”

This Conference Theme offers a large conceptual tent within which conference participants can examine a wide diversity of shared experience, innovation, and research on current issues in post-secondary science education. We also welcome work that maintains our attention on previous conference themes such as making, embracing change, indigenous ways of knowing etc.

You could present a completed body of work or you might offer an in-progress report on a project for comment and discussion with interdisciplinary peers. Work arising from student/faculty partnerships is particularly welcome.

WCSE 2019 will retain many of the uniquely engaging features of previous meetings with the liberal addition of novelty and surprise. Presentation formats will include 30 min. Presentations, 80 min. Workshops and Panel Discussions. We will introduce new Welcome to my Laptop, Reflective Practice, and Digital Poster formats. All presenters will be invited to contribute to the Conference Proceedings: *Discussions on University Science Teaching: Proceedings of the Western Conference on Science Education* (affectionately known as “Wixie DUST”).



Although submissions are formally welcome from Monday, March 4 until Monday, April 1, 2019, we are committed to working with presenters who need a more personalized timeline.

Find Submission Guidelines and other information at: www.thewesternconference.ca

The 2019 Conference will be held July 3-5 at Western University in London, ON.

Registration will be available in April.

To receive direct notification of future updates, subscribe to our Twitter feed @WestConf.

Or, send a message to westernconference@uwo.ca with "Update Me" in the subject line.

Please help us to gather more improvements to science education by forwarding this announcement to interested colleagues.

We look forward to meeting with you again soon.

WCSE 2019 Organizing Committee

Invited Speakers

Dr. Mary-Pat Wenderoth

(University of Washington, WA)

"Active learning and gendered achievement gaps in STEM."

Dr. Bryan Dewsbury

(University of Rhode Island, RI)

"Teaching for meaning and purpose."

Dr. Greg Wilson

(Co-founder, Software Carpentry)

"Using open source development techniques to effect individual and institutional change."

Dr. Burns Cheadle

(Western University, ON)

"Future-proofing Science students: Developing professional identity."

Dr. Javeed Sukhera,

(Western University, ON)

"Bias in the mirror: Breaking bias without breaking ourselves."

Dr. Robyne Hanley-Dafoe

(Trent University, ON)

"Resiliency and positive learning relationships."

Ms. Chaim Andersen

(Inuit of the Nunatsiavummiut, Memorial University, NF)

"Making chemistry relevant to Inuit."