



EDC Action Group Updates

February 11, 2015

*Information on how to join one of the existing 8 action groups, or to suggest a new one:
www.stlhc.ca/constituencies/educational-developers-caucus/edc-special-projects-action-groups/*

Educational Developers Portfolio Action Group

Overview: An action group formed to discuss, research and create a new guide that provides an overview and supports the development of ED portfolios.

Team Members: Jeanette McDonald (Lead), Paola Borin, Debra Dawson, Erika Kustra, Natasha Kenny, Isabeau Iqbal, Judy Chan and Marla Arbach.

Timelines: Established 2012, Ongoing

- Two world cafés and one poster session took place in 2014 to collect input from educational developers about ED portfolios (ICED, EDC, BCEdTech Group)
- Preliminary data collected will inform development of ED Portfolio Guide for educational developers and an early publication research note
- ED Portfolio action group working with EDC executive to support development of EDC Publication Series
- Portfolio guide development has a timeline in place that will see a finalized copy available at the end of 2015; multiple contributors are supporting the authorship and creation of the document
- The EDC community is invited to share a link to their online ED portfolio, documents for potential inclusion in the guide, resources or tools useful for developing their portfolio, etc. Materials/links may be directed to anyone of the action group members
- Once the guide is complete, the action group will turn its efforts to conducting more research on the use and application of ED portfolios

Education for Sustainability Action Group

Overview: An action group formed to share ideas, information and opportunities related to education for sustainability and its support at the educational developer, instructor, curriculum, institutional and national levels.

Team Members: Alice Cassidy (lead), Alice Macpherson, Vivian Neal, Sandra Neill and Gavan Watson.

Timelines: Established 2013, Ongoing

- The listserv holds steady at 40 colleagues. We want to find ways to help spread the word and invite more folks to join (<https://listserv.uoguelph.ca/cgi->



[bin/wa?SUBED1=EDUCATIONSUSTAINABILITYACTIONGRP&A=1](#)). To date, most of the traffic on the list has been by our core members, so we want to also find ways to encourage dialogue amongst the whole community.

- Several of the core members send messages to the list every month or so. Recent posts have included; 1) an example from SFU, where student teams tackle complex environmental problems in an interdisciplinary course (<http://www.sfu.ca/tlc/blog/multidisciplinary-student-teams.html>), 2) reflections on work in Kenya (see <https://vneal.wordpress.com/>), an international perspective on sustainable development, supported by Academics Without Borders (<http://www.awb-usf.org/>), 3) an update on a large-scale audit at George Brown College to quantify all teaching and learning relating to environmental, social and economic sustainability, including an overview of results and a link to the framework used to do the audit (<http://hdl.handle.net/10299/318>).
- We also maintain links with some other groups, helping spread the word about the action group and its work, such as to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) mainly in the US and the HEA-ESD-News listserv in the UK.
- Other recent or upcoming work of the core members include: 1) presentations at conferences (Council of Ontario Universities 2014 Learning Outcomes Symposium in October in Toronto, and the Curriculum Developers' Affinity Group (CDAG) Annual Conference in November in Ottawa), 2) an invitation to submit articles to a special sustainability-themed issue of the peer-reviewed online journal Transformative Dialogues (<http://www.kpu.ca/td/future-themes>), 3) discussion of possible connections to Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES) <http://www.unep.org/training/programmes/gupes.asp> and 4) plans to submit a proposal for work through the Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center affiliated with the University of Maryland (<https://www.sesync.org/opportunities/enhancing-socio-environmental-research-education>).

Mentoring Action Group

Overview: An action group formed to develop mentor and mentee relationships and related resources and to plan mentoring activities

Team Members and Steering Committee: Deb Dawson (lead), Isabeau Iqbal, Teresa Dawson, Ros Woodhouse, Ruth Rodgers, Heather Smith and Eric Kristensen and 26 members as mentor, mentee or mutual mentoring.



Timelines: Established 2013, Ongoing

- Two meetings since STLHE 2014
- Priority is to establish webinars that are interactive with 3 target audiences
 - a) quick 60 minute information/ interaction session
 - b) sessions for those who want a take away piece, such as how to write a educational developer's philosophy statement
 - c) linking this action group with others such as TAGSA
- The first webinar will be launched in March 2015 with the help of senior educational developers using WebX as our platform--more information on how to sign up for the webinar will follow soon
- Mutual mentoring was explored particularly for the new directors group
- Suggestion of the need to do a survey of members once the webinar series launched
- Full meeting notes can be found on the EDC web site:
<http://www.stlhe.ca/constituencies/educational-developers-caucus/resources/mentoring/>

Reward and Recognition Action Group

Overview: The EDC is looking into how to recognize the contributions of individuals to our organization. We noted the importance of even small gestures of thanks, of capturing stories of what makes EDC conferences and community great, and of inclusive opportunities for recognition.

Team members: Joseph Lipsett (lead), Shivanand Balram, Carolyn Hoessler, Peter Wolf, Alice Cassidy, Suzanne Sheffield, Carol Roderick, and Denise Stockley.

Timelines: Established early in 2014. Ongoing.

- Carol Roderick has invited Joe Lipsett to take her place to chair the Action Group.
- The main current initiative is the second appearance of the Wall, which is intended to recognize the work of individuals in the field of teaching and learning - both at the conference and others doing great and unheralded work on other initiatives year round. Pictures will be taken and shared:
<http://www.stlhe.ca/constituencies/educational-developers-caucus/resources/reward-recognition/>
- The group will shortly begin working to identify a few actionable priorities for the year.



Teaching and Learning Centres Leadership Action Group

(formerly New Centres & Directors Action Group)

Overview: This new action group started with the idea of supporting new centres and directors. However conversations among various teaching and learning centre leaders have suggested a desire and need for a network among these educational developers in leadership roles. Topics of interest to date include shared resources, mentorship, accountability and collaboration across Centres. The group supports the EDC living plan by building our professional capacity in leadership skills, engaging our community, building resources and sharing organizational development/facilitating change practices.

Team Members: Stephanie Chu (lead); More to join formerly following EDC 2015 meeting.

Timelines: Established late in 2014, Ongoing

- Meetings have been organized to take place during pre-conference days at EDC 2015 in Winnipeg on Wednesday, Feb. 11 from 2 to 5 pm and at STLHE 2015 in Vancouver on Tuesday, June 16, from 9 to 12 pm. Contact stephanie@sfu.ca to contribute to the agenda and to confirm your participation at these events.

Accreditation for Centres' Courses or Programs Action Group

Overview: At the invitation of the Executive of the Educational Developers' Caucus (EDC) a Working Group was formed from volunteers to examine the issue of accreditation of educational development professional programs. We use program here to refer to any workshops, series of workshops, courses, modules, or other professional development activities that are formal in some way, designed for such a purpose in a context, and repeatable. The group was asked to explore the feasibility of such accreditation, to find out what forms of accreditation are currently available internationally, to identify the current situation in Canada, the advantages and disadvantages of program or course accreditation, what a Canadian accreditation process might look like, and whether the EDC would be an appropriate body to institute such a system.

Team members: Celia Popovic (lead), Trevor Holmes, Erin Aspenlieder, Allison Jeppesen, Suzanne Sheffield, Stephanie Dimech, Paola Borin and Ruth Rogers.

Timelines: Established early in 2014. Ongoing.

- Please see the discussion paper produced by this group: EDC Discussion Paper - Potential accreditation of post-secondary educational development programs in Canada: What is the role for EDC? <http://www.stlhe.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/EDC-Discussion-Paper-Feb-2015.pdf>
- There are several questions for the EDC community – we would like to hear your views. You can do this either by attending the session at the forthcoming EDC Conference (1 to



2 pm on Day 1, February 12, 2015) or by using this form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1tKJUp5VHlgE97xtU049emUuyDZALAFYC9aDtWBGgd_yw/viewform?usp=send_form

- Once the conference is over we will collate the responses along with the discussion paper. We feel that will be the end of our current project, but have included suggestions for future action and many if not all of us would be interested in being involved in any future action.

Guidelines for Ethical Conduct Action Group

Overview: This action group has the goal of developing ethical guidelines to situate and inform our professional practice and conduct. Commitment to ethical practice has been identified as a shared and defining value for the ED community and has prompted an interest in articulating the commitment more fully. The group will build on the work of the EDC Ethical Principles for ED Practice Action Group.

Team Members: Mary Wilson (Lead – stepping down), Jeanette McDonald, Pierre Boulos and Maureen Wideman.

Timeline: Established 2014, Ongoing.

- We would like to invite members of the ED community to be part of the action group.
- We have met a few times and achieved the following.
 1. Dropbox space created to hold articles and materials collected on ethics in practice .
 2. Scoping exercise of other professional organization websites to identify ethical principles/practices completed. These organizations include: educational development associations (e.g., SEDA), discipline-based organizations, other training and development organizations, etc. A summary of this scoping exercise has been prepared and is located in the Dropbox we created, along with some scholarly articles.
 3. Pierre also consulted HEQCO about some potential funding to support a larger initiative. While HEQCO supports the initiative, there is no funding available.
- Next steps – call a meeting to review documents, define scope of ethical principles, and identify some recommendations. Broader consultation needed.

Living Plan Revision (New)

Overview: This action group is looking at revising and updagng the EDC Living Plan.

Team Members: Natasha Kenny (Lead) and Paola Borin.

Timeline: Established 2015, Ongoing

- An update will provided during the EDC Annual General Meeting on Friday, Feb. 13.