

Educational Developers Caucus (EDC) Grants 2014 Final Report

Title of Project: Developing the Developer: a one year development plan and resource for new educational developers

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Overview of the Project:

The project produced a one year professional development plan and supporting materials for centres of teaching support to induct and develop new educational developers. While it may be of use for any new hire, the focus is on relatively new entrants to the profession and aspiring EDs. The project involved resource identification and gathering to add to the initial list of resources created by the EDC action group on mentoring. The resources include a list of development opportunities available within Canada, such as ISW facilitation, access to online courses, such as the SEDA online course, links to a suggested reading list, recommended conferences and networking opportunities and resources intended to prompt critical reflection on Educational Development practice. Users are encouraged to co-create the resources and to annotate items according to which were useful or not and why or why not. The resource will be a living document continuously updated and improved over time.

Inspiration for this created resource began at the EDC Institute (April 13-15, 2015), learning from colleagues and identifying the great resources they presented and provided us with. Subsequent meetings followed to envision what the resource would look like. Jon Sufrin immediately began reading and reviewing the resources compiled from the EDC Institute. As a faculty member with interest and some experience in Educational Development (designing and facilitating workshops) along with a new position as a Research Assistant with the Teaching Commons, Jon was a great fit for this project. He was eager to read and learn, and could also provide the perfect perspective for what resources were the most relevant and effective (they were all relevant and effective!) Jon also searched for new resources and added to our list as he discovered other relevant work from the references provided in what he was reading. Jon wrote a small description for everything he read, identifying the key features of the reference or resource for new developers. We then organized the resource to answer the questions any new ED might have. Natasha presented our ideas for the resource, what we had done so far and what we planned to include to our Teaching Commons team (consisting of EDs of various experience levels) to get their feedback, input and ideas of what else to include. The resource then began to take form. Jon identified the resources and descriptions that would best fit under each questions (or category) and compiled a reading and resource list. We worked to add descriptions and context under each question (category) and started to populate the website. There was further editing and organization of the website. We contacted some EDs to request their permission to include in the website effective resources they had created. A link to the resource website was sent to them for their review as well. When final touches were made to the website, it was sent first to the Teaching Commons team for review and additions. It was later forwarded to a few EDs from other Ontario institutions for their review and feedback. Final additions were made.

Educational findings/outcomes:

The Developing the Developer: a one year development plan and resource for new educational developers was created and can be accessed at <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/developing-the-developer-a-one-year-development-plan-and-resource-for-new-educational-developers/>

Please share this link widely.

This resource will continually be added to and updated. We have incorporated a form for feedback, with the ability to upload files, including testimonials from Educational Developers, to add to the “Why be an Educational Developer?” Page. We hope this will facilitate discussion and sharing of resources among the community of Educational Developers and inspire more courses, workshops, events and resources for aspiring, new and experienced Educational Developers and their mentors.

Budget:

The grant amount was \$2500.00, which funded a Research Assistant from April to July 1, 2015.

Conference Presentations and/or publications based on the project:

Natasha May and Mandy Frake-Mistak submitted a proposal for a 90-minute interactive session at the Educational Developers Caucus Conference in Windsor, titled, “Developing the New Developer: Sharing Critical Paths to Educational Development” which was accepted. We were offered a half-day pre-conference session.

The investigators are open to future publications and conference presentations should there be interest.