Remote Experiential Learning Webinar Series and Development Resources

Dear colleagues,

As a result of changing circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic, course instructors, program directors, and staff involved in a range of experiential learning offerings have highlighted questions around the conversion of “typical” experiential learning experiences to remote delivery. These questions range from general and universal considerations regarding the administration of courses to specific considerations for the various types of hands-on curricular experiences.

In response to these questions, the Office of the Vice-Provost, Innovations in Undergraduate Education has coordinated the development of two new tri-campus initiatives, in addition to the existing EL Hub website, intended to support faculty and staff as they prepare for the delivery of high-quality remote experiential learning courses and programming during the 2020-21 academic year;

1. A multi-session webinar series has been planned that will draw on experts within the university community to provide guidance on key design considerations for adapting experiential learning for remote delivery. Topics will cover general considerations, such as partnership development and student engagement, as well as design questions specific to different forms of EL delivery.

2. A remote experiential learning community of practice Sharepoint site has been created. This site houses a suite of resources to support the design and implementation of remote experiential learning opportunities and hosts a community discussion board for sharing practices and engaging colleagues in related areas.

The webinar sessions, development resources, and Sharepoint site are open and available to all faculty and staff at the University. We are also happy to include additional resources, modify existing resources or explore the development of new resources to be hosted on the Sharepoint site.

We hope that you will share this information broadly, particularly to those colleagues undertaking the design or adaptation of experiential learning courses and programming. These initiatives have been made possible thanks to the strong collaborative efforts of the tri-campus UofT community, and we would like to thank those who have been able to provide their time and expertise to this effort.

Any questions regarding the webinar series, requests for additional or modified resources, or input on the resources available through the Sharepoint site can be sent to vp.iue@utoronto.ca.

Thank you very much for your ongoing support and commitment to the provision of high-quality experiential learning opportunities at this time.

Professor Susan McCahan

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