

CI Newsletter: Oct 7-11, 2024

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Hello everyone! We are moving along quickly this semester, we can't believe it is October already! Check out some exciting resources, developments, and events below.

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Curriculum Integration Project



Fall 2024 Human Skills Cohort

On September 25th, 35 Faculty Champions joined us for a 2-hour in-person session. The workshop was a big hit with FCs sharing lots of ideas around the importance of Human Skills and identifying places in the workplaces of their disciplines where Communication, Collaboration and Critical Thinking are of importance.

On October 2nd, the FCs enjoyed an asynchronous session where they needed to read through Best Practices: Integrating Soft Skills Development Into the Curriculum. A discussion followed (in the virtual space).

On October 9th, we will all convene online for a 2-hour workshop focusing on conscious and deliberate integration of Human Skills into Curriculum. We will also start to delve into the deliverables for this cohort of FC's, paying special attention to helping them to conduct a Needs Analysis.

Curriculum Integration: Strategy Spotlight

Every CI Newsletter issue will feature a "Strategy Spotlight", where we share a curriculum integration strategy or idea that you can adapt to your classroom. Each strategy comes with a learning objective and supporting activities, assessments and resources. The example is subject

specific but can be adapted to any subject area.

Our first example comes from a faculty member in the Engineering Technician program. This professor hosted weekly “What’s the Deal with Steel” conversations based on sustainability articles about steel production. After a few weeks of discussions, students were asked to find their own relevant articles/videos and provide the class with guiding questions.

In the professor’s own words: “I started the conversation with the students, and we had regular class discussions. I also worked this topic into an asynchronous module, and we watched some videos about new technologies used to eliminate fossil fuels in the production of steel.”

- **Sample Learning Objective:** Students will critically analyze the impact of steel production on the environment.
- **Related Activity:** What’s the deal with steel? Discussion, debate and presentations.
- **Related Assessment:** Informal Presentation – professor evaluates communication skills and familiarity with topic.
- **Related SDGs:** SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities; SDG7: Affordable and Clean Energy.
- **Resource:** [Five Examples of Sustainable Engineering for the Future](#)

Looking for more sustainability integration examples from different subject areas? Explore our [Curriculum Integration Teaching Sustainability Module](#) and scroll down to Examples of Sustainability in the Classroom.

Tell us what’s in your CI backpack! Do you have an integration idea to share with the Seneca community? Submit your idea using our [Curriculum Integration Idea form](#).

Event Calendar: Teaching & Learning Day Fall 2024

Join us for Teaching & Learning Day Fall 2024, Human Skills in the Age of AI, at Newnham Campus on Tues. Oct. 22, 2024. Highlights include a keynote presentation “Critical Thinking in the Age of AI” by Maria Vamvalis; a faculty panel on teaching human skills; a session on AI and digital literacies by Seneca Libraries by and the Learning Centre, and a workshop on AI in the Classroom by Seneca’s AI Thought Leaders, Kent and Panos.

Lunch will be served. Register on [MyPD](#).

Event Calendar: World Mental Health Day

This World Mental Health Day, WHO is uniting with partners to highlight the vital connection

between mental health and work. Safe, healthy working environments can act as a protective factor for mental health. Unhealthy conditions including stigma, discrimination, and exposure to risks like harassment and other poor working conditions, can pose significant risks, affecting mental health, overall quality of life and consequently participation or productivity at work. With 60% of the global population in work, urgent action is needed to ensure work prevents risks to mental health and protects and supports mental health at work.

World Mental Health Day is every year on the 10th October. The theme for 2024, set by the World Foundation of Mental Health, is 'It is time to make prioritise mental health in the workplace'. In order to explore this theme in schools first we must understand what we mean by mental health and how staff and teacher mental health impacts on pupil well-being and a whole school culture of mental health.

Mental health means feeling and functioning well day to day and overall, maintaining levels of mental health are essential to priorities for staff as part of any whole school approach or ways of supporting student mental health.

So how can you promote mental health at Seneca on this year's World Mental Health Day? Students who feel they require support can reach out to Seneca's [Counselling & Accessibility](#) office to schedule an appointment. Outside of their hours of operation, contact any of the following for further assistance:

- [Good2Talk](#): call 1.866.925.5454 or text GOOD2TALKON to 686868
- Mental Health Helpline: call 1.866.531.2600
- [Real Campus](#): Real Campus or 1-877-390-REAL to speak to a counsellor

Event Recap: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

On September 30th, Seneca Polytechnic held events for [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#). Opening remarks from David Agnew, President and Mark Solomon, Associate Vice President, Reconciliation and Inclusion began the event.

A few video clips rounded out the event. One explained the [\(7:07\) Origins of Orange Shirt Day \[Video\]](#) as described by Phyllis Webstad.



Unfortunately, due to a personal emergency, the keynote speaker [Connie Walker](#) was unable to attend. She will be sharing her stories and work at a future date.

Beyond September 30th, many communities, including Seneca, will continually reflect on the impact of these stories of lost children.

Looking for support? Feel free to reach out to the CI team at any time by emailing teaching@senecapolytechnic.ca

