

The Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching, & Learning at UBC

Natalie Westwood (Program Developer), Dr. Jaclyn Stewart (Co-Lead), Brett Gilley (Co-Lead), Dr. Joseph Topornycky

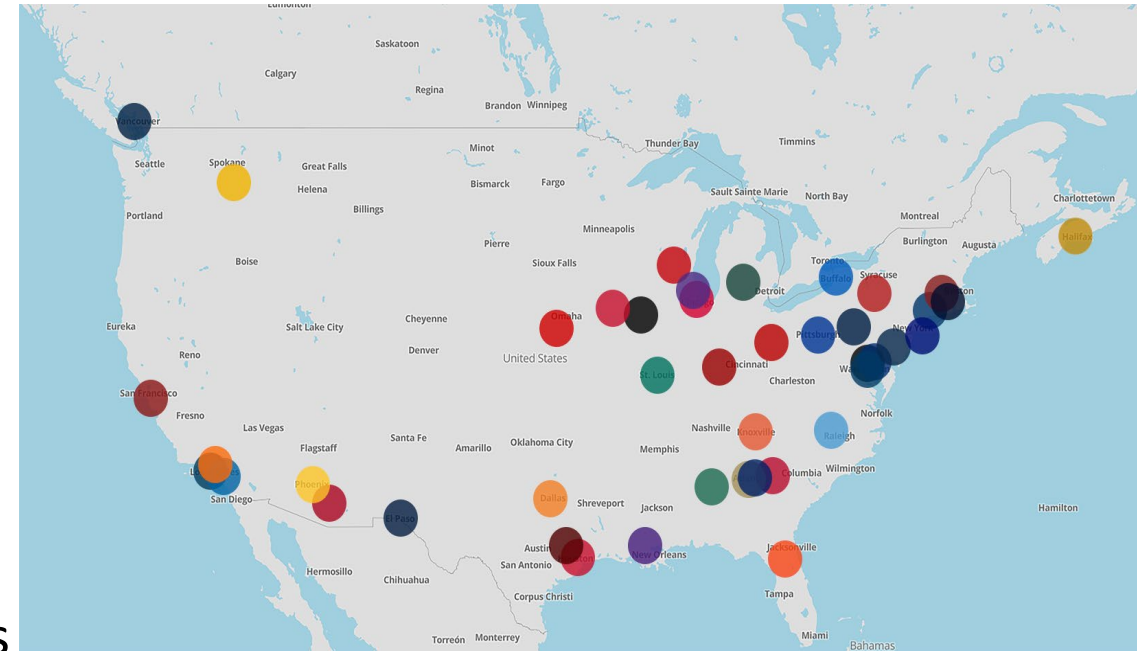
natalie.westwood@ubc.ca

www.cirtl.ubc.ca



What is CIRTl?

- CIRTl is a network of 42 universities across Canada and the United States
- CIRTl supports programs to help graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to be able to use evidenced-based practices in teaching and develop their own research skills to create better undergraduate education experiences
- Originally for STEM fields, it has expanded to include participants from any discipline
- CIRTl has three different levels that participants can work towards:
 1. CIRTl Associate
 2. CIRTl Practitioner
 3. CIRTl Scholar



Level 1: CIRTL Associate

- An introduction to evidenced-based teaching and practice for participants
- An introduction to adult learning theory
- Programs include:
 - Instructional Skills Workshops (ISW)
 - Graduate Student ISWs
 - Postdoctoral Fellow ISWs
 - Foundations of Pedagogy Course
 - A two month, non-credit course with more of a focus on theory than the ISW

“I would recommend [the ISW] to others as I think it's useful and informative no matter your level or experience. I feel like there's always an aspect that it can help you improve on” –
Postdoc ISW Participant

Level 2: CIRTL Practitioner

- Deepening understanding around best practices in teaching
- Building on skills from the Associate Level
- An introduction to SoTL literature & the process of SoTL
- Discipline-specific practical experience
- Programs include:
 - Teaching Practicum
 - A mentorship program with supportive workshops
 - One semester long
 - Aimed at postdocs, but graduate students are welcomed
 - Teaching-as-research (TAR) Project
 - Award available for graduate students
 - A small SoTL project that should be developed by the participant with guidance from a mentor
 - Certificate of Advanced Teaching and Learning (CATL)
 - Graduate students only
 - Year-long interdisciplinary program

“I already recommended [the Teaching Practicum] to other postdocs in my group, to enhance their teaching skills, develop teaching experience, as well as to learn about teaching in a classroom” – Postdoc Teaching Practicum Participant

Level 3: CIRTL Scholar

- Completion of an independent SoTL project
- Dissemination of that project either at a conference or through a publication
- Programs include:
 - Teaching-as-research (TAR) Project
 - Award available for graduate students
 - A small SoTL project that should be developed by the participant with guidance from a mentor
 - Certificate of Advanced Teaching and Learning (CATL)
 - Graduate students only
 - Year-long interdisciplinary program

“Participating in TAR allowed me to gain an appreciation for research both in my discipline and outside. I was able to challenge myself to gain skills in methods I was nervous to attempt.” – PhD TAR Participant

Opportunities for Faculty

- We are always looking for faculty to be involved in supporting our participants
- Mentors
 - Teaching Practicum
 - We need mentors to allow participants to discuss the mentor's approach to teaching a course
 - Mentors will share their syllabus and talk about their general approach to the course along with the first day of class
 - Mentors will have their mentees observe their teaching at least twice in addition to the first day of class and meet at least once to discuss the mentee's observations
 - Mentors will allow their mentees to teach two guest lectures over the semester

Opportunities for Faculty

- Mentors
 - Teaching as research (TAR) Project
 - We need mentors to help support participants in what is likely their first time conducting a SoTL project
 - Often participants have limited experience with many SoTL methods
 - Mentors will help with the BREB application and support participants in developing and conducting their research project over a year
 - Mentors should not assign the participant a particular project; these projects are aimed to allow participants to develop the full project

Are you interested in supporting a graduate student or postdoc? Please feel free to fill out this form:

