

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Webinar series on the latest innovations in online teaching to help faculty and instructors at colleges and universities think outside the box

Bold ideas aim to make students' investment in their education pay the biggest dividends possible

(THUNDER BAY, ON) – An eight-part webinar series showcasing the latest innovations in online teaching is expected to help Ontario faculty and instructors get the inspiration they need to help students succeed.

Presented by Contact North | Contact Nord, the *Pockets of Innovation Showcase Webinar Series* kicks off on Tuesday, November 24, and continues for the next four months.

Each week via Zoom webinar, Contact North | Contact Nord showcases an innovative teaching practice used by at an Ontario college or university. Live sessions are led by a faculty member or instructor experienced in best practices, tools and strategies for teaching online. All one-hour sessions allow for a 20-minute Q&A. Here's a taste of what's planned:

- Tuesday, November 24 at 1:00 p.m. ET
McMaster University's Michael Justason shares how the use of **lightboards** is helping students in science, technology, engineering and math
- Tuesday, December 1 at 2:00 p.m. ET
Seneca College's Ken Wong and Margaret Osborne explain how the class response system they're developing promotes **active online learning**
- Tuesday, December 8 at 1:00 p.m. ET
Laurentian University's Aaron Langille shows how **gamification** can be used to motivate first-year computer science students

Visit the [Pockets of Innovation Showcase Webinar Series](#) for full information and registration.

As COVID-19 forces the global academic community to find new ways to teach online — and come up with innovative ways to help students learn — higher education is at a crossroads.

Paul Taillefer, Chair of the Board of Directors, Contact Nord | Contact Nord said it's critical to leverage the expertise of Ontario's world-renowned institutions as educators and

students adapt to a new reality.

“Ontario's colleges and universities have bold ideas on how to adapt post-secondary education and training to meet the needs of a rapidly changing job market and economy, and to fuel the future prosperity of the province,” Taillefer said.

All presenters taking part in the *Pockets of Innovation Showcase Webinar Series* touch on the opportunity that gave rise to their specific innovation, the technologies they used, how the innovation is helping students and educators, the challenges they faced, and the potential for others to benefit.

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About Contact North | Contact Nord

As a community-based organization, established and funded by the Government of Ontario since 1986 with its headquarters in Thunder Bay, Contact North | Contact Nord provides underserved Ontarians in 800 small, rural, remote, Indigenous and Francophone communities with equitable access to education and job training in their own communities.

We respond to 1 million+ requests per year from students and potential students related to Ontarian colleges and universities and provide five local services:

- Information about available online programs and courses
- Assistance with the registration process for their program or course of choice
- Free use of computer workstations and high-speed Internet access to complete online courses
- Free use of web conferencing and videoconferencing distance learning platforms to connect to, and participate in, their live online programs and courses
- Supervision of written exams and tests

Contact North | Contact Nord's teachonline.ca portal showcases hundreds of projects focused on transforming the teaching and learning experience, improving student success and boosting engagement and flexibility.

Learn more about us at contactnorth.ca.

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