

focus on Contract Faculty

TO INFORM & BE INFORMED

We will be on campus these days/times ...if you would like to ensure we drop by to see you let us know!

Waterloo Nov 25, 5:30-7pm

Kitchener Nov , 12-1:30pm

Brantford Nov 24, 2-4pm

Updates ...

As CF, many of us are hesitant to involve ourselves in the kinds of conversations we fear will mark us as recalcitrant. But we only marginalize ourselves further when we attempt to trade silence and invisibility for employment and job security. The path to creating and ensuring greater security for ourselves and our colleagues is to speak and be heard. Upcoming events provide such opportunities.

1. **Academic Freedom & the IPRM** by Jim Turk and Craig Heron (Nov. 24, Senate & Boardroom, 6-8 pm). Turk, former [CAUT](#) Executive Director, recently intervened on behalf of Robert Buckingham when he was fired by the University of Saskatchewan for speaking out against the Transform US plan. Heron, from York University, has written a scathing, well received critique of Dickenson's program prioritization.
2. **In Conversation: CF & Pres. Blouw** (Dec 9, WLUSU Boardroom, 2-3pm). We strongly encourage each and every CF to participate in an

open and frank conversation with Pres. Blouw. Let's engage in a discussion that include all of us listening to one another – the pressures we face, the contributions we make, and the hopes we hold for the future. Please let us know if you are planning to attend and if you would like assistance arranging car pooling.

Attention is beginning to be paid to the precarity of our work and the conditions under which it is performed as more CF speak out. In the U.S., the [New Faculty Majority](#) (National Coalition for Adjunct & Contingent Equity) is organizing a day-long, nationwide, walk-out in February. Closer to home, [OCUFA](#) unanimously set our issues as a key priority for 2014-15. We will provide additional information on these, and other, initiatives in upcoming issues of *focus on Contract Faculty*.

Silence is not a successful strategy.

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Research & Conference Funds Pt 1

The Office of [Educational Development](#), part of the [CTIE](#), seeks to promote, support, and contribute to scholarly teaching practice and educational research at Laurier. In support of these goals, we offer an instructional development grants program, which includes funding to attend conferences (up to \$1,000) and engage in research (up to \$2,500) that are educational in focus. Both options

are open to CF who have been teaching at Laurier for at least 3 consecutive years.

Travel applications may be submitted to Educational Development throughout the year. Applications must be submitted and approved before travel commences. Project grant [applications](#) are accepted twice per year (Oct/Mar 15) and are adjudicated by the Senate Committee on University Teaching. For more information, refer to the Educational Development website or contact our office ext. 3507.

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Supporting Students' Academic Success at Brantford Campus



The last issue of the *focus on Contract Faculty* featured information about the writing services available at the Waterloo campus. For those teaching at the Brantford campus, I just wanted to take a moment to introduce myself to you.

I have been CF at Brantford since 2009, but my primary role at Laurier since 2007 has been in Student Affairs, supporting students' academic skills development. I am currently the Manager, Writing and Study Skills Services, in the Centre for Student Success, and support a team of professional, para-professional, and volunteer colleagues.

At Brantford, we have developed an integrated learning service model, where students can access both writing and study skills supports in a one-stop shop. As learning is not compartmentalized, our services are not either: time management, reading skills, and effective note-taking are all essential to success with academic writing, and we are pleased to offer students blended support whenever necessary. In addition, we work very closely with Laurier Brantford librarians in order to help students understand the inter-connectedness of research, writing, and critical thinking and develop their awareness of academic integrity.

At Brantford, we provide students with individual consultations for writing or study skills support, deliver campus workshops on various academic and writing skills, and provide some para-professional development opportunities. We support our faculty members by delivering in-class workshops or presentations at their request or by setting-up specific course support services like Facilitated Study Groups.

If there is anything that we can do to help you or your students, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Looking forward to working with you,
Jenna Olender
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