

**Western Conference on Science Education
July 5* – 7, 2017
Call for Proposals**

“Embracing Change”

As the WCSE 2017 organizing committee discussed a possible conference theme, our thoughts continually spiraled back to some aspect of our relationship to change. We trust this consensus will have broad appeal and we invite you to think about how you avoid, approach, banish, invite, follow, lead, despise, relish, ignore, engage, fear, or give a big hug to change in your practice as an educator.

How are you responding to changing technologies? Changing curriculum? Changing student interactions? Changing scholarship on teaching and learning? Changing policy? Changing careers? Changing opportunities? Changing learning spaces? Changing educational resources? Changing minds?

In what ways are you or your students or your institutions agents of change? And, of course, in what ways are all of the above staying just the same as they always have been, even though they change?

Western University in London Ontario will, once again, host this unique conference that gathers passionate faculty, students and educational staff across disciplines to focus on creative improvements in post-secondary science education. Although issues in Canadian science will be highlighted, the conference welcomes colleagues working outside the country or outside the traditional disciplines of science.

The 2017 WCSE will be sparked by the engaging ideas of pre-eminent science educators and fueled by the inspiring work of teaching and research faculty, students, librarians and other science education professionals from a wide variety of colleges and universities.

We are excited to welcome three plenary speakers, each offering a provocative commentary on change :

Dr. Joe Kim, (McMaster University, Hamilton, ON)

Applied Cognition in Education Lab

“Applied cognition in science education: Changing to evidence-based practices.”

Dr. Charles Henderson, (Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI)

Co-Director of Center for Research on Instructional Change in Postsecondary Education

“Why is it so hard to implement change in higher education in science?”

Dr. Annie Prud’homme-Genereux, (TELUS World of Science, Edmonton, ON)

Vice-President, Science, founding faculty member of Quest University, Squamish, BC

“My change from academic to corporate science education.”

* The official conference program begins on Wednesday morning, July 5. The Welcome event will be Tuesday evening, July 4.

“Embracing Change”

This Conference Theme offers a multi-faceted lens with which conference participants can examine a wide diversity of shared experience, innovation and research on current issues in the shifting landscape of post-secondary science education.

You could present a completed body of work or you might offer an in-progress report on a project for comment and discussion with more experienced peers. Collaborative work with undergraduate or graduate students is particularly welcome.

The WCSE 2017 Program will feature 30 min. Presentations and 80 min. Workshops in addition to Posters and Panel discussions. We have retired the 14 minute “Short and Tweet” format in favour of the 5 minute Ignite! Talks first introduced in 2015. All presenters will be invited to contribute to the newly launched *Discussions on University Science Teaching: Proceedings of the Western Conference on Science Education* (affectionately known as “Wixie DUST”).

WCSE 2017 will retain many of the uniquely engaging features of previous meetings with the liberal addition of surprises.

Submissions are welcome from Monday, January 23 until Monday, March 6, 2017.

Find Submission Guidelines and other information at: www.thewesternconference.ca

Registration will be available in April.

To receive direct notification of future updates, subscribe to our Twitter feed @WestConf. Or, send a message to westernconference@uwo.ca with “Update Me” in the subject line.

Please help us to gather more improvements to science education by forwarding this announcement to interested colleagues.

We look forward to meeting with you again soon.

WCSE 2017 Organizing Committee