



## Western Conference on Science Education 2013: Call for Proposals

Although our original plan was to host the Western Conference on Science Education (WCSE) every three years, the positive buzz created by the inaugural 2011 event left us determined to present an encore sooner rather than later. **We have therefore “preponed” the next Conference up to July 9 - 11 of 2013** to better sustain our momentum toward enhancing the practice and profile of post-secondary science education in Canada.

Regardless of your level of experience or type of scholarship, we invite you to join us back at Western University in the summer of 2013 for the rare opportunity to participate in a national community of colleagues, from across the disciplines of Science. Together, we will share experiences, innovations, and research related to teaching, learning and policy in higher education.

The 2013 WCSE will be sparked by the provocative ideas of some of North America's preeminent science educators and fueled by the inspiring work of teaching and research faculty, librarians and other science education professionals from colleges and universities across the country.

We are excited to welcome four dynamic plenary speakers:

**Dr. Susan Rundell Singer**, (Carleton College, Northfield MN)

A National Science Foundation Program Officer in Biology and co-author of the *Vision and Change in Undergraduate Biology* report, Susan has participated in six National Academies studies, including chairing the committees that authored *America's Lab Report*, *Promising Practices in STEM Undergraduate Education* and *Discipline-based Education Research: Understanding and Improving Learning in Undergraduate Science and Engineering*.

**Dr. Tony Bates**, (Tony Bates Associates, Vancouver, BC)

As President of an online education consultancy and a research associate for Contact North (Ontario's distance education and training network) Tony brings a broad experience with international Open Universities to bear on the current state of technology-enabled learning in Canada. A quote from his latest book, *Managing Technology in Higher Education*, speaks to concerns of many WCSE participants, "The big question that needs to be asked though is whether the teaching in our postsecondary institutions is already of high quality and thus merely needs to be enhanced with technology (the icing on the cake), or is there major room for improvement in how we teach?"

**Dr. Dietmar Kennepohl** FCIC, (Athabasca University, Athabasca AB)

As an award-winning teacher and Associate Vice President Academic, Dietmar brings a wide perspective in chemistry education with an emphasis on online courses using innovative distance delivery methods for undergraduate laboratory work.

**Dr. Carolyn Eyles**, (McMaster University, Hamilton ON)

Carolyn is a Professor in the School of Geography & Earth Sciences and the founding Director of the Integrated Science (iSci) program at McMaster. She is a 3M National Teaching Fellow with wide ranging teaching opportunities in Earth Science, Integrated Science program and glacial sedimentology.

As a provocative and unifying Conference theme, we invite participants to ask themselves how their work re-imagines or reconceives that old adage “Doing more with less”. In what innovative ways are you and your students doing more Positive with less Negative? Are your classes more active with less misunderstanding? More blended with less distraction? Are your students doing more research with less memorizing? More learning with less lecturing? Is your practice more communal with less siloing? You get the idea.

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 students is particularly welcome.

The WCSE 2013 Program will feature 40 min. Presentations and 80 min. Workshops in addition to Posters and Round Table/Panel discussions of such topics as experiential learning, undergraduate research, tech-enabled learning etc. New for 2013, we look forward to 14.0 min “Short and Tweets” as well as informal “coffee breaks” hosted by Plenary speakers. We will also hold white space in the program for “Encore Discussion” of particularly energized topics. Watch for a new First Night fun event to mix the Wixies as the conference opens.

We are investigating various options to facilitate online participation of colleagues who cannot make the trip to London. Maybe electronic Posters? Webcast sessions? Get in touch with us if this idea is interesting to you.

Find Submission Guidelines and more information at: [www.thewesternconference.ca](http://www.thewesternconference.ca)

In terms of deadlines for submission, the Conference is willing to work with individual colleagues to develop mutually productive timelines. Contact us at [westernconference@uwo.ca](mailto:westernconference@uwo.ca) and let us know your plans.

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

Please help us to do more promotion with less spam by forwarding this announcement to interested colleagues.

We look forward to meeting with you again soon(er).

*WCSE 2013 Organizing Committee*