

The Western Conference on Science Education



Western Conference on Science Education 2023

Call for Proposals

WCSE Overview

The Western Conference on Science Education (WCSE, pronounced 'wixie') is a unique event that gathers passionate teaching and research faculty, staff, students, librarians, publishers, and education-related vendors to collaborate on improving our ability to address the myriad of opportunities and challenges facing modern STEM education in our colleges and universities.

Although issues in the Canadian context are highlighted, the conference welcomes colleagues working outside the country or outside the traditional disciplines of STEM. Fueled by the insightful contributions of diverse conference delegates from coast to coast, WCSE provides a vehicle for networking and community-building across disciplines, as well as a venue for enhancing engagement in the scholarship of teaching and learning.

The Western Conference for Science Education is designed to:

1. Enhance a science education community by enticing faculty, educational staff, students, and education-related private sector partners to venture out of their respective discipline-specific circles to meet, discuss, and collaborate with one another;
2. Promote ongoing improvement in post-secondary Science education through support of a range of scholarly approaches to teaching and learning;
3. Contribute to the professional development of science educators by providing access to educational leaders, resources, and training;
4. Promote productive inter-relationships between educators and various private sector academic publishers, suppliers, technology providers etc;
5. Provide an avenue to share and debate ideas, innovation, and research in a respective and scholarly manner; and
6. Ensure that Conference proceedings are archived and accessible.

Conference Theme

The theme for WCSE 2023 is “Belonging”. The last few years have been disruptive in many capacities: the way we do our jobs, the way we interact with one another, the way we engage with our families and friends have all needed changes. As a result, we may have felt out of place. Now we have an opportunity to reimagine these interactions rather than returning to our familiar approaches. WCSE 2023 invites you to think about moving forward, and new ways of *belonging*.

Belonging will mean something different to each of us. You might be thinking of questions like the following: What does it mean to belong in science and scholarship? in higher education? How do you support your students, your colleagues, your community to feel like they belong? WCSE has always had the philosophy that all individuals engaged in science education—whether as students, educators, technical staff, and education-oriented private sector partners—as well as all topics related to teaching and learning science are welcome. We want to hear your voice on science education because, ultimately at WCSE, we all belong.

Conference Details

The 2023 Conference will be **July 12 to 14th, 2023** and will be offered as a “hybrid” event to ensure accessibility to all interested individuals and groups. Both conference delegates and session presenters have the flexibility to attend and participate in person on Western University campus (London, ON) and/or online through a professional online conferencing format. In addition, all sessions will be recorded and available to conference participants for viewing for a limited time after the conference.

Call for Proposals

The Conference theme of *Belonging* offers a broad conceptual umbrella under which conference participants can engage with, examine, and share knowledge, experience, innovation, and research on current issues in post-secondary science education. We also welcome work that continues our attention on previous conference themes such as making, embracing change, indigenous ways of knowing, beyond content, etc.

You could engage participants with a completed body of work, or, you might offer an in-progress report on a project for comment and discussion with interdisciplinary peers. Work arising from student/faculty partnerships, and educator/private-sector collaborations are welcome.

WCSE 2023 will continue with many of the engaging features of previous meetings, with some new opportunities. Presentation formats will include 20 min Presentations, 50 min Workshops, 50 min Panel Discussions, and a Poster session. New to WCSE 2023 will be submissions for 50 min Debate Topics, and 50 min Plenaries.



Although submissions are formally welcome from Wednesday, February 15th until Friday, March 31st, 2023, we are committed to working with presenters who need a more personalized timeline.

For Submission Guidelines and other information, browse to thewesternconference.ca

Registration will be available in May 2023.

To receive direct notification of future updates, subscript to our Twitter feed, @WestConf. Or, send an email to wcse@uwo.ca with "Update Me" in the subject line.

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

We look forward to meeting with you again soon!

~WCSE 2023 Organizing Committee