



PACE

From C to C – Building Connections Between LC Conferences

PACE PD Group:

*Karen Burkett, Sharon Churchill Roe, Glenda Fish, Evan Lavoie, Elizabeth Matthews, Steve McWilliams,
Sheri Rhodes*

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Introduction to PACE PD Group

PACE



Evan Lavoie, Program Manager,
Centre for Language Learning,
University of Ottawa

"Over the long run, superior performance depends on superior learning." - Peter Senge



Sharon Churchill Roe, Manager,
English Language Centre, Acadia
University

"Attending PD is like updating your phone—necessary, sometimes frustrating, but ultimately makes things run smoother... hopefully."



Glenda Fish, Operations and Academic
Manager, Trent-ESL, Trent University.

"PD is refreshing and reinvigorating. At least, that's the ideal."



Karen Burkett, Director, School of
English, Queen's University

"Professional development is like a buffet - take a little bit of everything, even if you're not sure you'll like it, just to avoid looking suspicious" - GeminiAI



Sheri Rhodes, Program Administrator,
Learn English for Academic Purposes
Program, Mount Royal University.

"Education must never stop. If it ends at the door of the classroom on graduation day, we will fail." H.B. Eyring



Steven McWilliams, Educational
Developer, School of English, Queen's
University

"Good PD is energising. Bad PD is soporific. Count the Zzzs at the end of your session to figure out which it was."



Elizabeth Matthews. Assistant Director,
English Language Institute, Renison
University College, University of
Waterloo

"In learning you will teach, and in teaching, you will learn." – Phil Collins



Agenda

Genesis of PD Group

PD Conference

PD Afternoons

Impact

Group Activity

Q & A



Genesis of PACE PD Group

Purpose of this presentation:

- Sharing our journey
- Impact of PACE PD group
- Motivate you – the attendees - to collaborate and form your own PD groups



Genesis of PACE PD Group

Genesis of PACE PD Group:

- Pandemic
- Opportunities for collaboration
- A cold night in Halifax
- Decision to pursue a PhD
- Virtual conference idea



SASQOT Virtual Conference

- Professional conference focused on EAP
- For teachers, by teachers
- Online
- Free



9:30 am (EST): <u>Opening Remarks</u>	10-minute introduction + 20-minute keynote.	12:15 pm: <u>Lunch break</u>	60-minute lunch break (including a 15-minute optional networking session).
10:00 am: <u>Morning Presentations</u>	35-minute presentation + 10-minute Q & A. <i>Attendees choose one of the presentations to attend.</i>	1:15 pm: <u>Afternoon Presentations</u>	35-minute presentation + 10-minute Q & A. <i>Attendees choose one of the presentations to attend.</i>
11:00 am: <u>Morning Roundtables</u>	75-minute roundtables. <i>Attendees join large room and then go to smaller designated break-out rooms with dedicated topics / questions with a moderator. (3 x 20-minute roundtables plus 5-minute intro)</i>	2:15 pm: <u>Afternoon Roundtables</u>	70-minute roundtables. Attendees join large room and then go to smaller designated break-out rooms with dedicated topics / questions with a moderator. (3 x 20-minute roundtables).
		3:30 pm: <u>Closing Remarks</u>	30-minute closing (Highlight key takeaways; follow up details including possibility of future virtual EAP conferences).

Results

- 65 Registrations across the 6 institutions (peak ~50 participants)
- Overwhelmingly positive feedback
 - 100% positive – 84% Extremely Satisfied (five-point scale)

Suggested Improvements

MORE!

- More time for presentations and more of them
- More diversity of topics
- More networking time
- More break time
- More institutions

LESS!

- Less Zoom, perhaps making it just a half-day conference
- Less overlap of presentations and roundtables

Challenges

Online Conference companion with 66 different pages
19 Padlets created
16 different Qualtrics surveys
And untold hours of meetings, emails and conversations...

Unsustainable workload

“It was lovely to connect with people who know and share the challenges of teaching EAP – everyone here just gets it.”

Shift from Conference to PD Afternoons

WELLNESS IN EAP EDUCATION

What?

Join us for an afternoon of presentations and discussions on student and instructor wellness

When?

Friday, April 12, 2024
1:30 - 3:30 pm (EST)

Where?

[Zoom](#)



Agenda



Welcoming Remarks - Glenda Fish, Trent University



Workshop 1 - Spotlighting Post-Secondary ESL Student Wellbeing
Michael Fierheller & Katherine Higgins, Trent University



Workshop 2 - Mindfulness in Education Strategies for ELT Contexts
Krista Royal, Acadia University



Breakout Rooms - Student Wellness or Instructor Wellness Discussions



Closing Remarks - Sharon Churchill, Acadia University

Shift from Conference to PD Afternoons

Successes



- Attendance
- Spotlighting presenter instructors
- Breakout rooms

Considerations



- Evaluating
- Recording
- Disseminating

Impact of Being Part of PACE PD Group





Language Educator Perspective

- 📢 **Overwhelmingly positive feedback** from instructors
- 💡 **Fosters idea-sharing and collaboration** across language programs
- 🔗 **Expands professional networks**, creating meaningful connections
- 🤝 **Encourages peer support** through shared challenges
- 🚀 **Provides access to new ideas** that drive professional growth
- 👤 **Provides opportunities to share knowledge and professional passion** (showcase your expertise)



Impact of Being Part of PACE PD Group

Academic Leader Perspective

-  Offers engaging professional development sessions and ability to track PD
-  Opportunities to strengthen relationships with academic leaders from other institutions
-  Facilitates idea exchange and mutual support across programs
-  Rewarding to see instructor teams engaged and collaborating



Group Activity

With your neighbours and elbow partners, discuss the following questions:

1. Would being part of a PD group with other institutions work at your institution? Why or why not?
2. What other institutions might you approach to form a PD Group? What factors would you consider? (i.e. time zone, sector, size etc.)
3. What would be the ideal format, structure and timing for PD sessions?
4. How might you incentivize participation amongst your instructors and/or staff to participate in group PD sessions?
5. What are some topic ideas that might be popular amongst your teams for PD sessions?



Q & A Panel Discussion

Please ask us any questions
you might have!



PACE Member Contacts



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Thank you for attending our presentation!

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Slideshow available for
download here:

