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Empowered Educator Micro-credential: Call for Participation for Ontario Indigenous Institutes

Program Description

Teaching with technology requires both subject matter expertise and practical strategies to leverage digital tools and educational research for inclusive, engaging, and effective learning experiences. Our Empowered Educator micro-credential is a 35-hour self-paced program that helps postsecondary educators, staff, and leadership explore a diverse range of technologies and pedagogical practices for effective online and technology-enabled teaching. Through six focused modules, participants will enhance their ability to design and deliver education that meets learner's needs, leveraging digital tools supported by the latest educational research. If you're interested in exploring digital tools or keeping up with emerging trends, this program offers practical strategies, hands-on activities, and peer collaboration to support your journey.

Opportunity

Are you working or studying at an [Indigenous Institute](#) in Ontario, and looking to enhance your teaching practices with technology?

eCampusOntario invites applications from staff, faculty, educators, and leaders at Indigenous Institutes in Ontario to participate in the Empowered Educator micro-credential program. This professional learning opportunity will help you build technological and pedagogical skills for online and technology-enabled teaching, while your feedback will play a crucial role in shaping the future of the program.

Participants will complete one of three streams from December 2024 to March 2025. After completing the program, you will be asked to share your feedback through a 15–30-minute survey. Your insights will help us tailor and improve the program to better serve Indigenous Institutes in the future. All feedback will remain confidential and will be used exclusively by our internal team. Next year, we will share with participants a summary of how their feedback has influenced the program's development.

Participants can choose to complete either 3 or 6 modules of the 6-module course. Upon completion, they will be asked to complete a 15-30 min survey to share their feedback and insights. Honorarium compensation is offered as follows:

- \$1000 for completing 3 modules and the survey
- \$2000 for completing all 6 modules and the survey

To be eligible, you must be employed at one of the following institutions on the day you begin the program: Anishinabek Educational Institute, First Nations Technical Institute (FNTI), Kenjgewin Teg, Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education and Training Institute, Oshki-Pimache-O-Win: The Wenjack Education Institute, Ogwehoweh Skills and Trades Training Centre, Seven Generations Education Institute, Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig, and Six Nations Polytechnic. Explore the stream options, module descriptions, and timeline below and join us to advance your skills while earning recognition and compensation.

Streams Available and Honorariums

Participants can choose between three streams, completing either 3 or 6 modules, followed by a survey. Those completing 3 modules and a survey will receive \$1000. Participants who complete 6 modules and a survey will receive an honorarium of \$2000.

- **Stream 1: Teacher, Scholar, Collaborator**
Complete the *Teacher for Learning*, *Scholar*, and *Collaborator* modules.
Honorarium: \$1000 (for completing 3 modules and a survey)
- **Stream 2: Curator, Experimenter, Technologist**
Complete the *Curator*, *Experimenter*, and *Technologist* modules.
Honorarium: \$1000 (for completing 3 modules and a survey)
- **Stream 3: All Modules**
Complete all six modules: *Teacher for Learning*, *Scholar*, *Collaborator*, *Curator*, *Experimenter*, and *Technologist*.
Honorarium: \$2000 (for completing 6 modules and a survey)

Module Descriptions

Each module is designed to develop critical skills for online and technology-enabled teaching and learning:

- **Teacher for Learning:** Learn to create engaging learning activities that immerse students in the material, using research-based strategies.
- **Experimenter:** Explore and implement innovative teaching tools and methods to elevate student learning.
- **Technologist:** Develop confidence in selecting and applying technology solutions to address learning challenges and enrich the learning experience.

- **Curator:** Learn how to curate content effectively to create rich, engaging, and openly licensed course materials.
- **Collaborator:** Build your professional learning network using collaboration tools that foster meaningful connections.
- **Scholar:** Explore and apply evidence-based teaching strategies that enhance learning outcomes, using your courses as a research platform.

Timeline

The Empowered Educator Micro-Credential program begins on **December 2, 2024**, and participants must complete the course and the survey by **March 15, 2025**. The program hours depend on the stream chosen, and an additional survey must be completed afterward. Honorariums will be processed upon completion.

- **Application Deadline:**
Submit your application by **11:59 pm on November 24, 2024**. Successful applicants will be contacted the following week.
- **Course Work:**
 - For 3 modules, expect around **18 hours** of course work.
 - For 6 modules, expect around **35 hours** of course work.
 - The survey, required upon completion of the course work, will take approximately **15-30 minutes** (not included in the course work hours).
- **Optional Sessions:**
Optional sessions are available throughout the program to support participants:
 - A **kick-off session** at the beginning (early December; indicate your availability in the application)
 - A **debrief session** at the end (early to mid March; indicate your availability in the application)
 - **Support sessions** offered twice per month (session dates will be posted in Brightspace)

How to Get Involved

eCampusOntario encourages interested participants to apply by completing the application form found [here](#).

Eligibility

To be eligible for the Empowered Educator Micro-Credential program, you must meet the following criteria:

- Be employed as a **faculty member / educator** (including sessional or contract), **staff member** or **leadership** at one of the following Ontario Indigenous Institutes at the time of participation:

- Anishinabek Educational Institute
- First Nations Technical Institute (FNTI)
- Kenjgewin Teg
- Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education and Training Institute
- Oshki-Pimache-O-Win: The Wenjack Education Institute
- Ogwehoweh Skills and Trades Training Centre
- Seven Generations Education Institute
- Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig
- Six Nations Polytechnic
- Have the capacity to participate fully during the project period, from **December 2, 2024, to March 15, 2025**.
- Be able to complete the required course work:
 - **3-modules stream:** Approximately **18 hours** of course work, plus a **15-30 minute** survey.
 - **6-modules stream:** Approximately **35 hours** of course work, plus a **15-30 minute** survey.
- Be new to the Empowered Educator program. A new participant is defined as one who has not yet been awarded a badge in one of the three streams. For example:
 - A learner who has not completed any of the six Empowered Educator badges would be eligible for Streams 1, 2, or 3.
 - A learner who has completed all the badges in Stream 1 would still be eligible for Stream 2, but not Stream 3.

If you are unsure of your eligibility, please email us at empowerededucator@ecampusontario.ca before applying.

Technical Requirements

To successfully participate in the Empowered Educator Micro-Credential program, you will need:

- Access to a **laptop or computer** with a reliable **high-speed internet connection**.

While a **camera and microphone** are not mandatory, they will be beneficial if you choose to attend the optional facilitated sessions, as well as the kick-off and debrief sessions. Please note that the **kick-off** and **debrief** sessions will be recorded for later viewing, while the support sessions will not be recorded.

Participation

As an Empowered Educator Participant, you will:

- Agree to the expectations set forth in the contribution timeline and description.
- Meet the eligibility criteria.
- Meet the technical requirements for participation.

Adhere to the [eCampusOntario Code of Conduct](#) during the program.

Expression of Interest Instructions

Submit your application here by **11:59pm on November 24, 2024**. Only successful applicants will be notified the following week.

Equity, Decolonization, Diversity, and Inclusion Statement

The current social context informs our work. This includes the imperative to join the fight against anti-Black racism and anti-BIPOC racism, and to support Equity, Decolonization, Diversity, and Inclusion in everything we do. We will seize this moment to rebuild and support an environment that prioritizes inclusion, representation, and voice.

Accessibility Statement

In accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), eCampusOntario is committed to accommodating applicants with disabilities throughout the application, onboarding, program and evaluation process. If you require any accommodations at any point during registration, please contact empowerededucator@ecampusontario.ca