

Experiential Education in the Online Environment: An Open Conversation



Kathleen Winningham
Director, YU Experience Hub

Lisa Endersby
Educational Developer,
Teaching Commons

Brian Nairn
Educational Developer,
Teaching Commons

November 17, 2020

Land Acknowledgement

York University acknowledges its presence on the traditional territory of many Indigenous Nations. The area known as Tkaronto has been care taken by the Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Huron-Wendat. It is now home to many First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities. We acknowledge the current treaty holders, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. This territory is subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement to peaceably share and care for the Great Lakes region.

What do you know or want to discover about the history of the people on whose land you live/work?

<https://www.whose.land/en/>

<https://alternativecampustour.info.yorku.ca/land-acknowledgement/>

<http://yfile.news.yorku.ca/2019/01/14/new-video-explores-the-importance-of-understanding-the-land-acknowledgement>

Perspectives of Experiential Education

Educational Perspective:

Students will have many experiences, but not all will lead to learning.

Experiential education is a pedagogical approach to creating meaningful concrete experiences rooted in critical reflection that provide opportunities for deeper learning, and personal and professional growth.

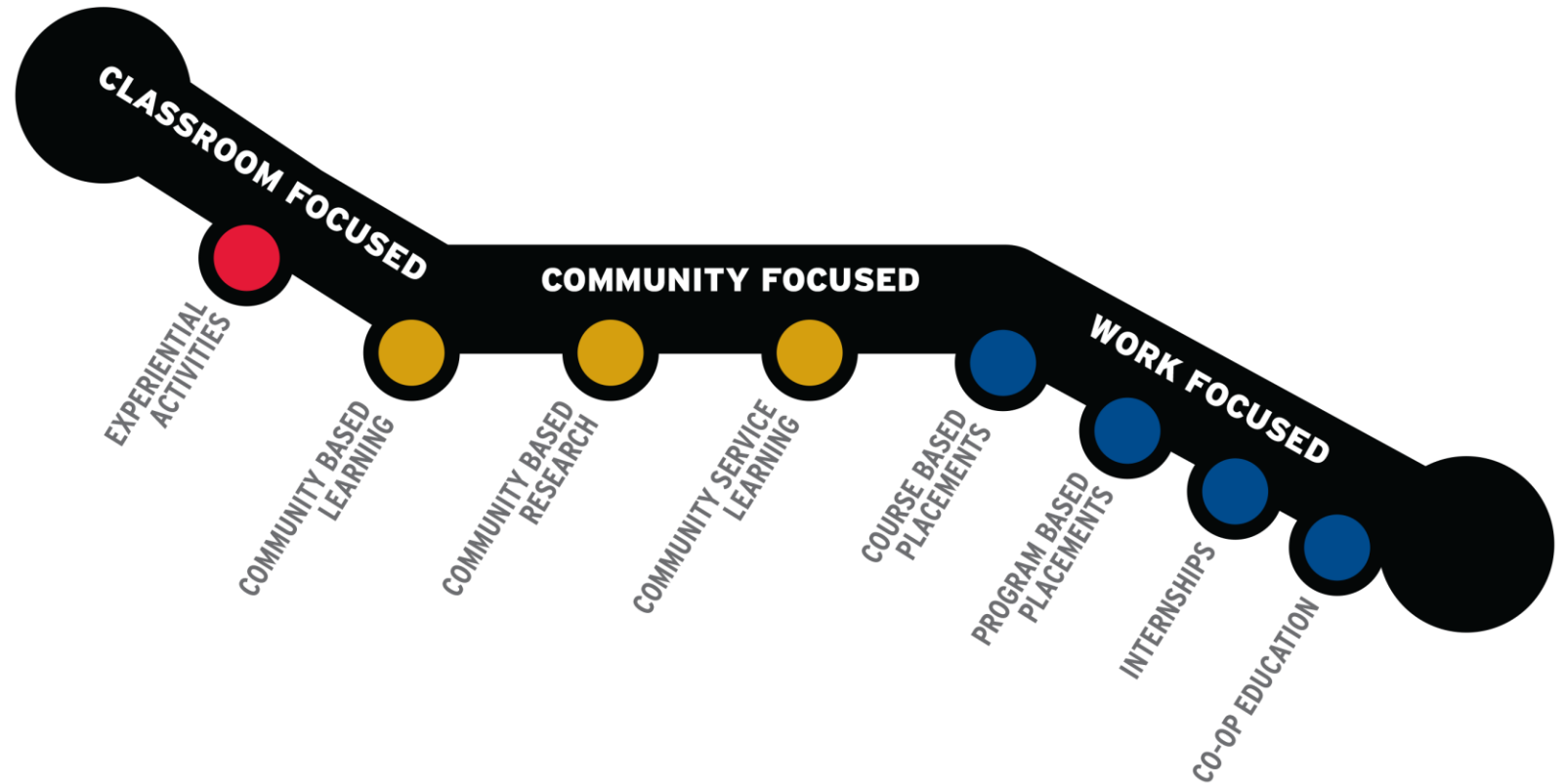
Employer and Government Perspective:

Allows for new graduates / young employees be ready to “hit the ground running”. Provincial government is actively promoting experiential learning opportunities to help with transition from school to the workforce.

Institutional Perspective:

An approach to learning that bridges theory and practice by encouraging critical observation, reflection, analysis and synthesis. At York, there are three main types of EE: classroom focused, community focused, and work focused.

York's EE Model



Learning from Experience

Experiential education (EE) blends **theory** and **coursework** with practical, **concrete experience**.

Within the context of the learning outcomes of a course or a program, experiential education allows students to acquire real life experience and reflect upon this experience such that they **deepen their understanding** of theory.

EXPERIENCE

REFLECT

**MAKE
CONNECTIONS**

**PLAN FOR
ACTION**

Basic Structuring of Critical Reflection

Descriptive

What?

- Describes a situation and general reaction with little attempt to uncover personal assumptions

Analytical

So What?

- Integrates meaningful reaction to the situation based on assumptions, beliefs and alternative perspectives

Critical

Now what?

- Uncovers the origin of our knowledge. Discovers new meaning and suggests how this impacts and informs the future

EE & Critical Reflection in the Online Environment

- Remote **Experience**
 - Leveraging and creating experiences
 - Consider both cognitive and social forms of engagement
- Remote **Reflection**
 - Multiple means of action and expression (UDL) (e.g. audio, video, multimedia)
 - Using the 'Now What?' to encourage ongoing connection and engagement
- Remote **Assessment & Evaluation**
 - Reflection as evidence (reflection as learning) or reflection as activity (reflection for learning)



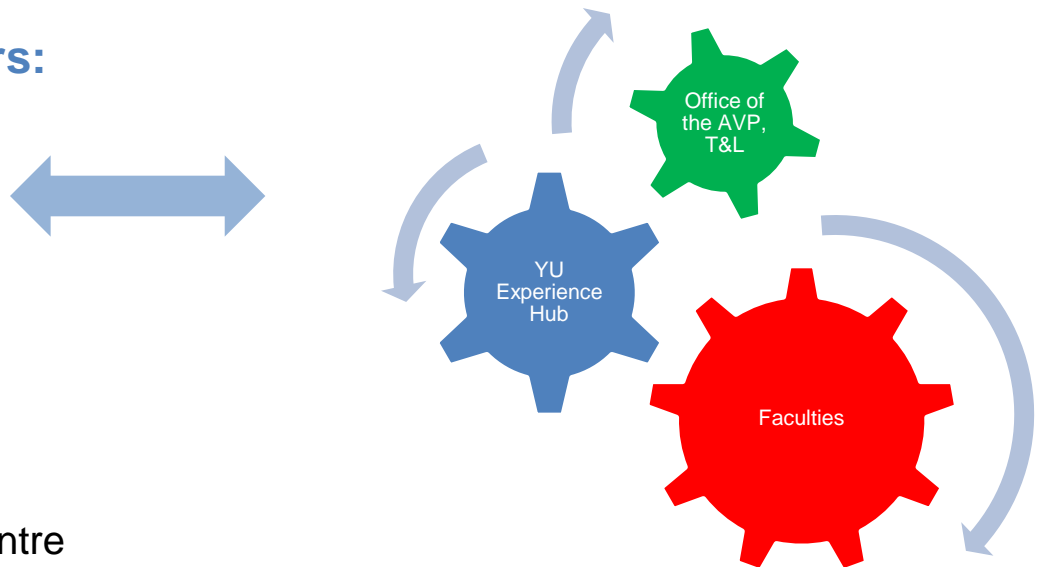
YU Experience Hub

Provides pan-university EE supports AND partners with many York units to support student experiential education activities and is positioned under the academic umbrella.

Website: <http://yuexperience.info.yorku.ca/>

Key YU Experience Partners:

- Teaching Commons
- Student Success Centre
- Career Centre
- Learning Commons
- Community Engagement Centre
- York International
- Community & Alumni Relations



EE Faculty Toolbox

- Found on the YU Experience Hub website
- Provides procedures, policies and logistics for every type of EE faculty wish to incorporate
- Provides information and forms around risk management issues
- New information and tools on remote EE and how to deliver EE in our new reality

<http://yuexperience.info.yorku.ca/experiential-education-toolbox/>

<https://www.yorku.ca/yuexperience/going-remote/>

https://www.cewilcanada.ca/Past_Opportunities.html

Experiential Learning Mgmt. Platforms

Riipen

- Riipen is a software product that is uniquely Canadian and fills a void in the experiential education software market in that they directly support faculty who have employer-based projects in their course.
- Connects faculty to a network of over 10,000 businesses and non-profits
- Manage faculty experiential learning projects using project-management tools that will save faculty time
- Commencing pilot phase this fall



Experiential Learning Mgmt. Platforms

Orbis – Experience York

- Capability to capture the entirety of the EE spectrum available at York in a single searchable catalogue – Initial launch Feb. 4, 2019/Branded Experience York
- Six Faculties are now implementing Orbis/Experience York in some or all of their programs including: Faculty of Science, LA & PS, AMPD, Faculty of Health, Osgoode, Lassonde and School of Continuing Studies.
- The following units have also implemented Experience York with support from the YU Experience Hub: Career Centre, Division of Students Becoming YU project, TASTE Mentorship Program as well as the LA & PS Bridging Program.



Risk Management Considerations

Community Focused Experiential Education

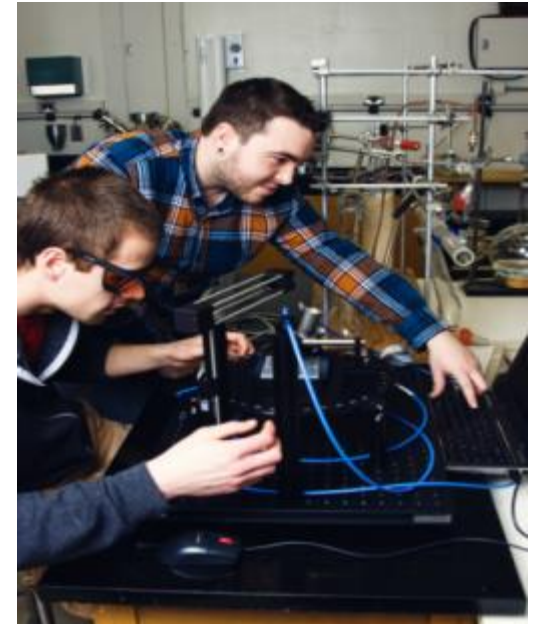
- Forms and Agreements
- Partner and Affiliation Agreements

- Insurance Coverage – Student Health Insurance,
- MAESD (MTCU) Insurance – provides WSIB coverage for students in CBR, CSL or placements
- International Student considerations – work permits

- Vulnerable Sector Screening
- Research Ethics

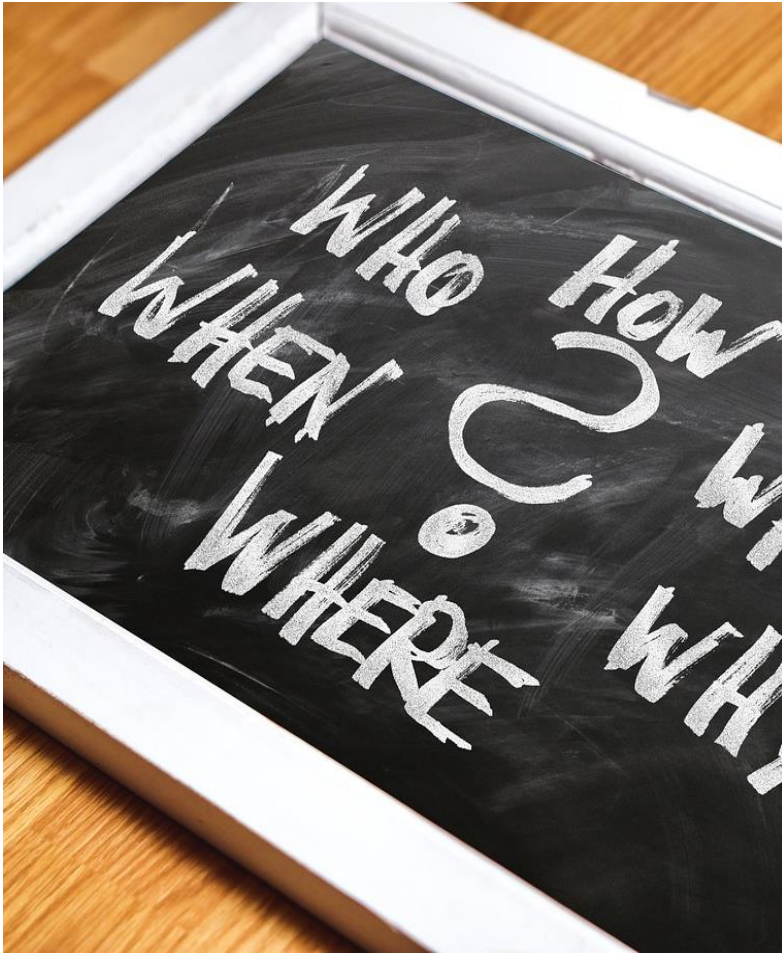
EE Coordinators in Each Faculty

- Most Faculties have an EE Coordinator
- Meet regularly to share best practices, trends, challenges, opportunities
- Guide individual faculty members in choice of EE strategy
- Oversee implementation of EE policies and procedures
- Support and advise with respect to risk, health, safety and ethics issues



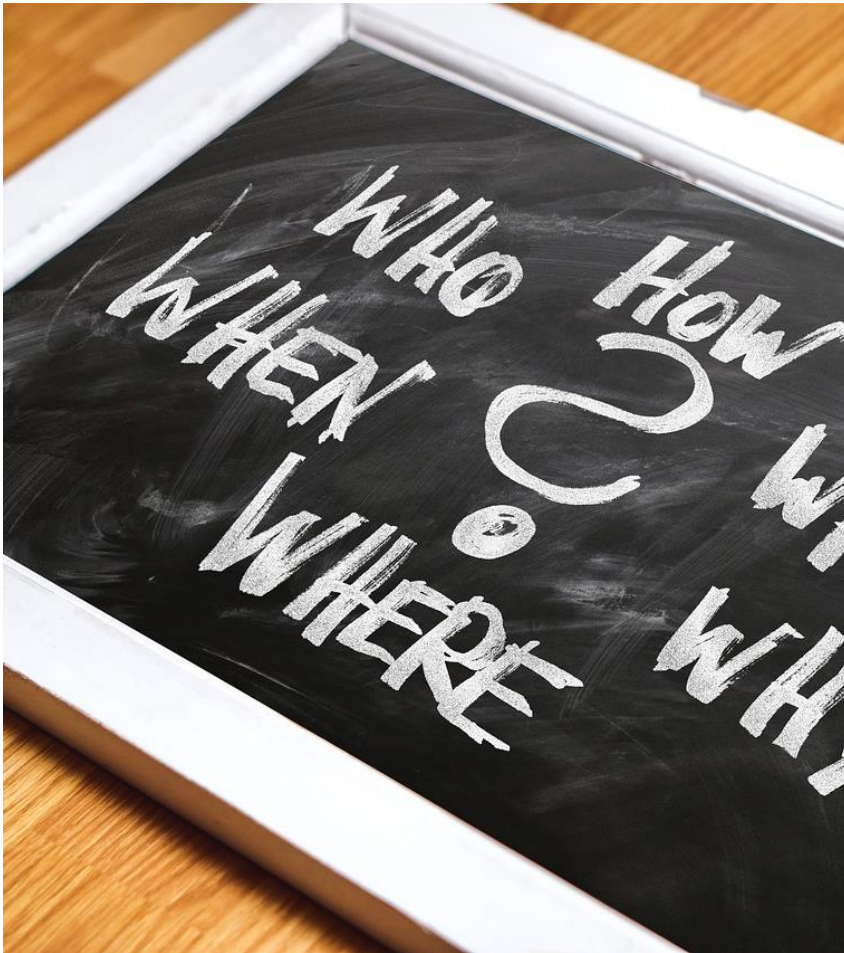
<https://yuexperience.info.yorku.ca/ee-coordinators/>

Questions?



- Some of you shared specific questions about remote EE in your unique discipline/context – we are happy to discuss those questions now!
- You can use the chat box or turn on your microphone to connect with us and your fellow participants.

Questions?



Kathleen Wunningham
kwinning@yorku.ca

Lisa Endersby
lendersb@yorku.ca

Brian Nairn
nairn1@yorku.ca