

**Submission's title:** Multimodal Adventures in Teaching: Individualized Learning, Relationship-building, and Nurturing a *Sense of Belonging* through FSD's Student Life and Writing Centre videos.

**Proposal type:** regular presentation

**Alternative proposal:** speed presentation

Technology required: computer and projector for PPT and video montage

Abstract:

The results of the recent Canadian University Survey Consortium (CUSC) survey indicate that, compared to equivalent institutions, TRU students lack a feeling of connection to the campus; thus, growing and nurturing a *sense of belonging* within our increasingly diverse student body is vital. How does one create or facilitate connection or belonging to places and spaces of learning?

*Teaching and learning* do not always take place in the traditional way within a classroom; in fact, sometimes the best "learning" takes place in unique and unanticipated ways. TRU's Writer & Storyteller Alicia Ashcroft uses Faculty of Student Development's Student Life and Writing Centre videos to not only create opportunities for individualized learning and relationship-building with students outside the classroom, but to contribute to a *sense of belonging* through both the viewing and the making of the videos.

In terms of *viewing*, the videos employ physical, self-deprecating, and observational humour and the superiority theory strategically: the bumbling character of "the ridiculous Ms. Alicia Ashcroft" allows students to gain confidence to reach out and connect ("well, at least I could do this better than *her!*"), emphasizes that learning often occurs through making mistakes, and de-stigmatizes accessing supports. There is also an element of *assess before access*: the visual accessibility of spaces, people, events, or services allows students to feel a connection and establish expectations prior to seeking out a service. *Creating* the videos facilitates a sense of ownership, autonomy and recognition within student participants – all key elements of nurturing a *sense of belonging*.

Sometimes the best *teaching and learning* takes place in unique and unanticipated ways. Faculty of Student Development's Student Life and Writing Centre videos create opportunities for individualized learning and relationship-building with students outside the classroom, and contribute to a *sense of belonging* through both the viewing and the making of the videos.