



Volume M26, Issue No. 12, April 11, 2023

Intercom is published regularly and serves to inform Vanier staff and teachers of notices and special events. It is posted on the [Vanier College Website](#) and distributed electronically. Submissions should be sent to intercom@vaniercollege.qc.ca. Submissions should be in WORD, and sent as an attachment. No formatting or bullets. Photos are welcome. Deadline: 4:00 p.m. on the Wednesday preceding the week of publication.

Vanier College Strategy for Supporting Student Mental Health and Well-Being

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to share with you that Vanier's working group has completed ***Vanier College Strategy for Supporting Student Mental Health and Well-Being*** to strengthen our commitment to nurture and bolster a campus and culture that promotes student mental health.

Please take a moment to read the executive summary and full strategy to familiarize yourself with actions and priorities that the College has committed to implement over the course of 2023- 2026. Your engagement with the strategy is important. This is a community effort. You are invited to use this document as an opportunity for conversations, and to map out incremental ways in which you/we can tenaciously and intentionally contribute to this work.

A special heartfelt thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to develop this tool.

Full Strategy

<https://vaniercollege.omnivox.ca/intr/webpart.gestion.consultation/vanier2.pdf?IdWebPart=ae09bf45-3f98-4c2d-b13d-203e071e22fd&idDoc=NDFiZTY2MGYtN2ZiMS00ZmM4LWI4NzktZGQ3MzhIM2MxNTNm&t=1680697495>

Executive Summary

<https://vaniercollege.omnivox.ca/intr/webpart.gestion.consultation/vanier2.pdf?IdWebPart=ae09bf45-3f98-4c2d-b13d-203e071e22fd&idDoc=NDFiZTY2MGYtN2ZiMS00ZmM4LWI4NzktZGQ3MzhIM2MxNTNm&t=1680697495>

Thank you.

Christina Cichon, Director of Student Services

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Vanier Bike Day



With the promised spring comes our chance to get cycling again! Come celebrate Vanier's bicycling community on Vanier Bike Day, April 19th.

- From 7.30 to 9.30, breakfast will be available for bike riders.
- Tune-ups will happen all day starting at 8.00. No need to book a spot- just drop by with your bike!
- And please come meet the Vanier Bikes crew and drop by for a chat during our Bike party, 12 to 1.30 on the front lawn, even if you are just a "bike-friendly" person. Free "cycling" snacks, music, prizes and a photobooth, where you can get your portrait taken with you bike as part of an upcoming cycling promotion campaign.

Spring Cycling Workshops

- **DIY tune-up:** April 26th UB Come learn the basics of day-to day bike maintenance, including lubrication, brakes, gears- Bring your own bike!
- **Learn-to-bike classes** starting April 27th A cycling 101 class for true beginners. Bicycles and helmets provided. Teachers, please share with your students!
- **Learn-to-ride-harmoniously-in-the-streets-of-Montreal:** Workshops May 2nd and 16th, for those of you who are bike-curious but may be afraid to leave the security of the path, you will learn about real vs. perceived danger and how to ride affirmatively and respect the other road users.

Register for [all bike workshops here!](#)

Richard Dugas, Geography Department



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19th, 2023

Rain date: April 26th

On Front Lawn



8h-17h- Free Bike Tune-Ups (drop-in)

7h30-9h30- Free Breakfast for Cyclists

12h-13h30- Bike Party! Food, Prizes, DIY energy drinks, swag and more!

Spring Workshop Series

DIY Tune-Up Lesson: April 26th (UB)

Learn to bike (for beginners): April 27, May 3, 10th & 11th

Biking with Traffic: May 2nd & 16th

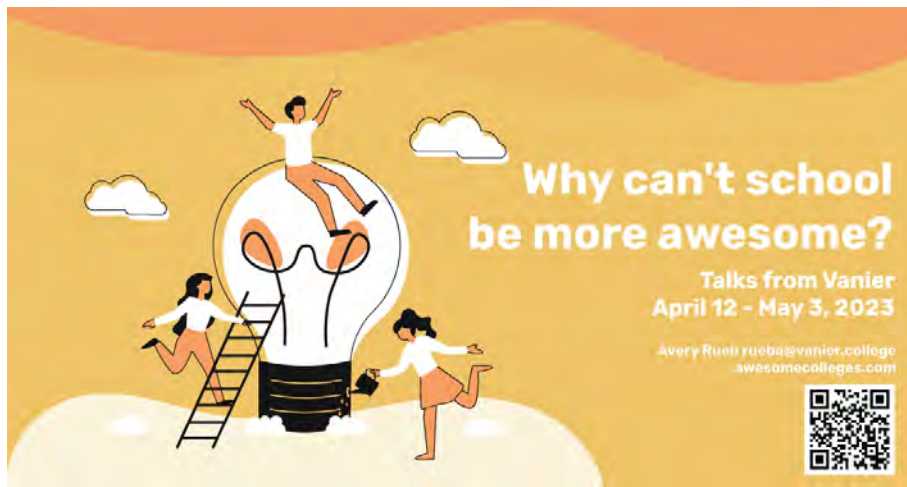
Vanier à Vélo



To register for workshops, scan QR code or write to sustainability@vaniercollege.qc.ca



Why can't school be more awesome for everyone?



In Quebec, 35% of students do not finish cégep and 21% of students do not finish high school. Is that because some students just aren't meant for school or is it because school isn't as awesome as it could be for ALL students?

A Chance to talk about it

In this series of talks starting on Wednesday, April 12th, we'll hear from students and teachers who have faced these pressing questions head on. The talks will last about 30 minutes with a 30-minute questions/answer period so as to elicit interaction and deep questioning as much as possible.

All talks will be recorded and put up on YouTube as well as different podcast platforms after their recording.

In the end, our goal is to bring together Vanier students, teachers, administrators and families to see how we can make small and big changes at Vanier for the betterment of our students.

See the line-up of presenters: <https://awesomecolleges.com/>

Sign-Up: <https://forms.gle/jKJEDN6aJYX3RXP97>

Avery Rueb, French Department

English Exit Exam Information Sessions

The Tutoring and Academic Success Centre (TASC) is offering information sessions to help students prepare for the English Exit Exam.

Please encourage your students to make use of all the assistance available to them.

This 1-hour session will give information about the exam: what it looks like, what one will be asked to do, how it is assessed and suggestions on how to write it. We will also discuss tips on what to do to pass the English Exit Exam.

All of these sessions are the same; students only need to attend one.

- Wednesday, April 19th, 12:00pm, E509
- Friday, April 28th, 2:30pm, D543
- Wednesday, April 26th, 12:00pm, Amphitheatre, B223
- Wednesday, May 3rd, 12:00pm, Amphitheatre, B223

*Kimberley-Blue Muncey
Tutoring and Academic Success Centre (TASC)*

Awarding Excellence in College Writing 2023

The Writing Centre is sponsoring a contest to reward excellent student writing in the College. We are currently awarding prizes to excellent writing in **English, Humanities, Research Methods, and Nursing**.

The prize available to the winning student in each discipline is \$200.

The process is straightforward:

1. Any teacher can nominate a piece of student writing that they have found to be excellent using the appropriate form below. **It does not have to be from this semester.** However, the nominated piece of writing must come from a current Vanier student.
2. The Writing Centre will contact the student directly to tell them of the nomination and to request an electronic copy of the piece of writing.
3. The Writing Centre will evaluate the submissions and select a winner.
4. The winning student will receive a cash prize (\$200).

The deadline to nominate a student is Friday, April 28th.

- **Awarding Excellence in College Writing 2023: English**
<https://forms.office.com/r/CHFqJTh70D>
- **Awarding Excellence in College Writing 2023: Humanities**
<https://forms.office.com/r/LHTLVuFQw6>
- **Awarding Excellence in College Writing 2023: Nursing**
<https://forms.office.com/r/ny8pzeBs9K>
- **Awarding Excellence in College Writing 2023: Research Methods**
<https://forms.office.com/r/cp0m4dv54a>

Kim Muncey, TASC and the Writing Centre

April is Take Back the Month (also known as Sexual Assault Awareness Month).

This month is aimed at bringing awareness to the impacts of sexual and gender-based violence, in order to promote a culture of nurturance and consent on and off campus. As such, we have planned a month full of awareness-raising activities and events for both employees and students!

Please visit following site for more information on what is being organized -> <https://bit.ly/3lQOeMw>

Khadija Campbell, Sexual Violence Prevention & Response, Student Services

APRIL IS TAKE BACK THE MONTH!

(ALSO KNOWN AS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH)

WEEK 1

APRIL 3RD
1st day of Bingo

APRIL 4TH
Teal Day
&
Seeds of awareness

APRIL 5TH
The Art of Self-Love
&
Empowerment

APRIL 6TH
Bystander
Intervention
Forum Theatre

WEEK 2

APRIL 11TH
Relationship
Wellness
Kahoot

APRIL 12TH
Sashay Vanier
Consent Culture

APRIL 13TH
UngUILTY Pleasures
Trivia Party

APRIL 14TH
Last day to
complete Bingo

WEEK 3

APRIL 17TH
1st day of
Scavenger Hunt

APRIL 18TH
Muffins, Men,
&
Mental Health

APRIL 19TH
Self-Defense
for Staff

APRIL 21ST
Casual Sex & Kinks
Workshop

WEEK 4

APRIL 24TH
"Cookies for the
Cause"

APRIL 25TH
Check your bias
Gender Edition

APRIL 26TH
Denim Day!

APRIL 28TH
Last day to
complete
Scavenger Hunt

We stand in support of survivors/victims.



For the second year in a row, the Vanier-based Campus Biodiversity Network (CBN) will be co-hosting the [City Nature Challenge](#) in Greater Montreal.

So, whip out your cameras and phones to join in the international challenge from **April 28th to May 1st**. That weekend Vanier students, teachers, staff and friends are encouraged to head outside and snap photos of local wildlife using the [iNaturalist app](#). Why? To photograph as many plants and animals as possible and help build a comprehensive database of urban biodiversity and support conservation efforts. The city to record the most observations, both within Canada and across the world, wins the competition.

Last year, Vanier recorded 266 observations over the 4-day challenge. Montreal took home second place out of over 40 participating cities in Canada, with the borough of Saint-Laurent in the lead.

And there's more. Vanier community members will be invited to participate in a series of events on campus in conjunction with the challenge (details to come).

Interested? **Sign up for this week's information session on April 12th [here](#).**

Detailed instructions to participate, including ideas for integrating the activity into class, can be found [here](#).

Questions? Contact Katherine Collin at collink@vaniercollege.qc.ca.

Katherine Collin, English Department



WASTE REDUCTION CHALLENGE

"CAN WE REDUCE OUR
WASTE BY 50%?"



CHALLENGE ACCEPTED!

WHEN: MONTH OF APRIL
WHERE: 5TH FLOOR OF N-
BUILDING
WHO: ALL OF US
PRIZE: PIZZA PARTY!

It's on Vanier! The Waste Reduction Challenge has begun

During the month of April, we're challenging all users of the 5th floor of the N-building to reduce their waste by 50%. Of course, everyone at Vanier can do so as well.

A team of 50 volunteer students and several employees performed a Waste Characterization on March 27th (the "before" data) and the results are very compelling!

78 lbs trash* of which 46% could have been composted and 23% could have been recycled.

**from classrooms, halls and bathrooms. Excluding offices for the moment.*

Each week we'll update with tips and resources. If you've missed last week's [2-minute quiz](#), it's not too late!

Heather Louise Elliot, Sustainability



This week's challenge: Reduce your food packaging!

This week, thank you to Jia Ye Wang, a 2nd-year Communications student who has prepared a poster with 5 simple tips to reducing your waste at Vanier, based on our observations at our recent waste audit. Get yourselves set up and try them out!

A large part of our waste comes from food and drinks, so bringing your own lunch, in reusable containers, using a reusable coffee cup or water bottle, or even asking for your meal to be served on a plate in the cafeteria can make a big difference. As a bonus, if you use glass or stainless steel, you'll also be avoiding [toxic chemicals found in plastic](#) and even [water-resistant paper packaging](#)- better for you and better for the Earth!



2022-2023 TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD – CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Academic Council's 2022-2023 Teaching Excellence Award Committee invites students, faculty and staff to submit nominations. This award provides an opportunity to recognize excellence in teaching at Vanier College and to show a faculty member appreciation for their work and dedication to the profession.

The Nomination Form is available on the College website at <https://www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/bylaws-policies-procedures/teaching-excellence-award/>

Please note that past winners are not eligible for the award. Please see the list of [past winners](#).

Please submit the nomination form and supporting documents to the 2022-2023 Teaching Excellence Award Committee, c/o academicdean@vaniercollege.qc.ca by 11: 55 p.m., **May 5, 2023**.

All nominations and selection deliberations are kept strictly confidential.

Lihua Tang, on behalf of the 2022-2023 Academic Council, Teaching Excellence Award Committee

Requesting Communications and Promotional Support

As some of you may know, the Communications & Corporate Affairs department recently introduced a [form](#) to facilitate requests for promotional and communications support, including photography and video coverage. The purpose of this form is to provide our team with relevant and timely information about all the exciting things happening at Vanier, so that we can be sure that the audiences you're trying to reach know about them too.

This form is to be used as a first point of contact whenever possible. It serves as a basis for the Communications team to devise an appropriate communications strategy, which includes identifying the most relevant channels and avenues for promotion. If the team decides more information is needed, we will get in touch directly. You will also be notified when your request has been completed, with instructions on how to follow up if necessary.

The Communications team appreciates your collaboration as we work to optimize our work processes and resources. We're looking forward to hearing from you!

Access the broadcast request form [here](#).

Isabelle Moncion, Communications and Corporate Affairs

Meg Sircom Memorial Scholarship Awards Ceremony Next Week

The English Department's Meg Sircom Memorial Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the winners of this year's scholarship and mini-scholarship:

- Meg Sircom Memorial Scholarship winner: **Gabriella Pinard** (Liberal Arts)
- Honourable Mention: **Ingrid Victoria Orrell** (Languages and Cultures)
- Nature Writing Mini-Scholarship winner: **Renad Albitar** (Health Science)

A celebration of this year's winners will be held on WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19th, in the Theatre Room (B-325) at 12 noon. All Vanier students, staff and faculty are invited to attend. A small scholarship donation at the door (\$2-\$5) would be appreciated but is not required. Copies of Meg Sircom's short story collection *Cutting Clear* will also be on sale for \$15, with proceeds going to the scholarship.

We hope to see you there!

Dana Bath, English Department

News from RespectWorks: "Take Back the Month" Bingo!

Hi everyone,

I am grateful to be part of collaborative efforts towards a series of "Take Back the Month! (Sexual Assault Awareness Month)" events being offered to Employees and Students throughout April. One ongoing activity is "**Take Back the Month**" Bingo! Complete five activities in a vertical/horizontal/diagonal row, tell us about it by sending description/pictures of your completed activities before April 14th 2023, and have your name entered to win a prize!

- **Employees** can email Anuska at martinsa@vaniercollege.qc.ca for the chance to win a gift card

to Jakes.

- **Students** can Mio Khadija Campbell for a chance to win an essential oil diffuser
-

We hope this will help promote a culture of nurturance and consent on and off campus while raising awareness to services for those impacted by sexual violence.

Thank you and have a great week!

Anuska Martins, Respectful Learning and Workplace Environment Advisor,

<https://www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/respect-works/>









martinsa@vaniercollege.qc.ca



*STAFF & STUDENTS

TAKE BACK THE MONTH BINGO

From April 3rd to April 14th

<p>Myth or Reality ???</p> <p>Transgender students face high rates of violence in bathrooms.</p>	 <p><u>Watch Vanier's bystander intervention video</u></p>	 <p><u>Learn about the RespectWorks office</u></p>	 <p><u>List the 5D's of bystander intervention</u></p>	 <p><u>Learn about this helpline</u></p>
 <p><u>Watch this humoristic video on justifications of violence</u></p>	 <p>Find the office of the One-Stop Service for Students (C203I)</p>	 <p><u>Look up a grounding technique that you can use</u></p>	 <p>Wear the color teal, a teal ribbon or sticker</p>	<p>Myth or Reality ???</p> <p>Leaving an abusive relationship is the most dangerous time for the survivor</p>
 <p>Pick up a positive affirmation quote from Student Services (C203)</p>	 <p><u>Learn about this resource for men who are survivors/victims</u></p>	<p>FREE SPACE</p>	<p>Myth or Reality ???</p> <p>Sexual assault false reporting occurs in over 50% of cases.</p>	 <p><u>Read this article on why pronouns matter</u></p>
 <p>Engage in some always needed self-care</p>	 <p><u>Watch this TED talk on being "man enough"</u></p>	 <p>List 3 things that you are grateful for</p>	 <p>Find the missing letters: T A _ _ B _ C _ _ H _ _ O _ _ H</p>	 <p><u>Name one way you can be a good ally</u></p>
<p>sext ed</p> <p><u>Learn about this texting support line</u></p>	<p>Myth or Reality ???</p> <p>People with disabilities are at low risk of being sexually assaulted.</p>	 <p>Find a survivor love letter in a washroom on campus</p>	 <p><u>Look up the meaning of intersectionality</u></p>	 <p><u>Learn about the land Vanier is located on</u></p>

Students: Take pictures of the action for your 5 completed squares
MIO Khadija Campbell before April 14th



Prize:
Essential oil diffuser

Staff: Take pictures of the action for your 5 completed squares
Email Anuska Martins before April 14th



Prize:
Gift Card

Valedictorian Nominations Now Being Accepted

Nominations from faculty and staff are now being accepted by the Valedictorian Selection Committee. The Valedictorian is presented at graduation as a representative of our graduates and addresses the audience on their behalf.

Criteria to consider when nominating candidates:

- Must be academically strong, with a minimum average of 80%;
- Must demonstrate positivity about Vanier;
- Must be an articulate and confident public speaker;
- Must possess broad experience at Vanier.

If you know of a suitable candidate from Summer 2022, Fall 2022 or Winter 2023, please send their name (and ID number if possible), and a few lines about the nominee, to:

Valedictorian Selection Committee

matskivj@vaniercollege.qc.ca

The deadline to nominate candidates is **Monday May 1st, 2023**.

Suitable candidates will be invited to a selection interview. The Vanier Community will be advised of the outcome of the Selection Committee deliberation process.

Thank you for your assistance in choosing a Valedictorian for the Vanier College Class of 2022-2023!

Jacqueline Matskiv, Communications and Corporate Affairs

Graduation Ceremony Announcement & Valedictorian Nominations

The Graduation Ceremony for the Class of 2022-2023 is scheduled as follows:

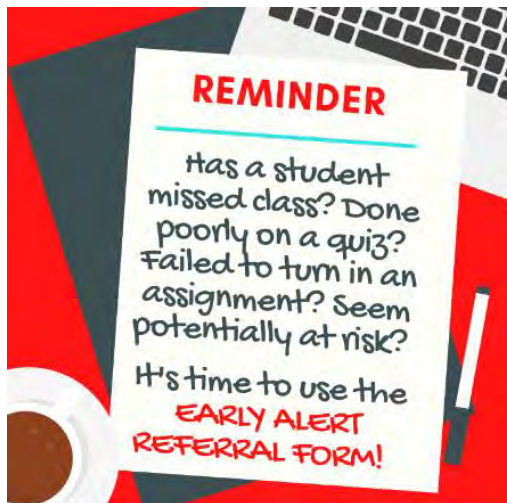
- **When:** **Wednesday, June 21, 2023**
Where: **Place des Arts, Théâtre Maisonneuve**

Members of the Vanier community are invited to attend this celebration. If you wish to watch our students cross the stage this June, please email graduation@vaniercollege.qc.ca with the amount of tickets you would like to reserve.

The deadline for ticket reservation is **Monday May 1st, 2023**.

Jacqueline Matskiv, Communications and Corporate Affairs

Referral Form: Early Alert Support



The Early Alert Support referral form is available online for teachers to refer at-risk students to a Student Success Advisor. Teachers are encouraged to fill out the referral form as soon as it becomes noticeable that a student is likely to fail and requires support beyond help understanding course content.

I will contact referred students and invite them to meet with me via Teams, telephone or in person if the student's schedule requires them to be on campus. Depending on a student's situation, I will either work with them directly, or refer them to the relevant resource(s), and follow up to help ensure the student receives the necessary support.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you want further information:

kafenzae@vaniercollege.qc.ca (note that this Winter 2023 – I will be “Online-Only” every Tuesday)

Referral form: Early Alert Support: <http://bit.ly/early-alert-referral>

Elizabeth Kafenzakis, Tutoring and Academic Success Centre, E-308

Remind Students about the Student Art Acquisition Scholarship Contest and the Peter Gonda Memorial Scholarship

Two important student scholarship contests are up and running again after a pandemic hiatus.

Please tell your students about the **Student Art Acquisition Scholarship** and the **Peter Gonda Memorial Scholarship**. Both are run as contests and will be accepting submissions until May 17, 2023.

The contests are open to all students no matter their program.

The Student Art Acquisition Scholarship awards \$3000 in scholarships, and the Peter Gonda Memorial Scholarship offers \$600 in scholarships to winning students. As well, the winners will have their works displayed in the Henry Lehmann Gallery.

See the posters below, and above all tell your students!

Marguerite Corriveau, Communications and Corporate Affairs

Student Art Acquisition Scholarship

\$3000

Contest deadline:
May 17, 2023

DESCRIPTION:

The **Vanier College Foundation Student Art Acquisition Scholarship** is about promoting student success and highlighting student artwork by exposing it in strategic areas at Vanier College. At the same time, this scholarship would offer financial support to students and lead to the creation of an art bank that would help showcase the talents of our students in disciplines such as photography, sculpture, drawing and painting.

Open to all Vanier College Students

All media are accepted: drawings, paintings, photography, video art work, installation art and sculpture.

\$3,000. The money will be awarded to varying amounts of artwork each year. Prices would depend on the scope, size, materials used.

Finalists will have their work shown in the Henry Lehmann Gallery.

HOW TO ENTER:

- Submit 1 finished art piece (it can also be a series);
- An artist statement;
- A short biography and description of your future career aspirations.

For all information on the application process visit:
<http://www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/scholarships/>



Artwork by: Spiro Tzirbas

PETER GONDA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Photo: Itzia Berhault



THE UNGUARDED MOMENT

FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

\$600

DESCRIPTION:

Peter Gonda passed away on August 20th 2016 at the age of 47. He was a Montreal-based artist, novelist and screenwriter. One of his main passions was photography. He travelled around the world and exhibited his photographs in London, Paris and Montreal.

The Peter Gonda Memorial Scholarship, valued at **\$600**, will be awarded annually to **any Vanier College student who demonstrates original photographic works**. There will be a first prize of \$300, second prize of \$200 and a third prize of \$100.

HOW TO APPLY:

- Submit a maximum of **five individual photographic works** in digital format. Minimum resolution of the image must be 3000 pixels on the longest side.
- Supported file formats: JPG, TIFF, RAW, CR2, NEF
- Each photograph needs to include its title, medium and year.
- Use www.wetransfer.com or a similar site for sending large files.

Email the above to: petergondascholarship@gmail.com

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: May 17, 2023

Submissions may be used by Vanier College for promotional purposes.



VANIER
CEGEP/COLLEGE

Staff Social & Well-Being Activities

Written by: Karina Leonard, Strategic Plan Advisor:

8-Week Winter Session Now Finished: Thank you to all Vanier Staff and Volunteer Leaders, for your contributions to and your participation in the Staff Social & Well-Being Activities these past 8 weeks. Your collective energies and enthusiasm are extraordinary and contagious. 😊

PLANTING THE SEEDS OF AWARENESS

All members of the Vanier Community were invited to 'Plant a Seed of Awareness' on April 4th, as part of the 'Take Back the Month' program. Here are some pictures of the activity.

You are invited to check out our basil plants, housed in the Nutritower, located in the Carrefour for the month of April.

Learn about 'growing' consent culture by reading some of the participants takeaways.

Facilitators: DG's Office, Human Resources, Student Services & Vanier Gardens

Location: Carrefour

Self-Defense Training



As part of the 'Take Back the Month' (Sexual Assault Awareness Month), we are inviting you to a self-defense training. Embrace your power, strength, and especially sense of security. No experience needed!

Schedule: Wed. April 19th, 2023:

- Session 1: 10:00-10:50 am
- Session 2: 11:00-11:50 am
- Session 3: 12:00-1:50 pm (Session 3 is reserved for employees that identify as women)

Location: Staff Lounge (D-140)

Facilitator: Phoenix Auto Defense & Empowerment, Alexandrina Delage



[Please register here for Self-Defense Training](#)

Ongoing & Coming Up:

Monday Morning Mini Muffin Meet-Ups (M5): You are welcome to drop in and grab a muffin/coffee/tea to go (bring your own mug) or hangout and enjoy a cuppa with colleagues. *We are committed to using Fair Trade coffee and sugar at our Meetups.*

Schedule: 10:30 -11:30 am, **April 17th, 24th**

Location: Staff Lounge (D-140)



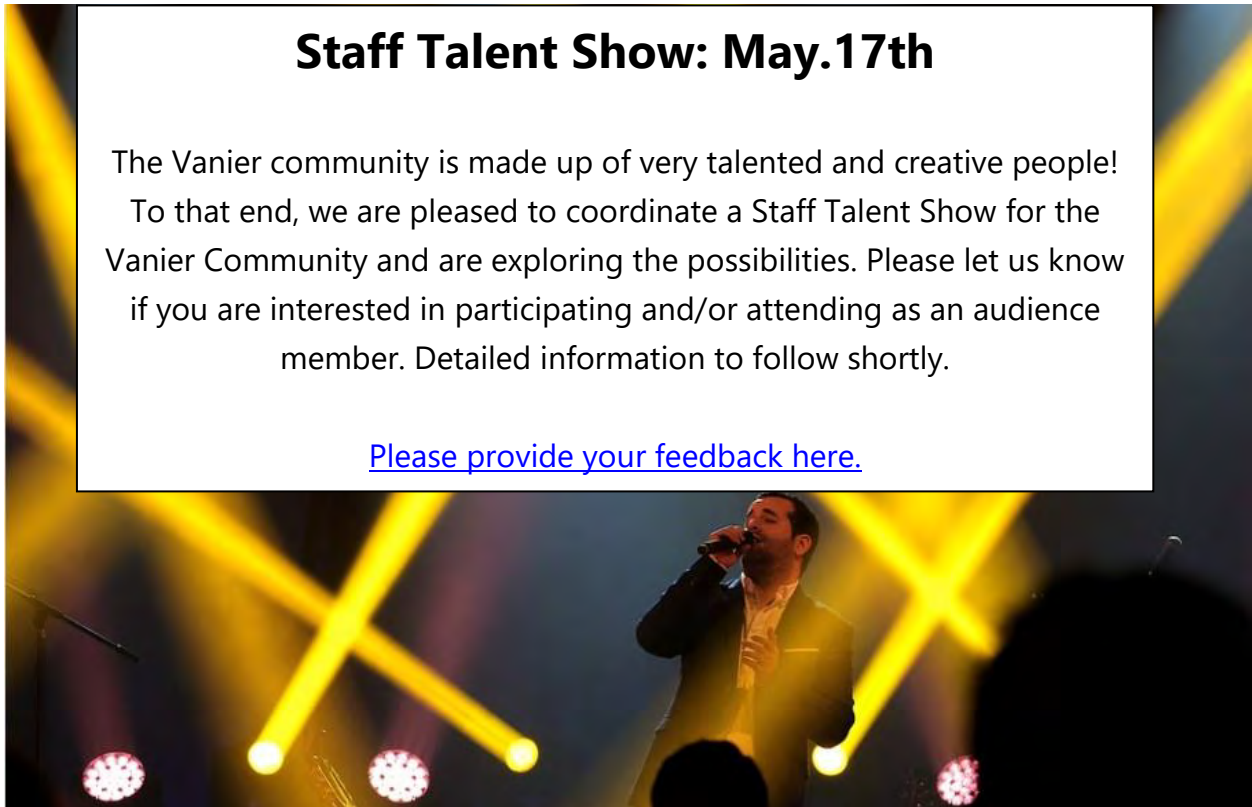
April is **'Take Back the Month'** (Sexual Assault Awareness Month).
Join us for a special M5, featuring 'Cookies for a Cause' on April 24th.

Staff Talent Show: May.17th

The Vanier community is made up of very talented and creative people!

To that end, we are pleased to coordinate a Staff Talent Show for the Vanier Community and are exploring the possibilities. Please let us know if you are interested in participating and/or attending as an audience member. Detailed information to follow shortly.

[Please provide your feedback here.](#)



PSI Weekly Update



Nourishing pedagogy through collaboration and innovation

April 10th 2023

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Early Career Teachers at Vanier

We are excited to announce our Winter 2023 schedule! All sessions (except for the last one) will take place on **Teams, 12:00-1:15**.



- February 1: Supporting Student Success – [session slides](#)
- February 22: Transition to CEGEP – [session slides](#)
- March 8: Troubleshooting Session (Evaluation & Feedback Challenges) - [session slides](#)
- March 22: Digital Competency – [session slides](#)
- **April 12: Assessment (SPLI & LIAs)**
- April 26: Triumphs and Trials
- May 17: End-of-Year Gathering (**in person!**)

We are looking forward to seeing you!

For questions or one-on-one-support, please contact [Marianne Lynch](#) or [Max Salonine](#).

Brought to you by



+



Digital Resources for Teaching and Learning

Join Vanier's Digital Competency Community of Practice

I asked Dall-e, an AI image-creator, to generate an image of an Australian quokka in the style of *Starry Night*, and to the right is what it produced in seconds.



I also asked ChatGPT, an AI text generator made by the creators of Dall-e, to write a sonnet about skiing, an essay about *Jane Eyre*, and a 1,200-word research paper on metaphor theory. It produced each text in seconds. Although by no means perfect, the texts were impressive given the stage of the platform's development. ChatGPT and similar platforms will no doubt evolve rapidly.

How do we address such technological disruptions? How can we help our students to work with digital technologies appropriately and effectively? The answer is by supporting them in developing their digital competency—the ability to ethically, confidently, critically, and creatively use digital technologies for learning, work, leisure, and social participation. The development of digital competency for all, students and staff, is central to Quebec's Digital Action Plan (DAP).

The challenge of developing our own digital competency while supporting students as they develop theirs is shared across all educational levels: from kindergarten through university. These efforts need to be shared collaboratively. For this reason, Vanier is launching a digital competency community of practice (CoP). The CoP is designed to allow mutual support across disciplines, departments, and sectors of the college.

The CoP will be supported by PSI to ensure that it is maintained across semesters, but it is an initiative that will be teacher- and staff-centered. A community that will evolve over time, it is designed to be a place where we can learn from each other's questions, ideas, challenges, creativity, and solutions. Some colleagues have already created some wonderful projects, classroom-activities and assessments to support digital competency, so the CoP has the potential to be a rich community where silos are broken down and creative initiatives are born.

The CoP will involve virtual and in-person conversations and collaboration. Teachers can participate as much or as little as their time allows. Our hub will be the Microsoft Team DCCoP (Digital Competency Community of Practice). There will be a home page with resources, as well as spaces for conversation, file- and resource-sharing, note-taking,

and more. To join the team, please click the Team icon within Microsoft teams (left menu) and then click "Join or Create a Team. Input the code **tq8hp3v**.

PSI has also created an **Artificial Intelligence page** as part of our **PSI website**. It is currently in its early stages, but you will find access to curated sources on AI in Higher Ed and AI detection: <https://www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/psi/ai/>

Finally, we want to hear from *you*. What are your hopes and needs for such a community? If you would like to help shape the CoP's development, please answer [this very brief survey](#).



Wooclap was designed to support teaching and learning based on these principles. The large variety of question types and the feedback options allow for the use of different learning activities that promote retrieval, explanation, repetition and maximize feedback.

During H23, Vanier has free access while we pilot the platform to learn whether our teachers would like a site license. Teachers and staff can register to use Wooclap by visiting the following link and registering with their Vanier email address:

<https://app.wooclap.com/auth/register/VANIER>

Please note, Vanier is not listed among the Wooclap institutions as we do not yet have a paid-site license, so just register with your Vanier email account and you will be directed to our Pilot license page.

Using Wooclap with on its own or with other platforms

Users can use Wooclap directly from its site (wooclap.com), or on Moodle as an activity type. They can also upload a PowerPoint or Google Slides presentation and embed Wooclap activities into the presentation, which is then shared via Wooclap.com

Wooclap Resources

- **Help Center:** <https://docs.wooclap.com/en/>
- **Blog:** <https://www.wooclap.com/blog/en-gb/>
- **Getting Started:** <https://docs.wooclap.com/en/collections/2357515-getting-started>
- **Wooclap Gallery**

Wooclap offers activity samples that can be imported into your Wooclap events. The gallery is found on the top right of the home page when you login to your account.

Vanier Resources

- **M365 Wooclap Team / Community of Practice**

This is a collaborative space where PSI can share Wooclap resources, and teachers can share creative ideas, tricks, and tips, ask questions and request support. To request access to the team, contact Patti Kingsmill.

- **Wooclap workshops**

Offered monthly by Wooclap in English and French. The French workshops are specifically designed for CEGEP teachers. Dates and times will be shared in the Wooclap M365 Team.

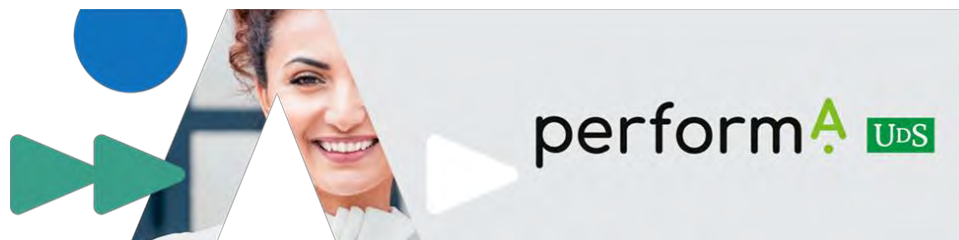
- **PSI Support**

Please contact Patti Kingsmill for individual and/or group training and support.

More Resources

- [Getting Started in Wooclap](#)
- [Wooclap in 3 steps](#)
- [How to Create a Wooclap Event](#) (questions are organized by events (e.g., a class, a presentation, a workshop, etc.)
- **Wooclap Youtube channel:** <https://www.youtube.com/c/Wooclap/videos>
- **Wooclap Youtube Tutorials** Playlist:
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwsiSyjg8LpQ7K6xe1NI6TCNDcJRHGA1I>

Professional Development Opportunities



Are you looking to enrich your teaching practice? Build your repertoire of strategies for instruction and assessment? Connect with other teachers? Consider professional development opportunities with [Performa!](#)

Performa is:

- Pedagogical training developed in **collaboration** with the 62 member colleges and the Université de Sherbrooke (for-credit and non-credit)
- Course instructors **from the college sector**
- **Concrete tools** and assignments that can be directly applied in your classes and your professional practice
- **Flexibility** in terms of modalities and paths to facilitate work-study-life balance

- **A rich and diversified offering:** programs, communities of practice, self-training, midday conferences, pedagogical resources, network of experts, workshops, etc.

For more information about [Performa's 8 specialized college education programs](#), including the English-language [Master Teacher Program](#), visit the [Performa page of PSI's website](#), or contact Vanier's local Performa representative (RL), Julia Hall, at hallj@vaniercollege.qc.ca.

Research Office News

Research Office Website: <https://www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/psi/researchandinnovation/>

External Grants: *Application & Administration Procedures*

Want to apply for an external grant?

If you are interested in applying for an external grant, please contact the Research Officer, **Angela Vavassis**, as soon as possible (researchofficer@vaniercollege.qc.ca).

With respect to **developing your grant proposal**, the Research Officer can assist you in:

- Identifying the appropriate funding opportunity, and/or leveraging different funding opportunities for your project(s).
- Evaluating the fit of your project with a funding opportunity that you have identified on your own.
- Acquiring release time costs – for teaching and non-teaching personnel – from the Finance Department, if applicable.
- Providing information regarding in-kind support that can be provided by the college, if applicable.
- Ensuring that your proposal is in line with the guidelines, regulations and scholarly/scientific standards set by the funding agency and by the college.
- Obtaining all required internal approvals and signatures, in time for the funding agency's deadline.

Should you be awarded an external grant, the Research Officer will guide you with respect to **grant administration**. This includes helping with:

- Opening a grant account with the Finance Department.
- The process of submitting an Application to Conduct Research at Vanier (if applicable – Research Projects only), and evaluating your application for institutional feasibility prior to forwarding to the Research Ethics Board (REB).
- The process of preparing and submitting progress, final and financial reports to the funding agencies, and obtaining all required internal signatures for those reports.

What is an Internal Deadline?

The Internal Deadline for each funding opportunity is the date by which the Research Office must receive a **complete application package** (first draft), by email: researchofficer@vaniercollege.qc.ca.

Once the application package has been received, the Research Officer will perform a **preliminary review**. If any edits need to be made to the application, the Research Officer will communicate those to the project leader, and will specify a date by which the application must be re-submitted (final version).

All applications must be submitted in **French**, when indicated. Any applications in need of translation to French must be submitted to the Research Office **at least a week in advance of the internal deadline**.

Please note that the Research Office is unable to guarantee that an application will be processed and submitted to a funding agency on time, if received past the internal deadline.

Applications to Conduct Research at Vanier

Who needs to apply?

Any research project involving human participants must undergo Research Ethics Board (REB) review, if it falls into at least one of the following categories:

- Research that recruits members of the Vanier community as participants.
- Research on human participants conducted by researchers based at Vanier.
- Research that uses data that is accessible within the college but not normally available to the public.

If in doubt, please reach out to researchofficer@vaniercollege.qc.ca and your question will be forwarded to the REB Chair for assessment.

How to apply

The Application to Conduct Research at Vanier (Word form) can be downloaded from our [website](#) and, once completed by the project leader, should be sent to researchofficer@vaniercollege.qc.ca, along with all required supporting documents.

When to apply

As soon as possible!

Please take note of the next Winter 2023 application deadline:

- In order to have your application reviewed by the REB at their May 19, 2023 meeting*, please submit it by **May 5, 2023****.

This will be the final application deadline of the 2022-2023 academic year.

** When deciding when to submit your application, please keep in mind that the REB may request modifications to it following the meeting in which they will review it. You may only begin your data collection once your application is approved by the REB and an ethics certificate is issued for your project.*

*** If you require assistance to complete your application, please reach out at least 1 week earlier than the application deadline.*

How are applications evaluated?

All applications to conduct research at Vanier will be evaluated using a 2-step process:

Step 1: Evaluation by the Research Officer, for institutional feasibility

Decisions and/or required changes with respect to institutional feasibility will be communicated to the applicant by the Research Officer. Once the application is deemed institutionally feasible, the Research Officer will forward it to the Research Ethics Board (REB).

Step 2: Evaluation by the Research Ethics Board (REB), for research ethics

Recommendations with regards to the ethical conduct of research and issuance of the Ethics Certificate are provided independently by the Research Ethics Board. Without an Ethics Certificate, you may not begin your data collection.

TCPS 2: CORE-2022 Tutorial (<https://tcps2core.ca/>)

Within Vanier's Strategic Plan 2021-2026, an emphasis is placed on creativity and innovation, both within academic areas and without. In many cases, such innovation results from research projects involving human participants, which are conducted by our faculty and staff.

The college is also committed to upholding the highest standards of practice and integrity in its operations.

As such, we highly encourage members of the Vanier community who are currently conducting or who plan to conduct research with humans to complete the **TCPS 2: CORE-2022 Tutorial**, at their earliest convenience. This tutorial introduces the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans ([TCPS 2](#)). Upon completion of the tutorial, you will receive a Certificate.

Many institutions that have research divisions have already made the completion of this training a standard of practice for their researchers, research ethics boards and research administrators. Following their lead will help us ensure that all research with humans overseen by the college is conducted in an ethically sound manner.

Please note that this training is not a requirement yet. However, **beginning in Fall 2022, all researchers who wish to conduct research involving humans at Vanier College will be required to complete the TCPS 2: CORE-2022 Tutorial**. The certificate they obtain must be included as an attachment with every Application to Conduct Research (involving humans) at Vanier.

External Funding Opportunities

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)

Connection Grants

These grants support events and outreach activities geared toward short-term, targeted knowledge mobilization initiatives. These events and activities represent opportunities to exchange knowledge and to engage with participants on research issues of value to them. Events and outreach activities funded by a Connection Grant can often serve as a first step toward more comprehensive and longer-term projects. Connection Grants support workshops, colloquiums, conferences, forums, summer institutes, or other events or outreach activities that facilitate:

- Disciplinary and/or interdisciplinary exchanges in the social sciences and humanities.
- Scholarly exchanges between those working in the social sciences and humanities and those working in other research fields.
- Intersectoral exchanges between academic researchers in the social sciences and humanities and researchers and practitioners from the public, private and/or not-for-profit sectors.
- International research collaboration and scholarly exchanges with researchers, students and non-academic partners from other countries.

SSHRC welcomes applications involving Indigenous research, as well as those involving research-creation.

Funding provided: \$7,000-\$25,000 (1 year) for events; \$7,000 to \$50,000 (1 year) for outreach activities

Internal Deadline: April 17th, 2023 **External Deadline:** May 1st, 2023 **Results announced:** June 2023

Program Guide: https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/connection_grants-subventions_connexion-eng.aspx

Partnership Engage Grants

These grants provide short-term and timely support for partnered research activities that will inform decision-making at a single partner organization from the public, private or not-for-profit sector. The small-scale, stakeholder-driven partnerships supported through Partnership Engage Grants are meant to respond to immediate needs and time constraints facing organizations in non-academic sectors. In addressing an organization-specific need, challenge and/or opportunity, these partnerships let non-academic organizations and postsecondary researchers access each other's unique knowledge, expertise and capabilities on topics of mutual interest.

Funding provided: \$7,000-\$25,000 (1 year)

Internal Deadline: June 1st, 2023 **External Deadline:** June 15th, 2023 **Results announced:** August 2023

Program Guide: https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/partnership_engage_grants-subventions_d_engagement_partenarial-eng.aspx

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)

Applied Research and Development (ARD) Grants

ARD grants are institutional grants. This means that the institution, rather than an individual, is identified as the grant recipient. The applicant may be a senior administrator at the college or a researcher, who prepares the application and is responsible for administering the grant on behalf of the institution.

ARD grants support a wide range of research and development (R&D) projects undertaken by college researchers with partner organizations in the private, public and not-for-profit sectors. Other academic institutions may be included as co-applicants. A project must seek to respond to an applied research challenge, but cannot be used to support secret or contract research.

ARD grants fund direct costs of research as well as some indirect costs up to a total of \$150,000 per year for up to 3 years, not including the contribution from partner organization(s).

To apply for an ARD grant, the college must include at least one partner organization that is recognized for cost sharing. The [ARD grants estimator tool](#) calculates the maximum grant amount that may be requested from NSERC based on the partner contribution amount or the minimum contribution amount needed for a specified grant size.

If you have an idea for an applied research project that would fit this funding opportunity, please reach out to researchofficer@vaniercollege.qc.ca.

Internal Deadline: For this funding opportunity, please account for a minimum 4-week delay between the time the Research Officer receives your complete application and the time of submission to NSERC.

External Deadline: Applications can be submitted at any time.

About this Funding Opportunity: https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/RPP-PP/ARD-RDA/Activities-Activites_eng.asp

Application Instructions: https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/convergence/Instructions-Instructions/CCI-ICC/ARD-RDA/index_eng.asp

New External Grant Recipients

PAREA

Kevin Lenton (Vanier Physics Department) has been awarded a PAREA grant.

This project is in collaboration with **Rhys Adams** (Vanier Physics Department), **Karl Laroche** (Vanier Biology Department), and researchers from Dawson and John Abbott Colleges.

Their 2023-2026 research project is entitled *Co-conception et collaboration interdisciplinaires : Aider les éducateurs à concrétiser le plein potentiel du nouveau programme de sciences de la nature.*

Congratulations to the research team!

Angela Vavassis, Academic Development and Research Office

research **R&D** development
programs

Winter 2023 Cohort
March 4 - May 6

ABOUT R&D PROGRAMS

The winter 2023 cohort is part of R&D programs by AI Launch Lab and Dawson College.

These hybrid workshops will be given in English and will take place on Saturdays for a duration 3 hours from March 4 to May 6, 2023



WINTER COHORT SUMMARY

Starting with an introduction to AI and Machine Learning, followed by workshops covering a wide range of AI topics like data manipulation, fundamental machine learning models, NLP, deep learning, reinforcement learning, and other topics, such as Data, AI and Machine Ethics, you will have the opportunity to learn about AI and how to apply it



WINTER COHORT SUMMARY

Using your new AI skills and further independent research, you will work on various weekly tasks

Along the way, you will have support from AI specialists to help guide you in exploring new tools



WINTER COHORT SUMMARY

You will also get an opportunity to take part in an in-person Weekend AI Challenge

At the end of the program, you will have the opportunity to compile and present your work and learnings. You will leave with a fantastic portfolio!



CURRICULUM

1. Introduction to Machine Learning

- What is AI?
- Difference between AI and ML
- Overview of ideas in ML

2. Python Crash Course

- Variables
- Expressions
- Functions
- Data Structures
- Classes & Objects
- Exception Handling



3. Working principles of Neural Networks

- Working of an artificial neuron
- Training setup
- Evaluating the performance of neural networks

4. Neural Network Architectures & Supervised Learning

- Architectural attributes of neural networks
- Fundamental Architecture:
- Feedforward (MLP)
- Ingredients of Supervised Learning



5. Ethics in AI

- *Introduction to Ethics, Equity, and Bias in Technology*
- *Data, AI and Machine Ethics*

6. More Architectures: Convolutions, Recurrence, and Transformers

- Advanced Architectures: Feedforward (CNN, Transformer), Recurrent (RNN)
- Applications of these architectures
- Case Studies: VGGNet, GPT-2



7. Unsupervised Learning & Generative Models

- Dimensionality Reduction
- Clustering
- Generative Models: GANs
- Case Study:
- BigGAN

8. Introduction to Natural Language Processing and AI4Good

9. Practical Aspects of AI & Case Studies



IMPORTANT DATES

Orientation 1

Sunday, February 26, 2023, at 10 AM

Orientation 2

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 6 PM

Winter Cohort Start Date

Saturday, March 4, 2023, at 10 AM

Weekend AI Challenge

Saturday, March 24, 2023 at 10 AM

Winter Cohort End Date

Saturday, May 6, 2023, at 10 AM EST



TIMELINE





AI LAUNCH LAB

Dawson
— COLLEGE

Applications for the R&D Programs Winter 2023 Cohort is open now

[APPLY NOW](#)

Subsidized by Québec 



AI LAUNCH LAB

Dawson
— COLLEGE

**FOR MORE INFO,
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**

<https://launchlab.ai/rd-program/>

[https://www.dawsoncollege.qc.ca/
ai/dawsonai-ai-launch-lab/](https://www.dawsoncollege.qc.ca/ai/dawsonai-ai-launch-lab/)

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