Dear Colleagues,

What a pleasure to welcome you to the 35th Annual Conference of the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education! This is the central event in our Society’s calendar, this year drawing our diverse membership together to “achieve harmony” by “tuning into practice.” Our hosts from Vancouver’s two largest educational institutions have worked hard to create for us this unique “space” in which to reconnect, re-calibrate, and to celebrate some of the special achievements of our friends and colleagues.

We are so fortunate to benefit from the work of those who built and nurtured this Society in such a way that it continues to resonate with the values and aspirations of its forward-thinking founders. The STLHE is the only national organization that brings together teachers and learners, educational developers and administrators, researchers and practitioners from every discipline and every type of post-secondary institution across Canada. Our numbers are growing because we offer a rare form of open-hearted collaboration that is focused on creating the best possible opportunities for deep learning and evidence-based teaching practices. May these next few days offer you what you need to fine-tune your practice and set the tone for your work in the year to come!

And let me be the first to thank our Conference Planning Committee, headed up by Stephanie Chu of SFU and Simon Bates of UBC, alongside Christine Kurbis (SFU) and Kele Fleming (UBC), each of whom have set the tone for inter-institutional collaboration and orchestrated the efforts of a remarkable team of hard-working volunteers. Their dedication to the larger goal of improving teaching and learning in Canada lies behind their success in creating this convention for our benefit. Please take a moment to seek them out and thank them for their inspiring example of leadership and commitment.

With best wishes for a great conference,

Robert Lapp
Dear Colleagues:

A hearty welcome to colleagues from near and far to the Westin Bayshore in downtown Vancouver, for the 35th annual Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE2015) Conference. Over the coming days, we hope that you will be able to take full advantage of the unique professional development opportunity that the STLHE conference provides.

This year’s conference is co-hosted by Simon Fraser University and the University of British Columbia the theme is “Achieving Harmony: Tuning into Practice.” The higher education landscape is made up of multiple voices – some of us have achieved harmony in aspects of our practice, while others strive to reach this goal. We recognize that there are many issues converging in higher education and acknowledge that the dissonance we encounter can provide rich learning opportunities. We invite you to dialogue about your experiences and to “fine-tune” your practice as educators and educational leaders. Teaching and learning colleagues from across the country have contributed to a vibrant program that boasts more than 260 workshops, roundtable discussions, research presentations, and posters sessions. The concurrent sessions will showcase a variety of practices employed at post-secondary institutions to innovate and improve course design, technology integration and assessment – all in the service of transforming the student learning experience.

We are delighted to be able to welcome Dr. Marsha Lovett and Dr. L. Dee Fink as our keynote presenters. Dr. Lovett is the co-author of “How Learning Works: 7 Research-Based Principles for Smart Teaching,” used widely in higher education to inform teaching practice and professional development for faculty and teaching assistants. Her talk, “Applying Principles of Learning and Teaching – With or Without Technology,” will open day 1 of the conference on June 17. Dr. Fink is a well-known consultant on college teaching and faculty development whose work has informed course design approaches at many universities. His talk, “5 High Impact Teaching Practices,” is scheduled to open day 2 on June 18. Our keynote presenters will engage us in practical ways to fine-tune our practice as educators to be both innovative and sustainable.

As with all STLHE conferences, there has been a huge investment of time and effort from a great many people over the past 12 months. We applaud the tireless efforts of our staff, reviewers, and volunteers involved in the planning and organization of STLHE2015: this conference would not be possible without you! We are also pleased to welcome eighteen Sponsors to the conference and thank them for helping make STLHE2015 possible.

Our STLHE conference occurs at the end of what for many of us will have been yet another very busy, perhaps challenging, but hopefully fruitful, academic year. The next few days offer us the chance to pause, discuss, reflect and perhaps re-tune ourselves, so please make the most of the tremendous opportunities for dialogue and exchange with colleagues, through the sessions and at networking events.

Dr. Simon Bates and Dr. Stephanie Chu

STLHE2015 Conference Co-chairs on behalf of the STLHE2015 Steering Committee
Dear Colleagues:

Welcome to the 35th annual conference for the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education: STLHE 2015 - Canada’s national teaching and learning conference in higher education. The two partner institutions: University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University are pleased to welcome you to the city of Vancouver, British Columbia.

The Conference will bring together teaching practitioners, educational developers, and educational leaders from across Canada who are engaged in innovative teaching and learning practices. The 2015 conference theme Achieving Harmony: Tuning into Practice was chosen with careful consideration. The Organizing Committee has challenged you to think creatively and to explore the scholarship of teaching and learning from a multiplicity of perspectives. This event will be a unique learning experience, offering opportunities for dialogue, presentation, discussion, collaboration, and engagement with scholarly dialogue on current and future challenges that warrant our attention.

We look forward to hearing from our plenary speakers, Dr. L. Dee Fink, Dee Fink and Associates, and Dr. Marsha Lovett, Carnegie Mellon University, as well as all the other conference presenters, whose insights are greatly anticipated. We hope that you will be as inspired, as are we, by the conference theme of Achieving Harmony: Tuning into Practice, which reflects the enormous change in the higher education landscape.

Enjoy the journey!

Hugh Brock
Vice-Provost & AVP Academic (pro tem)
Associate-Provost Academic Innovation
University of British Columbia

Jonathan C. Driver, PhD, RPA
Vice-President, Academic and Provost
Professor of Archaeology
Simon Fraser University