A Message from the President of STLHE: Gateways in Higher Education

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In many ways, the annual edition of the *Collected Essays on Learning and Teaching* (*CEL T*) is a gateway into our past. Each year it captures a cultural sliver of the amazing work that is presented at the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education's (STLHE) annual conference. As an open source journal, *CEL T* provides an accessible place to celebrate and acknowledge the work of our peers. *CEL T* was originally launched in 2008 by the University of Windsor (our STLHE conference hosts that year) under the editorship of Alan Wright, Shannon Murray, and the late Margaret Wilson. The inaugural volume highlighted sessions from STLHE 2007, held at the University of Alberta, and its online publication has become an annual tradition. Taken together, these editions trace the transformations that have occurred in the past decade.

The theme of *CEL T* Volume 11 is taken from our 2017 conference: "Gateways in Higher Education: Cultures, Transitions, and Transformations." This theme encompassed so many different types of gateways, including the many bridges and waterways into and through our host city of Halifax, home to our seven institutional hosts (Saint Mary's University, Dalhousie University, Mount Saint Vincent, University of King's College, NSCAD University, Université Sainte-Ann, and Nova Scotia Community College). Each of these institutions has a unique and diverse history that situates them within the higher education landscape of Halifax.

It is important to note that although *CEL T* is directly linked to our STLHE conferences, it is not meant to be a form of proceedings; rather all presenters are invited to submit an article based on their session. These submissions are then peer reviewed and carefully curated. The editors and reviewers of *CEL T*, under the leadership of Jannik Eikenaar, have brought together a wide range of papers that showcase the depth and breadth of the conference sessions. The purpose of *CEL T* is twofold: for those that attended it is a chance to reflect on their experience, and for those who did not it provides a glimpse through the gates to the transformative work that is being done by members of our community.

Those of us in attendance at STLHE 2017 passed through many different gateways both in getting to the conference and within the conference itself. In many ways our STLHE conferences are just that, gateways through which we journey with others who are passionate about teaching and learning. This passion is represented in the work of the authors as they provide a variety of perspectives, including those of students, faculty, educational developers, and administrators. Each article provides a lens through which we can see the multi-faceted role of higher education and the diverse roles that we play within this sphere. That is, after all, the power of gateways; you never quite know where you will end up when you step through, but there's a good chance that the experience will leave you forever transformed.