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eCAMPUSONTARIO RELAUNCHES EDTECH SANDBOX TO SUPPORT HIGHER EDUCATION INNOVATION IN ONTARIO

Along with eCampusOntario, Ontario colleges, universities and Indigenous Institutes are inviting EdTech companies to join them online to introduce products and services and to collaborate with educators

TORONTO, ON, April 3, 2023 – eCampusOntario is relaunching its <u>EdTech Sandbox</u> to support higher education innovation in Ontario. The initiative provides a safe, risk-free environment for institutions to discover, pilot, review and adopt educational technology tools that support digital transformation.

"When everything rapidly shifted online in 2020, higher education institutions in Ontario needed to expand digital learning quickly," explains Robert Luke, Ph.D., eCampusOntario CEO. "This allowed educators to explore new technologies and for educational edtech providers, it expanded the market."

From the exponential development of immersive technologies to advancements in artificial intelligence and machine learning, higher education institutions are integrating new tools and technologies into their curriculum and services, and are redefining interactions across physical, digital, and hybrid spaces. However, institutions are still challenged to stay at the forefront of technology.

The EdTech Sandbox is an online collaborative hub for institutions and suppliers to meet online to explore, exchange ideas and securely test new tools and technologies.

Now Ontario EdTech companies can:

- Discover higher education institutions interested in learning more about their products and services. Companies can feature products and services in the EdTech Sandbox .
- Establish pilots and demonstrate product and service capabilities with engaged postsecondary educators across the province.
- Review rigorous product and service assessments conducted by Ontario educators, learners, and staff to improve their products
- Support product adoption, connect with educators in online communities; gather project leads, and provide data to streamline product and service procurement processes.

About eCampusOntario: <u>eCampusOntario</u> is a provincially funded non-profit organization that supports innovation, collaboration and education in Ontario's colleges, universities and Indigenous Institutes. We provide the sector with digital by design platforms, programs and services that are responsive to shifts and opportunities in the educational and employment landscape. It is officially registered as the Ontario Online Learning Consortium (OOLC).

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