I am hopeful

Kathryn McGuigan

Hope requires cognitive and emotional work. It is work when the systems, communities and some individuals discriminate or default to the typical: the typical way of doing things, looking at the world, or coming back to that is always the way it was always done.

So to practice hope in the classroom I challenge students and myself to be open to diversity, to challenge fear and discrimination of the different, and rethink what is 'normal'. I value collective conversations and listening and learning alongside teaching – hope is relational, hope is in the very thing that can be the biggest issue – the human being.

Hope within my workplace (university) means the following and is represented in the image:

H – humility and willingness to learn alongside others (students and staff)

O – openness to your own biases and willingness to change (walking outside your comfort zone)

P – people and pedagogy (looking for beauty amongst the pond scum and duck poo)

E - equality, equity and inclusion

F – flowers (beauty)

U – UDL principles

L – love learning