



## ACIFA 2026 Conference

Sunday, May 03: Beauvert Ballroom

04:30 PM - 08:30 PM

### Registration

Beauvert Ballroom

Sunday, May 03: Beauvert Ballroom

07:00 PM - 10:00 PM

### Welcome Reception

Beauvert Ballroom

Monday, May 04: Beauvert Ballroom/Mary Schaffer Ballroom B

07:00 AM - 08:00 PM

### Registration Desk

10:30am moved into Ballroom A

Beauvert Ballroom/Mary Schaffer Ballroom B

Monday, May 04: Beauvert Ballroom

07:15 AM - 09:00 AM

### Breakfast Buffet

Beauvert Ballroom

Monday, May 04: Beauvert Ballroom

08:00 AM - 08:15 AM

### Welcome and Introductions

Beauvert Ballroom

Monday, May 04: Beauvert Ballroom

08:15 AM - 09:30 AM

## **Keynote: Congruent Leadership: Guiding Others Through Uncertain Times by Leading Yourself First**

Beauvert Ballroom

**Mark Groves**

Congruent Leadership: Guiding Others Through Uncertain Times by Leading Yourself First We are living in a moment of profound transition. Institutions are shifting, expectations are rising, and the leaders in higher education are being asked to guide people through environments that feel increasingly uncertain and complex. In times like these, leadership is no longer primarily by authority or expertise. It is defined by internal coherence. This keynote explores the idea that the most powerful form of leadership begins with stewardship of the self. Drawing from neuroscience, relational dynamics, and the anthropology of liminal spaces, this talk reframes leadership as the capacity to ...

Monday, May 04: Pyramid A

09:45 AM - 10:15 AM

## **Metissage: A Teaching Too**

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-served

Pyramid A

**Raymond Savage**  
Red Deer Polytechnic

Métissage is a creative method used for engaging people in research, learning, teaching, and community or organizational development

Monday, May 04: Tekarra

09:45 AM - 10:15 AM

## **Generative AI in the Classroom: Where to Start, What Changes, and What I'm Learning Along the Way**

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-served

Tekarra

**Connie Lyon**  
Lethbridge Polytechnic

Experiences from 200+ students using an AI speech coach reveal benefits for confidence, feedback, and learning, offering faculty practical lessons for implementing generative AI in classrooms.

Monday, May 04: Pyramid B

09:45 AM - 10:15 AM

## Working Toward Reconciliation and Sustainability: Implementing a Healing Forest on Campus

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-served

Pyramid B

**Sonia Perna**  
SAIT

In this session, I'll discuss the implementation of a healing forest on campus to work toward reconciliation, allow for increased wellness, and provide outdoor learning.

Monday, May 04: Mary Schaffer Ballroom A

09:45 AM - 10:15 AM

## Beyond "Be Skeptical": Metacognitive Checkpoints for Critical Thinking in Fluent Information Environments

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-served

Mary Schaffer Ballroom A

**Sooahn Ahn**  
SAIT

A metacognitive approach to critical thinking that addresses the gap between perceived credibility and actual argumentative strength by developing checkpoints for calibrated confidence under uncertainty.

Monday, May 04: Mary Schaffer Ballroom C

09:45 AM - 10:15 AM

## Teaching in the In-Between: Supporting Educators in the Liminal Space of International Program Delivery

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-served

Mary Schaffer Ballroom C

**Chinwe Ogolo**  
Portage College

**Kirsten Blodgett**  
Portage College

**Lisa Gingras**  
Portage College

**Nadia Abougoush**  
Portage College

Highlights the experiences of educators teaching an in-person international ELCC cohort and how they navigate liminal spaces in evolving post-secondary learning environments.

Monday, May 04: Mary Schaffer Ballroom B

10:30 AM - 08:00 PM

## Silent Auction

Closing 2:30pm on Tuesday, May 5th

Mary Schaffer Ballroom B

Monday, May 04: Mary Schaffer Ballroom B

10:30 AM - 08:00 PM

## Conference Exhibit

Mary Schaffer Ballroom B

Monday, May 04: Mary Schaffer Ballroom C

10:40 AM - 11:40 AM

## Reclaiming Learning Spaces : Land-Based Education at Red Deer Polytechnic

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-served

Mary Schaffer Ballroom C

**Lloyd Desjarlais**

Red Deer Polytechnic

**Tyra Hercina**

Red Deer Polytechnic

This presentation highlights the process of implementing Land-Based Learning across post-secondary programs through our outdoor classroom. In collaboration with local Elders and community.

Monday, May 04: Pyramid A

10:40 AM - 12:10 PM

## Behind the Bars: Innovating Learning and Leadership In and Beyond Corrections

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-served

Pyramid A

**Ashley Tisdale**

NorQuest

**Nicole Kameka**

NorQuest

Discover strategies to transform uncertainty into growth, empowering educators and transitional learners to adapt, lead, and thrive in education through resilience, innovation, and purposeful change.

Monday, May 04: Tekarra

10:40 AM - 12:10 PM

## Artificial Intelligence and Virtual Reality - are there practical applications?

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-served

Tekarra

**Kris Hodgson-Bright**  
Lethbridge Polytechnic

Kris Hodgson-Bright will share how he's used Virtual Reality public speaking software and AI bots to integrate into the Multimedia Production & the Digital Communications and Media programs.

Monday, May 04: Pyramid B

10:40 AM - 12:10 PM

## From Autopilot to Awareness: Developing Adaptive Mindsets Through Unconscious Bias Interruption

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-served

Pyramid B

**Patricia Koyich**  
SAIT

This interactive workshop explores how unconscious bias operates as our brain's "autopilot system" and why developing awareness of these mental shortcuts is essential for adaptive leadership.

Monday, May 04: Mary Schaffer Ballroom A

10:40 AM - 12:10 PM

## Teaching and Leading from Within: Navigating Change and Uncertainty with Courage

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-served

Mary Schaffer Ballroom A

**Paula Cornell**  
NorQuest College

In times of change and uncertainty, old maps fail. This session explores wayfinding practices using stories and reflection to navigate uncertainty with presence and courage.

Monday, May 04: Beauvert Ballroom

12:15 PM - 01:20 PM

## Lunch Buffet

Beauvert Ballroom

Monday, May 04: Beauvert Ballroom

12:30 PM - 01:00 PM

## Awards Presentation (Presented by Belairdirect)

Beauvert Ballroom

Monday, May 04: Tekarra

01:30 PM - 02:30 PM

## Uncertainty by Design: Leveraging the “Unknown” to Build Courage and Capacity for Change

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-served

Tekarra

**Jacquie Ganton**

Curriculum Quality Specialist, NAIT

Uncertainty can feel like a barrier to learning, but what if it's the path to transformation? Discover strategies to help students turn discomfort into growth

Monday, May 04: Pyramid A

01:30 PM - 02:30 PM

## Full STEAM Ahead: Designing Integrated Learning to Engage and Empower Students

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-served

Pyramid A

**Brent Galloway**

Red Deer Polytechnic

How can we get out of our "content" boxes of expertise and work collaboratively to design learning that is more integrated and authentic for our students?

Monday, May 04: Mary Schaffer Ballroom A

01:30 PM - 02:30 PM

## Immersive Interest: Finding Balance and Purpose in the In-Between Spaces of Learning and Leading

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-served

Mary Schaffer Ballroom A

**Robin Landals-Hill**

Makami College

Educators and adult learners navigate transformation by embracing immersive interest—using curiosity, deep focus, and self-directed exploration to find grounding, renewal, and purpose while identities and structures shift.

Monday, May 04: Pyramid B

01:30 PM - 02:30 PM

## Learning in the Age of the Polycrisis: Thriving Through Uncertainty

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-served

Pyramid B

**Kristine Monteiro**  
NAIT

Thriving in the Age of the Polycrisis: Insights from Futures Thinking to Enhance Student Confidence, Adaptability and Purpose during Global Uncertainty

Monday, May 04: Tekarra

02:45 PM - 03:45 PM

## Reimagining Curriculum Through the Lenses of Anti-Racism, Decolonization, Kinship, and Access

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-served

Tekarra

**Leah Townsend**  
Educational Developer, NorQuest College

Learn ways to apply four holistic lenses alongside research-based best practices in curriculum development.

Monday, May 04: Pyramid A

02:45 PM - 03:45 PM

## "Are you thinking what I'm thinking?" Developing a shared understanding of curriculum.

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Pyramid A

**James Beres**

"Are you thinking what I'm thinking?" Developing a shared understanding of curriculum.

Monday, May 04: Mary Schaffer Ballroom A

02:45 PM - 03:45 PM

## Go Somewhere with Generative AI: A Hands-On Workshop Using Metaphors and Values to Rethink Teaching in Uncertain Times

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-served

Mary Schaffer Ballroom A

**Brooklin Schneider**  
NorQuest College

**Caylee Kreller**  
NorQuest College

**Jeff Kuntz**  
NorQuest College

Step into a creative space to rethink AI's role in learning. Through playful metaphors and collaborative activities, discover fresh perspectives and actionable strategies for your teaching.

Monday, May 04: Pyramid B

02:45 PM - 03:45 PM

## Distinguished Instructor Award - Collective Care and Creative Risk

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-serve

Pyramid B

**Marnie Blair**  
Red Deer Polytechnic

This presentation explores how studio classrooms become spaces of collective care where students take creative risks, experiment, and develop confidence through collaborative making.

Monday, May 04: Mary Schaffer Ballroom C

02:45 PM - 03:45 PM

## Strengthening Bargaining Through Member Engagement

Please note: Capacity 70 - Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-served

Mary Schaffer Ballroom C

**Shauna MacDonald**  
President NASA/President ACIFA, NAIT/ACIFA

In the last round of bargaining, the NAIT Academic Staff Association (NASA) made a deliberate shift toward a more open, organized, and member-driven approach. Earlier in the process, NASA implemented major changes including open and large bargaining committees, strengthened communications, and bylaw reforms designed to increase transparency and engagement. These changes laid the groundwork for a new kind of bargaining culture, one where members were informed, involved, and prepared to act collectively. This session will briefly revisit those structural changes before focusing on what came next: the organizing that led to a successful strike vote. Through coordinated communications, clear messaging about ...

Monday, May 04: Mary Schaffer Ballroom A

02:45 PM - 03:45 PM

## Go Somewhere with Generative AI: A Hands-On Workshop Using Metaphors and Values to Rethink Teaching in Uncertain Times

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Mary Schaffer Ballroom A

**Brooklin Schneider**  
NorQuest College

**Caylee Kreller**  
NorQuest College

**Jeff Kuntz**  
NorQuest College

Step into a creative space to rethink AI's role in learning. Through playful metaphors and collaborative activities, discover fresh perspectives and actionable strategies for your teaching.

Monday, May 04: Mary Schaffer Ballroom C

04:00 PM - 05:00 PM

## Labour Rights, Worker Advocacy, and the Current Landscape for Alberta's Post-secondary Employees

Please note: Capacity 70 - Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-served

Mary Schaffer Ballroom C

**Kim Siever**  
The Alberta Worker

Monday, May 04: Beauvert Ballroom

06:00 PM - 08:00 PM

## Dinner Buffet

Beauvert Ballroom

Monday, May 04: Beauvert Ballroom

08:00 PM - 10:00 PM

## Entertainment - Games Night with NWPASA

Beauvert Ballroom

Tuesday, May 05: Beauvert Ballroom/Mary Schaffer Ballroom B

07:00 AM - 08:00 PM

## Registration Desk

Beauvert Ballroom/Mary Schaffer Ballroom B

Tuesday, May 05: Beauvert Ballroom

07:15 AM - 09:00 AM

## Breakfast Buffet

Beauvert Ballroom

Tuesday, May 05: Beauvert Ballroom

08:00 AM - 09:50 AM

## Annual General Meeting

Beauvert Ballroom

Tuesday, May 05: Mary Schaffer Ballroom B

09:00 AM - 05:00 PM

## Conference Exhibit

Mary Schaffer Ballroom B

Tuesday, May 05: Pyramid A

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

## The MasterMind Method: A Gamified Approach to Reimagining Critical Thinking and Content Retention

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-served

Pyramid A

**Jennifer Hainsworth**  
Olds College

Learn how unconventional activities can build critical thinking, improve retention, and help students transfer skills across contexts using the MasterMind Method - A gamified, interactive framework.

Tuesday, May 05: Pyramid B

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

## 7Cs for Building Creative Confidence in the Anthropocene

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-served

Pyramid B

**Deborah Forbes**  
Medicine Hat College

Used in circular concert, 7Cs bridge gaps in methodologies for building creative confidence to navigate change, break dependence on existing human methodologies for human-defined problems.

Tuesday, May 05: Mary Schaffer Ballroom C

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

## Holding Space for Emergence: Learning to Navigate Uncertainty Through Peacemaking Circle Practice

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-serve

Mary Schaffer Ballroom C

**Mandy Halabi**  
NorQuest College

**Trina Homeniuk**  
NorQuest College

Experience Indigenous Peacemaking Circles—a process-focused practice building capacity to navigate uncertainty through authentic connection, collective wisdom, and relationships of mutual support and accountability.

Tuesday, May 05: Mary Schaffer Ballroom A

10:00 AM - 02:45 PM

## Silent Auction

Closing 2:30pm on Tuesday, May 5th

Mary Schaffer Ballroom A

Once notified winners items at registration desk. All items need to be claimed by 8:00pm.

Tuesday, May 05: Mary Schaffer Ballroom A

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

## Myopic Inevitability: Challenging Capitalist Narratives about GenAI and the Value of Labour

Mary Schaffer Ballroom A

**Anna Borynec**  
NorQuest College

This talk challenges common narratives about GenAI and the ongoing capitalist quest to improve worker efficiency and productivity, likening it to the “business-ification” of PSE.

Tuesday, May 05: Pyramid A

11:40 AM - 12:10 PM

## Unleashing Potential: Nurturing Growth through Alumni Networks

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-serve

Pyramid A

**Lorelei Boschman**  
Medicine Hat Colleges

This presentation shares the development, administration, and findings of a comprehensive alumni survey, revealing graduates' insights that strengthen career preparation, program relevance, and student success.

Tuesday, May 05: Pyramid B

11:40 AM - 12:10 PM

## Oral Examination in Math

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-served

Pyramid B

**Yevgen Kanevskiy**  
SAIT

Advantages and disadvantages of oral examinations based on personal experience.

Tuesday, May 05: Mary Schaffer Ballroom A

11:40 AM - 12:10 PM

## Math anxiety and how to support students facing that challenge

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-serve

Mary Schaffer Ballroom A

**Anna Beukes**  
NAIT

Math anxiety exists in the space between exposure to math concepts and mastering it. This session explores techniques to lower emotional discomfort and increase success.

Tuesday, May 05: Pyramid A

01:30 PM - 02:30 PM

## The Academic Program Chair: Serving and Surviving When Everyone S(h)its on You

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-served

Pyramid A

**Dana Wight**  
NorQuest College

The Academic Program Chair is critically positioned in the liminal space between front-line faculty and senior leadership, where the sh\*t flows in both directions.

Tuesday, May 05: Pyramid B

01:30 PM - 02:30 PM

## **Inclusive Post-Secondary Education in the Liminal Space: Reimagining Learning, Leadership, and Belonging**

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-served

Pyramid B

**Shawna Francis**  
Inclusion Alberta

Explore how inclusive post-secondary education offers a lens for reimagining learning and belonging, inviting faculty to contribute to meaningful inclusion.

Tuesday, May 05: Mary Schaffer Ballroom A

01:30 PM - 02:30 PM

## **Through the Eyes of Faculty: A Photovoice Study on Mid-Career Faculty Burnout**

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-serve

Mary Schaffer Ballroom A

**Leanne Vig**  
Red Deer Polytechnic

This session portrays the lived experiences of mid-career faculty (MCF) burnout and well-being. Faculty-generated photographs and narratives humanize these experiences and advocate for institutional change.

Tuesday, May 05: Mary Schaffer Ballroom C

01:30 PM - 02:30 PM

## **From Barriers to Belonging: Supporting Trans and Gender Diverse Learners**

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-serve

Mary Schaffer Ballroom C

**Aidan Wyatt**  
SAIT

Attendees will learn about barriers to inclusion and specific strategies for supporting gender diverse learners in order to create safe and affirming classroom environments.

Tuesday, May 05: Pyramid A

01:30 PM - 02:30 PM

## Innovation in Teaching Award - Four Corners: A Story of Mental Health and Community Nursing

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-serve

Pyramid A

### **Chantelle Fitton**

Lethbridge Polytechnic

### **Marie Laenen**

Red Deer Polytechnic

### **Raihau Izonyobore**

Lethbridge Polytechnic

Step inside a four-part client journey where mental health, community care, and cultural safety intersect in meaningful and unexpected ways. Nursing faculty Chantelle Fitton and Marie Laenen, together with colleague Raihau Izonyobore, showcase an innovative hi-fidelity simulation project that uses adult and child simulated patients to bring complex, real-world scenarios to life. Through powerful video clips and shared discussion, we tour you through an immersive simulation that cultivates empathy, cultural humility, and critical thinking, while deepening awareness of the cultural and structural forces that shape health outcomes. Follow our client Xavier Quentin and his family across diverse community settings—from homecare ...

Tuesday, May 05: Pyramid B

02:30 PM - 03:30 PM

## Navigating the Faculty Role on the Board of Governors

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-serve

Pyramid B

### **Bill Petrosenko**

Red Deer Polytechnic

### **Dustin Quirk**

Red Deer Polytechnic

This discussion session will explore current issues and the role and challenges of being the academic member on your institution's Board of Governors.

Tuesday, May 05: Tekarra

02:45 PM - 03:45 PM

## Navigating the Liminal Space Mimetically: A Social Model for Learning

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-serve

Tekarra

### **Raymond Klassen**

NorQuest College

What if learning was primarily mimetic? What if imitation and relational recognition were the building blocks of true learning? How would that affect assessment and instruction?

Tuesday, May 05: Pyramid A

02:45 PM - 03:45 PM

## **Journeying Toward Transformation: An Indigenous Perspective in Education**

Please note: Adding this session to your calendar does not guarantee a seat. Seating is first-come, first-serve

Pyramid A

**Talitha Klym**  
Red Deer Polytechnic

An Indigenous educator reflects on their journey of indigenization and decolonization, offering insights to help attendees envision a new path in education.



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