2025 ACIFA Conference Agenda

Sunday, May 11, 2025

4:30pm – 8:00 pm **Registration** - *Oval Room*

7:00pm – 10:00pm **Welcome Reception** – *Cascade Ballroom*

7:00pm – 10:00pm **Entertainment – Comedian Barry Piercey** – *Cascade Ballroom*

Barry has been performing Stand Up Comedy ever since and has performed throughout Alberta and BC. He has performed at multiple Yuk Yuks, The Laugh Shop, Sonar and at Laugh Madness where he opened for Kojo Anim (runner up in Britain's Got Talent 2019).

Most recently he opened for Shaun Majumder on his "Love Tour".

If you are out with friends, having a laugh and making memories….what more can you ask for?

Monday May 12, 2025

7:00am – 8:30 pm **Registration Desk** – *Oval Room/Conservatory*

7:15am – 9:00am **Buffet Breakfast - Remember your ticket!** – *Cascade Ballroom*

8:00am – 8:15am **Welcome Introductions** – *Cascade Ballroom*

8:15am – 9:15am **Keynote Speaker** – Sarah Eaton – *Cascade Ballroom*

Academic Integrity, Human Rights, Human Dignity: Caring for Our Students, Our Selves, and Our Standards

In this keynote address, we explore academic integrity through the lens of human rights and dignity - moving beyond simplistic notions of cheating and punishment to consider deeper questions of care, justice, and labour. Dr. Sarah Eaton will talk about how academic integrity work intersects with the rights of students and educational workers alike. Meaningful academic integrity practices must recognize both the dignity of learners facing systemic barriers and the essential labor of educators who support them. Together, we will consider how unions can advocate for institutional approaches that uphold standards while centering human needs, fair working conditions, and educational justice.

Sessions Begin:

9:30am – 10:30am (1hour)

Alberta Room: **Ethical Leadership Training in Alberta's Business Schools**

Are business schools in Alberta providing formal ethics training to future business leaders to guide their decision in creating shareholder wealth?

Presenter: Merlyn Foo & Brian Thorne (Portage College)

Monday May 12, 2025 (continued)

9:30am – 10:30am (1hour)

Alhambra Room : **AI's use in enhancing student scholarly writing**

Recognizing that students may us Al to generate their assignments we chose to embrace the technology to support student learning.

Presenters: Carnelle Symes & Peggy Follis (Red Deer Polytechnic)

New Brunswick Room: **An AI Speech Tool, Police Applicants, and Lethbridge Polytechnic Students**

Through research overview and findings, Connie Lyon and Brenda Bryson share police applicant and post-secondary student experiences with one AI speech feedback tool.

Presenter: Connie Lyon (Lethbridge Polytechnic)

Champlain Room: **Understanding Variability: A Comparative Study between BTech and BBA Students in a Canadian Polytechnic**

Want to get great ideas from your students? Want to encourage critical thinking and creativity? Want to avoid plagiarism issues and encourage responsible use of generative AI? In this session, I will cover how assignment design can accomplish all of this and more.

Presenters: Thomas Varghese & Ashique Khan (NAIT)

Ivor Petrak Room: **Designing Assignments that Encourage Critical Thinking and Creative Original Responses**

Want to get great ideas from your students? Want to encourage critical thinking and creativity? Want to avoid plagiarism issues and encourage responsible use of generative AI? In this session, I will cover how assignment design can accomplish all of this and more.

Presenter: - Sonia Perna (SAIT)

9:45am – 11:45am (2 hours)

Outdoor Event: **Resilience of Birds - Singing Through Turbulent Times -** Meet at Registration Desk

As instructors we can learn a lot from Alberta birds – they are hardy, resilient, and colorful. They have an engaging story to share as they garnish us with their morning chorus. These little songsters fly thousands of kilometers to set up nests in our mountains, braving spring snowstorms and inclement weather, singing cheerfully and persistently regardless of what comes their way.

Presenter: Laurie Hunt (NAIT)

Monday May 12, 2025 (continued)

10:30 am – 8:30pm **Silent Auction** – Conservatory
(Items are to be picked up by Tuesday, May 13th at 7:00pm)

Support excellence and achievement through the ACIFA Awards Fund by participating in our silent auction!

The funds raised play a vital role in supporting award recipients, enabling them to attend conferences and celebrate their achievements and accept their well-deserved honors in person. Your generosity helps create unforgettable experiences for these outstanding individuals, fostering their growth and inspiration.

Together, we can make a difference—one bid at a time.

10:40am – 12:10pm (1.5 Hours)

Alberta Room: **Breaking Through Unconscious Bias: The Integrity Behind Difficult Conversations**

In this interactive presentation, we will explore the importance of leadership integrity through the lens of difficult conversations and the role unconscious bias can play.

Presenters: Nicole Kameka & Ashley Tisdale (NorQuest)

Alhambra Room : **Our Journey with Generative AI**

Ack! The world is coming to an end, GenAI is taking over! *Well, maybe we can work with it.* This session will share the experiences and insights from a recent NorQuest SoTL study where instructors used Gen AI tools to support learning and establish boundaries for ethical and academic integrity.

Presenters: Jeff Kuntz and Brooklin Schneider (NorQuest)

New Brunswick Room: **Wahkôhtowin: Walking Together to Nurture Academic and Relational Integrity in Post-Secondary**

This interactive workshop explores the concept of Wahkôhtowin (or interrelatedness) as a framework to enhance relational and academic integrity within Indigenous and non-Indigenous pedagogical practices.

Presenters: Alexandru Caldararu, Wanda Chell, Lynn Lush, and Lance Scout.

Champlain Room **Member Mobilization and Organizing for Job Action**

Lessons from the College Faculty division of OPSEU/SEFPO concerning member mobilizing for a strong strike vote, successful job action, and gains at the bargaining table.

ACIFA Invited Presenters: Kevin MacKay and Martin Devitt (OPSEU/SEFPO)

Monday May 12, 2025 (continued)

10:40am – 11:40pm (1 hour)

Ivor Petrak Room: **Cultivating Outdoor Pedagogy in Teaching and Learning (Innovation in Teaching Award)**

Jennifer will share about teaching a post-secondary course entirely outdoors. This approach sparks curiosity and activates learner's brains in ways that the traditional classroom cannot.

Presenter: Jennifer Usher

11:45am – 12:15pm (1/2 hour)

Ivor Petrak Room: **Promoting Classroom Engagement Using Assessment as a Tool for Courses with High Mathematical Component**

This presentation will aim to show that having multiple methods of course evaluations/assessments and increased classroom activities would promote classroom engagement in a highly significant mathematic subject.

Presenter: Onyekwelu Okeke

12:15pm – 1:25pm

Cascade Ballroom **Buffet Lunch - Remember your ticket!!**

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Monday May 12, 2025 (continued)

1:30pm – 2:30pm (1 hour)

Alberta Room: **Return of the House Hippo! Assignments Designed for Critical Thought**

This workshop explores how AI-supported assignments can enhance critical thinking, address concerns about student research, and offer assessment strategies to improve questioning skills and authenticity.

Presenter: Gilles Prefontaine

Alhambra Room: **Post-Plagiarism Instructional Practices We Can Adopt Right Now**

Learn concrete examples of practices we can use in the classroom right now to enact the principles of post-plagiarism and better teach integrity.

Presenter: Dustin Grue (NorQuest)

New Brunswick Room: **CapCon: Leading to Fostering Integrity and professionalism through Experiential Learning**

CapCon is a cross-disciplinary experiential and professional student showcase. Discover how integrity-driven leadership transforms student engagement with industry, fostering trust, ethical conduct, and career readiness.

Presenters: Sonja Johnston, Angela Flanagan, Amanda Howlett-Long, Melissa Martin, Joy Ishigo (SAIT)

Champlain Room: **A Social Model of Integrity: Lessons from Neurodivergent Classrooms**

Strengths-based education focuses on contributing to high performing teams. Neurodivergent learners, especially newcomers, flourish with a social model of learning. Integrity, it appears, has a communal architecture that post-secondary educators need to consider.

Presenters: Raymond Klassen & Danielle Mathias (NAIT)

Ivor Petrak Room: **Fostering Academic Integrity in the Classroom**

Instructors in Alberta post-secondary education can foster academic integrity by leading by example, clear communication, innovative course design, open dialogue, and consistent policy enforcement.

Presenter: Naomi Paisley (SAIT)

Monday May 12, 2025 (continued)

2:45pm – 3:45pm (1 Hour)

Alberta Room: **Playing with Integrity**

We will experientially explore the differences between decisions made when being playful and higher stakes events and choices.

Presenter: Dave Carlgren

Alhambra Room: **Create Scholarship and Get Published on a College/Polytechnic Workload**

Turn your ideas into a research project and turn that research project into a publication. Introducing a new journal for and by college/polytechnic faculty.

Presenter: Stephanie Powers & Jason Engel

New Brunswick Room: **Exploring the Influence of Targeted Professional Development on Authentic Assessment Practices**
(Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award)

Since June 2022, NorQuest College has offered in-person faculty workshops on Authentic Assessment. Our research project examines how these workshops have supported faculty to adopt Authentic Assessment as part of their teaching practice and what challenges exist when we offer professional development in this format.

Presenters: Allison Fieldberg, Jeff Kuntz, Julia Shweda and Janelle Threien.
Sofia Sanchez - Honorable Mention (NorQuest)

Champlain Room: **Supporting Positive School Attendance for Indigenous Learners**

Examining chronic absenteeism among First Nations learners, this study highlights systemic barriers and offers culturally relevant strategies to support Indigenous learners' transition to post-secondary education.

Presenter: Wendy Solland-Hurlbut

Ivor Petrak Room: **AI and Educational Equity: Bridging Gaps or Widening Divides?**

This session explores the challenges, opportunities, and ethical implications of AI in diverse educational contexts focusing on ways that do not disadvantage marginalized communities

Presenter: Asif Siddiqui

Monday May 12, 2025 (continued)

4:00pm – 4:45pm (45 Minutes) **Activity: Hotel History Tour** - Meet at Registration Desk
Register at the Registration Desk before Monday, May 12 @ 8:00pm - Cost: $70

Learn all about the history of the hotel with our guided Hotel History Tours, ghost stories included.

Register at Activity Desk in the Conservatory – Cost $27.00

6:00pm – 8:00pm **Buffet Dinner- Remember your ticket!!** – Cascade Ballroom

8:00pm – 10:00pm **Entertainment - The Half Past Never Jazz Band** – Cascade Ballroom

Enjoy an evening of Jazz

Tuesday, May 13th, 2025

7:00am – 8:00 pm **Registration Desk** –*Conservatory*

7:15am – 9:00am **Buffet Breakfast - Remember your ticket!** – *Cascade Ballroom*

7:00am – 2:30pm **Silent Auction** – *items are to be picked up at registration desk, by 7:00pm.*

8:00am – 9:50am **ACIFA Annual General Meeting – Cascade Ballroom**

Join your ACIFA Executive and Presidents' Council at the AGM.
Nominations and Voting for the following Executive Council Position will be taking place:

- VP Internal
- VP Finance & Records
- VP Professional Affairs

8:00am – 4:00pm **Conference Sponsors Exhibit** – Conservatory

10:00am – 11:00am (1 Hour)

Alberta Room: **Integrity-driven Assessments Fostering Critical Thinking and Accountability through Work-Integrated Learning**

Exploration of authentic assessments in a capstone course, emphasizing integrity through critical thinking, problem-solving, formative assessment, and industry partnerships to enhance student development and accountability

Presenters: Leonard D'Silva & Sonja Johnston (SAIT)

Alhambra Room: **From Burnout to Balance Advocating for Academic Integrity and Equity**

Addressing burnout through equitable policies, this session equips faculty to advocate for systemic changes, integrate academic integrity work into workloads, and foster sustainable, supportive institutional cultures.

Presenter: Brooklin Schneider (NorQuest)

Tuesday, May 13th, 2025 (continued)

10:00am – 11:00am (1 Hour)

New Brunswick Room: **Measuring What Matters: Cultivating Integrity Through Creative Assessment Design**

Discover how challenging traditional assessment paradigms through concept-based, authentic approaches can foster academic integrity by empowering student autonomy, agency and transfer of knowledge beyond the classroom.

Presenter: Jacquie Ganton

Champlain Room: **Indigenous Data Sovereignty**

What is Indigenous data sovereignty, how is it distinct, how might it appear in post-secondaries, and what do you need to know about it?

Presenter: Lara Ripkens (Portage College)

Ivor Petrak Room: **Reframing Academic Integrity Through Shared Understandings and Self-Determination in Assessment**

Diverse learners bring diverse views on academic integrity. Developing a shared, positive understanding of AI and utilizing self-determination in assessment leans into strengths-based approaches, reducing faculty "policing".

Presenter: Janelle Therien (NorQuest)

11:10am – 12:10pm (1 Hour)

Alberta Room: **Promoting Integrity through Open Education Practices**

Discover how Open Educational Resources (OER) promote equity and academic integrity through accessible, adaptable materials. Learn practical strategies and insights to incorporate OER into your classroom practices.

Presenter: Jessica Norman (SAIT)

Alhambra Room: **Beyond Intelligence: Self-Awareness & Well-Being in Modern Leadership?**

Explore self-awareness in leadership, its impact on decision-making, empathy, and team dynamics, and how a positive mindset enhances effectiveness and well-being.

Presenter: Patricia Koyich (SAIT)

Tuesday, May 13th, 2025 (continued)

11:10am – 12:10pm (1 Hour)

New Brunswick Room: **Shifting the Focus in Nursing Education; Making the change from traditional papers to experiential learning**
(Distinguished Instructor Award)

This presentation explores shifting nursing education from traditional papers to experiential learning, emphasizing real-world experiences to enhance critical thinking, engagement, and practical skills.

Presenter: Jacqueline Lubemsky (Portage College)

Champlain Room: **Academic Integrity Assessments and Fostering Student Confidence; a practical approach**

This session we will explore the use of assessment design and the fundamentals of integrity to support and foster student confidence in achieving academic achievement.

Presenter: Lorraine Wiercinski (SAIT)

Ivor Petrak Room: **(Gen)AI in Research: Silver Bullet or Academic Misconduct?**

GenAI is exciting but can conflict with the ethical responsibilities of researchers. Learn to ask the right questions before integrating AI into your research practice.

Presenter: Anna Borynec (NorQuest)

12:15pm – 1:25pm **Buffet Lunch - Remember your ticket!! -** Cascade Ballroom

1:30pm – 2:30pm (1 Hour)

Alberta Room: **Stressed? Overwhelmed? We have an Idea!**

Feeling emotionally drained from the use of Generative AI in education? Join us for a short wellness session with an AI avatar to recharge.

Presenter: Lois Henderson & Renee St. Jean (NorQuest)

Alhambra Room: **Placed Based Inquiry in the Amazon Rainforest**

This presentation highlights a biology teacher's experience in the Peruvian rainforest as a participant in The Morpho Institute's 10-day workshop, Educator Academy in the Amazon.

Presenter: Elissa Odgren (Red Deer Polytechnic)

Tuesday May 13, 2025 (continued)

1:30pm – 2:30pm (1 Hour)

New Brunswick Room: **Creating Case Based Assessments to Promote Academic Integrity**

In this workshop, you will develop a concise, real-life case scenario designed to encourage higher-order thinking, making it less tempting for learners to rely on AI tools.

Presenter: Teresa Bare Hoffert (SAIT)

Champlain Room: **Our Employment Contract: What can the psychological contract do for us with respect to academic integrity?**

This is a presentation to encourage NASA members to think about the psychological contract (PSC) which is different from our employment contract and which is looking at what expectations I have of my employer and what obligations I perceive to have of my employer when it comes to academic integrity (policy, procedures, and professional implications). The psychological contract (PSC) is an approach that can be taken to examine the unwritten and often unspoken aspects of the employment relationship.

Presenter: Ann Hrabok (NAIT)

Ivor Petrak Room: **Maladministration in Academia: Leadership, Integrity, and Faculty Engagement**

Discover how mismanagement threatens academic integrity and faculty engagement. This session challenges norms, reveals hidden impacts, and explores how faculty unions can promote accountability and growth with academic integrity.

Presenter: Amir Fard (NAIT)

1:40pm – 3:40pm (2 hours)

Outdoor Event: **Plant Walk -** Meet at Registration Desk

A guided tour through the vibrant landscape surrounding the conference venue offering a unique opportunity to connect with nature, learn about the natural local flora, and gain a deeper appreciation for the environment. Discussion topics include native flora and fauna, how to build trust with your students, health benefits to routine access to nature, how to get a prescription to national parks, and more! .

Presenters: Sarah Booth and Emily Williams (NorQuest)

2:40pm – 3:40pm (1 Hour)

Alhambra Room: **International Business Study Tour - Realistic Impact of World Connections in Applied Edu.**

Our presentation aims to share the best practices for developing an International business study curriculum and share various impacts of global applied education while making real-world connections.

Presenter: Fiaz Merani & Abidemi Akinloye (SAIT)

Tuesday May 13, 2025 (continued)

2:40pm – 3:40pm (1 Hour)

Ivor Petrak Room: **Public Interest Alberta PSE Campaign**

PIA is a nonprofit, non-partisan province-wide organization focused on education and advocacy on public interest issues, for advancing the public good.

Learn about the Public Interest Alberta PSE Campaign.

Presenter: Kevin Cane (University of Alberts/Public Interest Alberta)

4:00pm – 5:30pm (1.5 Hours)

Champlain Room: **Activity: Paint n' Sip**
Register at the Registration Desk before Monday, May 12 @ 8:00pm - Cost: $70

You don't need to be Picasso or a seasoned artist - just enjoy the company of your co-workers as the Resort Activities animator guides you in creating your own masterpiece. It's a fun and relaxing activity.

** Delegates are responsible for their own Food and Beverages**

6:00pm – 8:00pm
Cascade Ballroom **Buffet Dinner- Remember your ticket!!**

8:00pm – 10:00pm **Entertainment – Triva Night -** Cascade Ballroom

Enjoy an evening of Jeopardy hosted by the 2026 ACIFA Conference Planning Committee - Northwestern Polytechnic.

Thank you to SAFA 2025 Planning Committee!

SAFA
SAIT Academic Faculty Association

See you in Japer for the 2026 ACIFA Conference, May 10-12, 2026!!!



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