



acifa

Alberta Colleges and Institutes Faculties Association

2026 Conference Edition

Faculty Circuit



This year's theme is *Leaning into Uncertainty and Embracing the Liminal Space*. The word liminal comes from the Latin word limen, meaning "threshold." A liminal space is one of transition, as a liminal time exists in the moment before becoming. This is the space between the jump and the landing, between effort and outcome, question and the answer. It is a moment marked by uncertainty and change.

As educators, we increasingly find ourselves in these liminal territories. We find ourselves needing to reimagine our practices in order to navigate an evolving post-secondary landscape.

Often, we find ourselves frustrated and anxious in the face of uncertainty, and mired in a sense of helplessness. But what if we didn't resist uncertainty? What if instead of feeling powerless amidst the changes, we met change with curiosity, courage, and creativity?

In this year's conference, we will explore how uncertainty can actually be fertile ground for innovation, resiliency, creativity, and personal growth. We hope you will join us in Jasper and, amidst the mountains' quiet strength, find space to pause, to reflect, and to reconnect with colleagues, purpose, and the determination to face uncertainty head on.

We look forward to seeing you in Jasper for the 2026 ACIFA Conference as we embrace the transformative potential of the liminal space.

Bianca Dudenhoffer, NWPASA Conference Planning Committee Chair



NORTHWESTERN POLYTECHNIC
ACADEMIC STAFF ASSOCIATION

REGISTRATION

Members: \$980.00
Non-Member: \$1155.00

REGISTER NOW

Registration provides access to the welcome reception, keynote speaker, all conference sessions, evening entertainment and meals (Monday & Tuesday only)

Registration Cancellation Policy:

- No cancellations after: April 15, 2026
- Refund processing fee \$25.00

Deadline:
March 30, 2026



CONFERENCE VENUE

Jasper Park Lodge, Jasper Alberta

Important Information regarding room reservations:

- Hotel Booking Link Available Upon Registering
- Limited Rooms Available
- Complimentary Self Parking Valet Parking \$47.25/night (tax included)
- **30 Day Reservation Cancellation Policy** -
 - Reservations must be cancelled prior to April 2, 2026 to avoid any charges.
 - **A non-refundable 100% reservation full stay payment will automatically be processed on April 2, 2026.**
- additional nights at conference rates available based on availability.

Any questions regarding Jasper Park Lodge's cancellation or refund policy please call the lodge at 780-852-6044 or email jpl.reservations@fairmont.com.

Read here about the new [Planned Enhancements at Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge](#)

SCHEDULE

We're using **pheedloop** as our event app. Download the app and join the event.

Pheedloop Go app allows you to:

- view the event agenda and plan your personal schedule.
- documents to presentation documents shared by presenters.
- find who else is attending this event and reach out to them.
- receive updates such as last-minute session changes from the organizer.

Here is the QR Code to sign up!!
Please use the email you registered with, if you need to change it please contact ACIFA office at admin@acifa.ca.



Having trouble you can search Pheedloop Go! on Apple Store or Google Play.



Keynote Speaker

Monday, May 4th, 2026



MARK GROVES

Meet Mark Groves: Human Connection Specialist, Speaker, Author, Coach, Podcast Host and founder of Create The Love.

Born with an innate curiosity and a hunger for truth, Mark's journey of self-discovery and personal liberation has led him to spend the last decade coaching and inspiring millions worldwide to create the life and love they desire.

Through his candid but compassionate, no-BS guidance, Mark has helped empower countless individuals, teams, and companies to step into their most authentic, effective, and loving selves, transform how they relate to themselves and others, and create profound changes in their lives and relationships.

www.markgroves.com

Award Winners

Innovation Teaching Award

The Innovation in Teaching Award is to recognize and encourage the use of innovative and creative teaching methods and design.



CHANTELLE FITTON



MARIE LAENEN



RAIHAU IZONYBORE

Lethbridge Polytechnic

Distinguished Instructor Award

The Distinguished Instructor Award aims to recognize teachers who exhibit commitment to teaching, to learners, and learning through a variety of measures.



MARNIE BLAIR

Red Deer Polytechnic

Awards Sponsored by

belairdirect.
car and home insurance

SILENT AUCTION

MONDAY, MAY 4th @ 10:30pm to Tuesday, May 5th @ 2:30pm
Located in the Great Hall

Join us in supporting 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.



Donations will be accepted up to 10:00am, Monday May 4, drop off at the Registration Desk.

Do you know an organization or company that would be interested in donating?

Contact Karen at ACIFA - admin@acifa.ca
for assistance with donation request.

SPONSORS

Thank you to our 2026 Conference Sponsors

Visit our Randy from BelairDirect in the Great Room
Monday, May 4th & Tuesday, May 5th

Premier SPONSOR
belairdirect.
car and home insurance

Individual members can take advantage of group rates on home and auto insurance through ACIFA's partnership with BelairDirect.

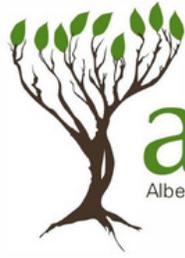
Please stop by and speak with Randy, the BelairDirect representative at the Sponsor Exhibit or contact BelairDirect for a quote.

www.belairdirect.com



Contributing Sponsors





acifa

Alberta Colleges and Institutes Faculties Association

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday | May 5, 2026

8:00am - 9:50am

Beauvert Ballroom, Jasper Park Lodge



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

**Nominations are now open
for the following
Executive Council positions:**

President
Vice-President External

This is a fantastic opportunity to contribute to the advancement of post-secondary education in Alberta.

Nomination package follows or visit acifa.ca
Questions: email admin@acifa.ca



Nominations for ACIFA Executive Council



During the 2026 ACIFA Annual General Meeting, on May 5th, 2026, at Jasper Park Lodge, two(2) positions on the ACIFA Executive council will be open for election:

President: The President shall:

- a. encourage and assist the development of, and adherence to, goals and policies in ACIFA which are consistent with its objectives;
- b. act as official spokesperson of the Association in all external contacts, as directed by the Association, Executive Council or Presidents' Council;
- c. have the authority to interpret the Constitution of this Association; the President's interpretation shall be conclusive and in full force and effect unless reversed or changed by the Presidents' Council, or an Annual General Meeting or Special Assembly of the members. Full and final authority shall rest with the Annual General Meeting or Special Assembly of the members.
- d. chair all Association meetings, or designate the Vice-President Internal or other Vice-President if the Vice-President Internal is unavailable;
- e. be empowered to countersign cheques;
- f. be an ex-officio member of all Association committees;
- g. encourage liaison between the Association and other individuals and groups;
- h. supervise employees of the Association;
- i. assign duties and responsibilities of the President's office to the Executive Council by mutual agreement and in accordance with this Constitution;
- j. present an annual report to the Association;
- k. provide a brief written summary of their activities in advance of each official Presidents' Council meeting;

Vice-President External: The Vice-President External shall:

- a. at the direction of the President, act as the official liaison between ACIFA and any association of which ACIFA is a member;
- b. communicate to and consult regularly with the Presidents' Council and the Executive on the activities of any association of which ACIFA is a member and on issues relative to the provincial and federal governments' jurisdictional authority on post-secondary education and related matters;
- c. at the direction of the Presidents' Council or the Executive, represent the views of ACIFA on policy or business matters that may arise at official assemblies of any association of which ACIFA is a member;
- d. provide a brief written summary of their activities in advance of each official Presidents' Council meeting;
- e. present an annual report to the Association; and
- f. fulfil such other duties and responsibilities that may be assigned by the President.

See nomination form below:

**Nomination Form: ACIFA Executive Council Elections
Annual General Meeting 2026**

Positions Open for Nominations:
President
Vice-President External

We, _____ of _____
(name of nominator) (college/university/institute)

_____ of _____
(name of nominator) (college/university/institute)

Nominate _____ of _____

For the position of _____

(signature of nominator) (signature of nominator) (signature of nominee)

Send nomination forms to the ACIFA office at admin@acifa.ca, if you have any questions please contact Karen at 780-423-4440.

Join the 2027 ACIFA Conference Planning Committee



Tuesday, May 5, 2026
Beauvert Ballroom
8:00pm - 10:00pm

Set sail for a night of excitement!

A pirate scavenger hunt will take you on a fun journey filled with mystery and teamwork.

All you need is your crew and your best pirate spirit!



Register your crew at the registration desk
by Monday, May 4th at 6:00pm.

Sailing solo? No problem — we'll match you with a crew.