

Monday, May 25 - Concurrent Session 1

10:50 AM - 11:50 AM



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OLD MAIN 3772	
Beyond Sobriety: Strengthening Recovery-to-Employment Pathways in British Columbia Presenter(s): Kirsty Peterson (Pacifica Treatment Centre) & Renuga Nagarajan, Ph.D. (Adler University) Details: This session explores how employment can be a powerful driver of long-term recovery from substance use, rather than a distant, post-treatment goal. Drawing on an environmental scan, focus groups, and survey findings from across British Columbia, it maps key barriers and opportunities along the recovery-to-employment pathway. Participants will learn how stigma, fragmented systems, benefit structures, and internal barriers such as low confidence intersect to limit workforce inclusion, and discover promising strategies such as integrated recovery-to-employment models, peer mentorship, and recovery-informed staff training. For those working in post-secondary settings, the session offers practical parallels for supporting students with complex or marginalized experiences, including those navigating mental health or substance use challenges. Attendees will leave with insights on how recovery-informed employment principles can enhance inclusive, wellbeing-focused career development practices that empower students to build confidence and connection through meaningful work.	
OLD MAIN 3732	
Where there's a WIL there's a Way: How International WIL Enhances Post-Graduation Immigration Success in Canada Presenter(s): Brandi Toplak & Leonardo Santos (UBC) Details: As immigration-linked education outcomes become more central for international students, WIL offers more than just experiential learning, it can serve as a strategic bridge to permanent residency. This session explores how international WIL placements, and particularly those aligned with IRCC's work experience categories, can enhance student readiness for immigration pathways like the Canadian Experience Class (CEC). Drawing on federal immigration policy, institutional practices, and case studies, we'll discuss how cross-border WIL experiences can impact international students' long-term settlement success. Participants will leave with actionable insights into how WIL programs can align with immigration goals to support student success and institutional outcomes.	
OLD MAIN 2651	
Adapting Career Education for the Graduate Context: A Campus Partnership Model Presenter(s): Samantha Ogrodnik & Allison Benner (UVIC) Details: How do you adapt career programming for students who are experts in their field but novices when it comes to career exploration and planning? Based on a one-year pilot at the University of Victoria, this session explores the transformation of an undergraduate career course into a specialized graduate version. Informed by student feedback and anecdotal data, we will discuss the pedagogical shift toward a pragmatic, agency-focused strategy designed to help students navigate uncertainty. We will explore the creation of a scalable "Career Path Navigator" (IDP) and strategies for engaging research-focused students. Join us to learn how to validate academic identity while equipping students to move from passive wondering to active decision-making.	



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OLD MAIN 3632	
<p>Accessible, Relevant, and Open: Growing the TRU Résumé Catalogue with Student, Faculty, and Employer Collaboration</p> <p>Presenter(s): Sarah Gibson & Leanne Mihalicz (TRU)</p> <p>Details: Since 2022, career educators in Thompson Rivers University’s Career and Experiential Learning department have received three Open Educational Resources grants to develop and enhance the Open Press Résumé Catalogue. Initially an online collection of sector-specific résumés, it has grown into a broader suite of career development tools. Across three phases, the project embedded work-integrated learning by employing Student Research Assistants and engaging employers, faculty, and students as co-creators. Their perspectives shaped the content, accessibility, and usability of the resource. Now integrated as an appendix in the open textbook Launching Your Career, the Résumé Catalogue increases the reach and impact of free, relevant, and adaptable career tools for diverse learners and educators. This presentation will outline our collaborative process, showcase student and employer contributions, and share lessons learned about sustaining OER-based career resources.</p>	
OLD MAIN 2621	
<p>Building a Career Ecosystem at UBC: The Faculty of Arts and UBC Career Centre Collaboration</p> <p>Presenter(s): Tony Botelho & Julie Walchli (UBC)</p> <p>Details: This session will provide an overview of the longstanding, collaborative relationship between the Arts Work Integrated Education team and the central UBC Career Centre. Participants will learn about our shared staff and programming initiatives, our approaches to engaging other campus partners, and the ways in which we are jointly working toward a more integrated and comprehensive career support ecosystem at UBC.</p>	
OLD MAIN 3612	
<p>From Learners to Leaders: Youth Programming Helps Youth Take Charge of Their Future Pathways</p> <p>Presenter(s): Vandna Joshi & Tina Balachandran (DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society)</p> <p>Details: This session highlights the Youth for People and Planet project alongside the latest evolution of the Future Leaders program, both of which go beyond traditional life skills and employability training. In these programs, youth actively apply their learning by developing real proposals, managing project budgets, navigating team dynamics, and planning and implementing community-based initiatives, including pitching ideas for funding. These experiences mirror core workplace functions such as communication, problem solving, presentation delivery, decision making, project coordination, and entrepreneurship. Participants are supported in a structured, low-risk environment where they can practice, make mistakes, receive feedback, and refine their approaches. This approach strengthens confidence while building practical, transferable skills that are directly relevant to the workplace. The programs demonstrate how simulated, experiential learning opportunities can effectively prepare youth for employment by bridging the gap between learning and real-world application.</p>	