



8:30 am - 9:30 am	Concurrent Session 4
OLD MAIN 3612	
<p>Reciprocal Mentoring Relationships in Co-operative Education: Industry Partner and University Student Perspectives</p> <p>Presenter(s): Corinna Bartucci (TRU)</p> <p>Details: Mentorship is central to co-op, yet reciprocity is not prioritized or examined. This session presents findings on how students and industry partners define co-op mentorship, whether mentoring relationships are reciprocal, and what enables or limits reciprocity. Data from surveys and semi-structured interviews were integrated to identify seven themes. Mentoring was perceived as reciprocal when relationships featured open communication, approachability, and shared commitment to learning. Students reported gaining skills, confidence, and career clarity. Industry partners described benefiting from new perspectives, workplace improvements, and their own mentoring and leadership development. Barriers included time constraints and limited institutional scaffolding. The session introduces a definition of reciprocal mentoring relationships in co-op contexts and the Reciprocal Engagement and Mentorship in Co-op Systems (REAMICS) Model to support mutually beneficial relationships.</p>	
OLD MAIN 1751	
<p>From Pilot to Practice: Integrating AI into Co-op Career Readiness and Job Search Education</p> <p>Presenter(s): Jamie Snow (UBC Okanagan)</p> <p>Details: As AI tools rapidly enter the career development space, many educators are asking how to move from experimentation to meaningful, ethical integration. This session shares UBC Okanagan's experience adopting the AI platform InStage within a Co-op Career Readiness curriculum and a core career course in the new Bachelor of Commerce program. Presenters will walk through the implementation process, including curriculum design decisions, change management considerations, and student and staff onboarding. Drawing on results from the first academic terms, the session will highlight observed impacts on student engagement, skill development, and confidence in career preparation. Participants will also hear candid lessons learned, challenges encountered, and how this work is shaping future curriculum design. The session will conclude with a facilitated Q&A focused on practical takeaways for institutions exploring AI-enabled career education.</p>	
OLD MAIN 1761	
<p>Preparing Tomorrow's Professionals: Understanding the New CPA Pathway</p> <p>Presenter(s): Lisa Lewkowicz (CPA of BC)</p> <p>Details: Discover how the redesigned CPA Professional Program (launching in 2027) is expanding access to a stable, future-ready career path. This session introduces career educators and advisors to the evolving accounting profession, its increasing relevance in a rapidly changing labour market, and effective ways to guide students toward the CPA designation. Learn how the new program structure opens doors for learners from a wider range of academic backgrounds and strengthens long-term career development. Attendees will gain clear, up-to-date advising insights, understand what employers seek in emerging talent, and leave with practical tools to help students explore accounting as a flexible, future-proof option.</p>	



8:30 am - 9:30 am	Concurrent Session 4
OLD MAIN 3632	
<p>AI-WIL: Advancing Innovation in Work-Integrated Learning at Okanagan College through OC Works</p> <p>Presenter(s): Alison Gibson (Okanagan College)</p> <p>Details: The AI-WIL@OC project at Okanagan College (OC) is a strategic initiative designed to enhance employer engagement in Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) through innovative, AI-enabled solutions. The project strengthens partnerships between OC and employers across key industry ecosystems by aligning workforce needs with WIL opportunities. Central to the initiative is OC Works, an AI-assisted online employer information service that provides real-time, self-service access to WIL opportunities and resources. Employers benefit from streamlined access to curricular and paid WIL opportunities that connect them with students and faculty to support talent pipeline development. The project emphasizes strong employer value propositions, highlighting WIL benefits such as access to student talent, reduced recruitment costs, and funding supports. Flexible WIL formats including internships, co-ops, service learning, and applied research are showcased, with particular attention to Indigenous talent.</p>	