



2026 ACE-WIL x CACEE Conference

Reimagining the Future

OF WORK-INTEGRATED LEARNING AND CAREERS



Making the Case

Attending the 2026 ACE-WIL x CACEE Conference

Tips, Tactics, and Tools to Build Support for Your Participation

May 24–27, 2026 | Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, BC



For Career Educators, WIL Practitioners, and Post-Secondary Professionals Tips and Tactics for Building Your Case

Attending the **2026 ACE-WIL x CACEE Conference** is more than a professional development opportunity - it's a strategic investment in your team, your students, and your institution. Here's how to make the case

See What's Changing Across the Sector

Hear directly from peers across Canada who are adapting to shifts in student needs, employer expectations, and the labour market. These insights help you anticipate change, embrace being proactive and make evidence and data informed decisions.

Deepen and Strengthen Your Approach

Learn, share ideas, and experiment with diverse strategies for career education, skill development, and WIL. Explore new approaches, troubleshoot common challenges, and discover tools to support student success and meet talent needs.

Validate What's Working (and What Isn't)

Sessions include research, case studies, and real life examples from institutions and employer partners. Bring back ideas you can apply to your own programs and priorities.

Hear Directly from Employers and Student Voices

Engage with employers, community partners, and students to hear what they're seeing in recruitment, skill development, and engagement — and how institutions can respond and partner effectively.

Explore Tools, Partners, and Solutions

Connect with exhibitors and partners offering tools and services designed to support career services, WIL delivery, scaling and measuring our work, and student engagement.

Connect with a National Community

Join 150+ attendees from across Canada, including career educators, WIL leaders, faculty, employers, and community partners. Build relationships that extend beyond the conference.





Reimagining the Future OF WORK-INTEGRATED LEARNING AND CAREERS

For Career Educators, WIL Practitioners, and Post-Secondary Professionals Tips and Tactics for Building Your Case Continued

Program Value and Experience

- Pre-conference workshops
- Two full days of learning
- 50+ concurrent sessions
- Keynote and plenary sessions
- Exhibitor showcase
- Networking and relationship-building opportunities

Maximizing Your Conference ROI

Make the most of your investment and demonstrate value back to your institution:

- **Align with your team and institutional priorities**
 - Select sessions and conversations aligned with priorities such as scaling career services and WIL offerings, employer engagement, or early talent strategy.
- **Build connections beyond the event**
 - Use the conference to strengthen relationships with peers, partners, and collaborators across the country.
- **Share what you learn**
 - Bring back key takeaways and share them with your team. Use conference materials and resources to support implementation.



Approval Request Template

Hi [Manager Name],

I'd like to request approval to attend the **2026 ACE-WIL x CACEE Conference (May 24–27 at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, BC)**.

Grounded in the theme “Re-imagining the Future of Work-Integrated Learning & Careers,” this conference brings together career educators, WIL leaders, faculty, and employers from across Canada to explore innovative and evidence-informed approaches to student success and workforce readiness.

The program will feature 50+ concurrent sessions and is structured around key areas such as career education and skill development, partnerships, innovation in WIL, inclusive practice, and teaching and learning.

Given the breadth of sessions and areas of focus, there is strong value in coordinated participation across teams to maximize learning and institutional impact.

Attending would support our ability to:

- Bring back evidence-informed practices to strengthen our programs
- Build relationships with employer and institutional partners
- Identify opportunities to better align our work with labour market needs
- Strengthen relationships with colleagues, partners, and peers across the sector, and represent our team within the national WIL and career development community
- Bring back and share insights across our team to support coordinated planning and implementation

To ensure strong return on investment, I would prioritize relevant sessions, connect with targeted partners, and share key takeaways across our team to support departmental and institutional priorities.

Estimated total cost (registration, travel, and accommodation): approximately **\$XXXX–\$XXXX CAD (to be customized based on your location and travel needs)**.

I see this conference as a strong investment in my own professional development, as well as an opportunity to bring back insights that support our team and contribute to our departmental and institutional priorities. I would also welcome the opportunity to explore how we can maximize value through broader team participation.

Best,
[Your Name]

Employers & Industry Partners Tips and Tactics for Building Your Case

Attending the **2026 ACE-WIL x CACEE Conference** is an opportunity to optimize your campus recruitment strategy, build relationships with post-secondary partners, and stay ahead of changes in the talent landscape. Here's how to make the case:

Understand How Talent Is Being Developed

Gain insight into how institutions are evolving career education, skills development, and readiness programming – and, how to lend your voice of experience and best align your recruitment and onboarding strategies to campus career offerings.

Strengthen Your Campus and WIL Partnerships

Connect with career educators, WIL practitioners, campus leaders, and faculty to build or deepen partnerships that support your talent pipeline.

Learn What's Changing in Student Expectations

Hear directly from students and those working with students every day. Understand what students are looking for and how to best position what your organization in the campus landscape.

Access New Approaches to Talent Engagement

Explore project-based, virtual, simulation/competition, and community-engaged WIL, experiential learning, career education and skill development models that can support more flexible and scalable ways to engage early talent.

Engage with Fellow Employers and Partners

Engage with peers directly to hear what they're noticing in campus recruitment, skill development, post-secondary partnerships and student engagement – and be inspired, validate, and learn approaches to strengthen your own organization's approach.

Increase Visibility with Key Partners

With 150+ attendees from across Canada, this is an opportunity to build awareness and strengthen your presence with institutions, industry partners, and decision-makers.



Employers & Industry Partners Tips and Tactics for Building Your Case Continued

Program Value and Experience

- 50+ concurrent sessions across WIL, career development, and early talent strategy
- Exhibitor showcase featuring tools and solutions
- Structured and informal networking opportunities
- Multi-day format supporting engagement with institutional partners and peers

Maximizing Your Conference ROI

Make the most of your participation by aligning the conference experience with your team's goals and capturing value before, during, and after the event:

- **Align with your department's priorities**
 - Focus on sessions that address challenges such as recruitment pipelines, time to hire ratios, campus engagement, and WIL partnerships.
- **Meet with institutional partners in person**
 - Take advantage of being in one location to deepen relationships and explore new collaborations.
- **Share what you learn**
 - Bring insights back to your team and apply them to strengthen your recruitment and partnership strategies.



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Approval Request Template

Hi [Manager Name],

I'd like to request approval to attend the **2026 ACE-WIL x CACEE Conference (May 24–27 at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, BC)**.

This conference brings together career leaders and post-secondary partners from across Canada and provides a focused opportunity to strengthen our campus recruitment strategy and early talent pipeline.

Grounded in the theme “Re-imagining the Future of Work-Integrated Learning & Careers,” the program will feature 50+ concurrent sessions, an exhibitor showcase, and structured networking opportunities aligned with emerging approaches to talent development, partnerships, and recruitment.

Given the breadth of sessions and partner engagement opportunities, there is strong value in coordinated participation across team members to maximize impact.

Attending would support our ability to:

- Connect with institutional partners who influence hiring pathways
- Gain insight into how institutions are evolving career education, skills development, and readiness programming, and how to align and optimize our recruitment and onboarding strategies across campus offerings and talent engagement opportunities
- Identify opportunities to improve efficiency and impact in our recruitment strategy
- Strengthen relationships with key institutional partners and explore opportunities to engage alongside colleagues to support our campus and early talent strategy
- Share insights across our team to strengthen alignment and impact across our recruitment and partnership efforts

To maximize value, I would focus on priority sessions, schedule meetings with key partners, and share insights across our team to support departmental and organizational priorities.

Estimated total cost (registration, travel, and accommodation): approximately **\$XXXX–\$XXXX CAD (to be customized based on your location and travel needs)**.

I see this as a strong investment in my own professional development, as well as an opportunity to bring back insights that support our team and contribute to our departmental and organizational priorities. I would also welcome the opportunity to explore how we can maximize value through broader team participation.

Best,

[Your Name]



Register today!

The 2026 ACE-WIL & CACEE Joint Conference will be hosted at Thompson Rivers University (TRU) in Kamloops, British Columbia, from May 24–27, 2026. This joint event brings together the provincial community of ACE-WIL BC/Yukon and the national network of the Canadian Association of Career Educators and Employers (CACEE) for four days of learning, collaboration, and connection.

Set against the stunning backdrop of the Thompson Valley, the conference will explore our theme: Reimagining the Future of Work-Integrated Learning and Careers. Together, educators, employers, career professionals, students, and community partners will share ideas, spark innovation, and imagine new ways for WIL, campus recruitment, and career development to thrive in times of change.

[Register now](#)

Thank you!

2026 ACE-WIL x CACEE Conference
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