



9:45 am - 10:45 am	Presentations
OLD MAIN 3612	
<p>Assessing the Impact of Innovative and Scalable WIL Models on Student Outcomes</p> <p>Presenter(s): Jamie Noakes & Kris Kadaleevanam (TRU)</p> <p>Details: This session shares findings from a mixed-methods evaluation of the Business Bootstrap Program at Thompson Rivers University, an integrated dual-WIL model combining entrepreneurship and applied research within a co-op framework. Participants will explore how structured mentorship, applied research support, and milestone-based learning supported student skill development, venture progress, and evidence-informed decision-making. The session highlights practical outcomes such as business plans, prototypes, and early customer engagement, alongside key lessons related to resourcing and program design. Designed for WIL practitioners and institutional leaders, this session offers research-informed insights for developing innovative, inclusive, and scalable experiential learning models.</p>	
OLD MAIN 1751	
<p>From Theory to Workplace: Embedding Undergraduate Research into Co-op Preparation Courses</p> <p>Presenter(s): Leanne Mihalicz & Sarah Gobson (TRU)</p> <p>Details: This session explores an innovative undergraduate research initiative embedded within co-operative education preparation courses at Thompson Rivers University (2023–2025). Students engaged in experiential research projects examining topics such as Imposter Syndrome, Curiosity, Courage, and the growing importance of human skills in an AI-driven workplace. Drawing on scholarship from Adam Grant, Simon Sinek, and Brené Brown, students connected theory to careers. Through employer-student focus groups and campus research showcases, participants engaged in meaningful dialogue. This model reframes co-op preparation as a space for inquiry, reflection, and partnership.</p>	
OLD MAIN 3632	
<p>Apprenticeship Training - the original WIL experience</p> <p>Presenter(s): Mike Harcourt (TRU)</p> <p>Details: Trades apprenticeship has historically depended on several work-integrated learning models. This will be a discussion of challenges and benefits of some models, and how they have been and may be applied to other educational structures. Training effectiveness and financial implications will be explored.</p>	
OLD MAIN 1761	
<p>Connecting the Classroom to the Community: Embedding WIL into Individual Psychology Courses</p> <p>Presenter(s): Cheryl Techentin (MRU)</p> <p>Details: This presentation will focus on the structure of the scaffolded embedded WIL program at Mount Royal University and the collaborative approach required between faculty and professional staff in Career Services to offer students the highest quality WIL experience possible. Original research will highlight the student perspective regarding the benefits and challenges they experienced during their WIL experience. This research directly translates into the key facilitators that must be considered when implementing an embedded WIL program.</p>	