

TESS 2026

# Human by Design

## Designing Digital Futures that Work for Learners

**November 12 & 13, 2026 | The Quay - Toronto**

ecampus Ontario

Funded by Ontario

# Sponsors

## Major Public Sponsor

Ontario

The Technology and Education Seminar and Showcase is made possible with funding by the Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security. The views expressed at this event are not necessarily reflective of those of the funder.

## AV Sponsor

encore℠
EVENTS THAT TRANSFORM

We've been creating memorable event experiences that connect and inspire, and engage and transform organizations for decades. With a customer-first mindset and a hospitality focus, we have an unmatched breadth and depth of event production services to support our customers through every step in the event planning and management process.

In partnership with event planners, hotels, venues, and staging customers, we create and execute thousands of events annually – in person, virtual and hybrid – of any size, at any venue, anywhere in the world. Our core values are embedded in our DNA, and our team members are innovators and collaborators at heart – highly trained experts that intuitively combine creative, production and technology services to deliver unparalleled service excellence for you.

Learn more at: https://www.encore-can.com/

## Swag Sponsor

Taylor & Francis
by informa

Routledge Education is your one-stop-shop for all of your professional development and learning needs. We offer resources for PreK-12 teachers, school leaders, and Higher Education professionals to help you inspire the best in your students and yourself. Our innovative, practical books provide quick and easy-to-implement ideas on a wide variety of topics, including literacy, math, classroom management, STEM, social justice, educational technology, early childhood, special education, advanced learners, building and district leadership, and more.

Learn more at: https://www.taylorfrancis.com/

# Sponsors

## Silver Sponsors

DOMINARLO

Dominarlo is reimagining how universities create, share, and assess learning. Founded by a professor and dean, this Canadian educational technology company offers a collaborative, affordable ecosystem designed by educators for educators. Rather than replacing learning management systems, Dominarlo complements them. Its textbook-independent tools work with traditional publisher materials, open educational resources, and faculty-created content. Applications include Excel Analyzer, Query Checker, Quiz Builder, interactive cases and games, and collaborative digital publishing.

Human-supervised AI helps faculty create assessment questions while they retain final approval. Dominarlo's Assurance of Learning capabilities link assessments to course and program learning outcomes, supporting continuous improvement. Faculty can share resources across institutions and earn royalties when eligible contributions are reused. Students benefit from interactive learning, timely feedback and affordability.

A 2026 ASTech Awards finalist, Dominarlo invites institutions to build a more collaborative, affordable future for higher education.

**Learn more at:** dominarlo.ca/

---

Instructure.

Instructure builds the learning ecosystem that organizations, educators and learners depend on across K–12, higher education and the workforce. Canvas, Mastery and Parchment serve thousands of school districts, university systems, statewide agencies and employers, reaching tens of millions of learners in more than 100 countries. Everything Instructure makes is built for education first, with the data privacy protections, evidence and institutional control that schools, colleges and employers require. That is how learning becomes opportunity at every age, every stage and every pivotal transition. **Discover more at** Instructure.com

---

INTERVIA

FullSpan AI Solutions also known as Ontrack Careers empowers students, professionals, and businesses with intelligent, tailored AI tools that drive career growth and business innovation. Our flagship product, Intervia for Universities, helps institutions strengthen student and career readiness through AI-powered guidance. Every solution we build is guided by seven core commitments: responsible, ethical, explainable, accessible, impactful, sustainable, secured, and risk-mitigated AI. We believe technology should uplift rather than exploit - embedding fairness, transparency, and human-centered design into every stage of development, from data sourcing to deployment, so our tools remain trustworthy, inclusive, and genuinely impactful.

**Learn more at:** campus.intervia.ai/

# Sponsors

## Silver Sponsors

Indigenous Institutes Consortium

The Indigenous Institutes Consortium (IIC) represents the collective and collaborative efforts of its seven Indigenous-owned and operated post-secondary education, training, and lifelong learning institutions across Ontario. Since 1994, the IIC has been providing support to Indigenous Institutes, raising awareness, and profiles of its Member Indigenous institutions, learners, and communities. Indigenous Institutes are deeply committed to preserving and strengthening Indigenous languages, traditions, and culture, and play essential roles in the promotion of cultural learning, language acquisition, and building a strong local workforce.

**Learn more at:** [iicontario.ca/](iicontario.ca/)

---

learnful

Learnful is an Ontario-based education technology team creating custom software solutions for teaching, learning, and research. Our newest platform, Axiom AI (https://axiomai.ca), enables educators to build AI assistants from their course materials, supporting student engagement, collaboration, and analytics. Based in Waterloo since 2021, we have built and supported tools you know and love, including H5P Studio. We partner with institutions to deliver secure, adaptable solutions that can be deployed locally within their own networks, helping educators and learners benefit from innovative technology without sacrificing privacy or control.

**Learn more at:** [learnful.io/](learnful.io/)

---

Pro-AT Group

Pro-AT Group develops inclusive assistive technology that helps students learn, research and study more effectively and independently. Pro-Study simplifies academic research by helping students capture, organize and reference information from webpages, journals, books, documents, videos and more. Its accessible tools reduce cognitive load and make research easier to manage.  Lernabl provides personalized study and exam preparation tools that support focus, memory, comprehension and organization. Through engaging study methods, structured planning and mock exams, students can build effective strategies around how they learn best. Together, our tools help create more accessible, equitable and student-centred learning experiences.

**Learn more at:** [pro-atgroup.com/](pro-atgroup.com/)

# Sponsors

## Bronze Sponsors

Affinity

Affinity is an online learning platform that empowers educators to create rich, interactive learning experiences from their own content and expertise. Educators across Canada use Affinity to give learners a place to practice real-world skills like communication, decision-making, and professional judgment through AI-powered interactions, including real-time voice conversations, personalized feedback, and branching scenarios. Proudly built in Ontario.

**Learn more at:** affinitylearning.com/

---

COLLEGES ONTARIO | COLLÈGES ONTARIO

The association promotes the colleges' pivotal role in strengthening the economy by producing graduates with the professional qualifications and expertise to succeed in rewarding careers. Colleges Ontario champions policy measures to strengthen the quality of programs available to students and implements provincewide marketing and communications campaigns to promote the full range of programs offered to students. For more information, visit CollegesOntario.org.

**Learn more at:** www.collegesontario.org/en

---

Higher Education STRATEGY ASSOCIATES

Higher Education Strategy Associates (HESA) provides strategic insight and analysis to governments, post-secondary institutions, and organizations across the higher education sector. Since 2009, HESA has partnered with leaders in academia and government through research, policy analysis, consulting, and convening to shape more equitable, effective, and future-ready higher education systems in Canada – and beyond.

HESA's publications and media reach an engaged community of higher education leaders, policymakers, administrators, and researchers. Through One Thought to Start Your Day, The World of Higher Education podcast, and its Year in Review publication, HESA delivers timely analysis of the trends shaping higher education globally.

**Learn more at:** higheredstrategy.com/

# Sponsors

## Bronze Sponsors

oncat Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer
caton Conseil pour l'articulation et le transfert – Ontario

The Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer (ONCAT) puts learners first by making it easier to navigate and succeed in Ontario's postsecondary system. ONCAT manages ONTransfer.ca, a trusted resource for exploring pathways and transfer options across colleges, universities, and Indigenous Institutes. As a convener and sector partner, ONCAT collaborates with institutions to advance learner mobility and recognition of prior and non-formal learning. We support pathway development and streamlined credit transfer, while fostering innovation through shared tools, project-based funding, research, and the exchange of best practices. Funded by the Government of Ontario, ONCAT is building a more seamless, student-centred postsecondary system.

**Learn more at:** oncat.ca/home

---

PB PRESSBOOKS

Pressbooks is a versatile digital publishing platform for creating, adapting, and sharing learning materials—from long-form digital books to modular, remixable resources for microcredentials. Used by 600+ educational institutions and 10,000+ authors, Pressbooks makes it easy to design and deliver interactive, accessible materials that work across a variety of learning contexts. With seamless LMS integration, custom-branded digital publishing spaces, and an easy-to-use interface, Pressbooks helps educators and organizations create timely, context-specific learning materials that help all learners thrive.

**Learn more at:** pressbooks.com/

# TESS

## TECHNOLOGY + EDUCATION SEMINAR + SHOWCASE™

TESS is based on two core principles – the importance of collaboration and honouring our shared successes. Since 2016, we've brought both together at TESS, eCampusOntario's annual flagship event.

Held in Toronto, TESS is where the digital learning community gathers to celebrate success, contribute ideas and co-create what's next. Hundreds of educators, administrators, librarians and instructional designers from across Ontario and North America come to TESS to experience a full and lively conference of thought-provoking plenaries and presentations, hands-on workshops and opportunities to meet with colleagues.

This year's theme, ***Human by Design***, explores how we can design digital futures that support learners on every level of their educational and professional journey.

Digital transformation in education centres on people, fostering adaptable and engaged learners. By prioritizing human values and benefits — accessibility, flexibility, affordability — that are unavailable through traditional methods alone, digital learning supports unique opportunities for growth and lifelong skills for collaborating in a tech-driven world. As learners gain confidence and essential abilities, they can contribute meaningfully to the communities where they learn, live and work.

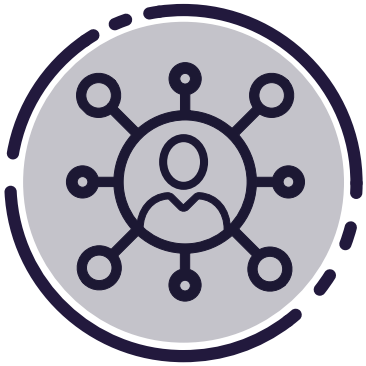
## About eCampusOntario

eCampusOntario is a not-for-profit organization that accelerates the transformation of postsecondary digital learning in Ontario to increase participation in higher education. eCampusOntario leads a consortium of the province's publicly-assisted colleges, universities and Indigenous institutes to advance the development and adoption of online and digital learning technologies, programs and environments.

**Land Acknowledgement**

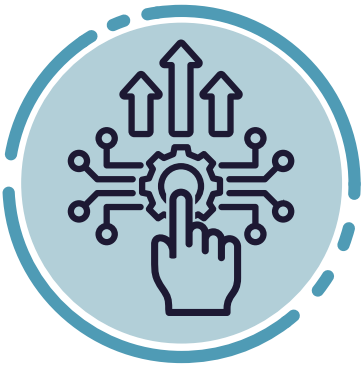
We acknowledge the land we are meeting on across Ontario. The eCampusOntario offices are located on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that land is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.

# Conference Tracks



## The Learner Experience

Delve into strategies for placing learners at the heart of digital initiatives, ensuring inclusive and engaging experiences for all.



## Transformative Technology

Explore the latest advancements in technology-enabled education and how they are reshaping teaching and learning for the future.



## Community Impact

Success stories on how digital learning can uplift learners and communities, inspiring positive futures and shared achievement.



## Lifelong Learning and Adaptability

Discover ways technology is empowering learners to continually grow, adapt, and contribute meaningfully throughout their lives.

# Keynotes



## Dr. Kris Alexander

**Associate Professor of Educational Technology & Serious Game Design, Toronto Metropolitan University; Director, Red Bull Gaming Hub**

Dr. Kris Alexander is a leading authority in video game design, educational technology integration, simulation & training and trauma-informed interactive media. As a tenured Associate Professor at Toronto Metropolitan University and Director of the Red Bull Gaming Hub, his work explores the synergy between immersive digital solutions and real-world problem-solving.

A central pillar of Dr. Alexander's research is Techquity (Technological Equity) an institutional framework focused on closing equity gaps through the use of accessible, high-impact technologies to ensure digital literacy is available to all, regardless of socioeconomic status.

His pedagogical approach, Targeted Pedagogy, blends AI-powered tools with gamified achievement systems to create precise, motivating learning environments. His work has garnered international recognition, including a TED Talk with over 1.8 million views and keynotes at global summits for companies like Contentful, Epic Games, LearnUpon, and various workshops for the Toronto District School Board and Grand Erie District School Boards.

Beyond his work in public safety, he leads major simulations for industry standards, such as the ASHRAE HVAC Hero training simulator with the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers by the merger in 1959 of American Society of Heating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, and oversees a "university-as-studio" model that generates licensable white-label frameworks for diverse professional applications.

Dr. Alexander continues to redefine the role of interactive media in education, storytelling, and national security, ensuring that digital tools are human-centric, inclusive, and ethically designed.



## Carley English

**Owner at Wavelength Strategic Consulting and Leadership Coaching**

Carley English brings roots in both Canadian postsecondary education and Marketing and Communications to her work in leadership and strategy. Her path wound through sociology, criminal justice, marketing management, and the agency world before bringing her into higher education, shaping how she works: with strategic clarity and genuine care for the people she serves.

Over 8 years at Campus Manitoba, Carley grew from running communications and the Manitoba Open Education Initiative, which saved Manitoban students over $6 million, into running the organization as a whole. In June 2026, she guided Campus Manitoba through its closure after 35 years, a process with no internal playbook, built in real time. Today, she runs Wavelength: Strategic Consulting and Leadership Coaching, helping organizations, including postsecondary institutions, thrive through a person- and heart-centred approach to leadership.

# Keynotes



## Dr. Nidhi Sachdeva

**Chair, researchED Canada**

Dr. Nidhi Sachdeva believes education should do more than deliver information. It should expand what people are capable of becoming.

She is deeply focused on one question: How can we design learning that works with the human mind rather than against it?

Nidhi holds a PhD in Curriculum and Pedagogy, specializing in educational technology, from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. She also holds graduate degrees in psychology and applied linguistics, giving her an interdisciplinary perspective on how people think, communicate, and learn.

As a teacher educator, researcher, and learning design expert, Nidhi brings together the science of learning and teaching, educational technology, and instructional design to create learning experiences that are clear, rigorous, inclusive, and deeply human. She teaches at OISE and is a professor at Academica University of Applied Sciences in Amsterdam, where she contributes to work focused on developing teacher expertise.

For more than eighteen years, Nidhi has worked across classrooms, universities, and online learning environments. Her doctoral research examined how evidence-informed microlearning can reduce overload, strengthen retention, and improve online learning.

Nidhi is Chair of researchED Canada and co-author of the forthcoming book Becoming an Expert Teacher: Deliberate Practice for Effective Teaching. She also co-authors The Science of Learning newsletter, translating educational research into practical ideas that sharpen instruction and strengthen learning.

At the heart of her work is a conviction: educational technology, including AI, should not replace human thinking. It should help us think, learn, and teach more effectively—and contribute to a future in which high-quality learning is not a privilege, but an equitable opportunity for every learner.”

# Special Guests



## Erin McGinn

**Deputy Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security**

Erin McGinn will become Deputy Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security on November 9, 2026.

An accomplished public service executive, Erin is a people-centred leader with extensive experience leading complex initiatives and delivering strategic policy and operational priorities across government.

Prior to this role, Erin served as Chief Administrative Officer and Assistant Deputy Minister of the Corporate Services Division at the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement since September 2025. She has previously served as ADM of the Alcohol Policy and Marketplace Implementation Division and the Government Business Enterprise Division at the Ministry of Finance, as well as ADM of the Workforce Policy and Innovation Division at the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development.

Before joining the Ontario Public Service executive ranks, Erin held several leadership positions at Toronto Metropolitan University, including Assistant Vice-President, Communications, Government and Community Engagement.

Erin holds a Master of Communications Management from McMaster University and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and French from the University of Guelph. Born and raised in North Bay, Ontario, Erin now lives with her family in Toronto.



## Dr. Rick Anderson

**Interim President & CEO**

Dr. Richard (Rick) Anderson, Tuscarora Nation, Eel Clan, is the Interim President & CEO of Six Nations Polytechnic, serving in the role since January 2026.

Rick is a member of Six Nations of the Grand River and has extensive experience in higher education leadership and administration. Prior to accepting the role of Interim President & CEO, he served as Chief Operating Officer at Six Nations Polytechnic (SNP). Before joining SNP, Rick served as Vice President, Student Affairs at Niagara College and St. Lawrence College.

Rick completed his Ph.D. at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, where his research focused on the mission of Ontario Colleges and differentiation in higher education. He also holds a Master of Social Work with a specialization in Policy Analysis, along with two Bachelor of Arts degrees in Philosophy and Psychology.

As Interim President & CEO, Rick provides strategic leadership and operational oversight for Six Nations Polytechnic, ensuring alignment with the organization's mission to promote and preserve Indigenous knowledge and culture. He works closely with academic and community partners to advance institutional priorities, strengthen educational opportunities, and support learner success across secondary and post-secondary programs.

# Special Guests



## Apurva Ashok

**Executive Director, The Rebus Foundation**

Apurva Ashok is the Executive Director of The Rebus Foundation, a global non-profit and Canadian charity with a simple but powerful belief — that education has the potential to create better spaces for us all. At Rebus, Apurva and her team show up as a thought partner, learning provider, community builder, consultant, and cheerleader for educators doing meaningful work in classrooms, institutions, and beyond. Apurva is an accomplished leader and is recognized for her ability to inspire systemic change, build institutional capacity, and advance liberatory futures through vision, collaboration, and strategic action in education. She has over nine years of experience across open and higher education, academic publishing, professional development, community building, media, and social justice. Apurva guides individuals, teams, and systems to reimagine education for the public good.

Apurva's values-driven leadership is defined by her commitment to honest, open, human-centric practices, as well as her talent for empowering educators to grow their expertise and foster nurturing learning environments. She is a firm believer in the power of knowledge-sharing, critical thinking, clear communication, and cross-regional collaboration to drive positive change throughout higher education and beyond.

Apurva holds a Master of Publishing from Simon Fraser University and a BA (Honours) in Literature and Marketing from McGill University. She is the recipient of an Open Education Award for Excellence from Open Education Global, in recognition for her support and contributions to the field.



## Lynn Casimiro

**President and CEO, Collège La Cité**

Lynn Casimiro, PhD in Education, is President and CEO of Collège La Cité, one of Ontario's leading French-language postsecondary institutions. A respected Franco-Ontarian leader, she champions French-language postsecondary education and Francophone community development. Previously Vice-President, Academic and Student Success at La Cité, she chairs Ontario's Table de concertation des établissements postsecondaires francophones et bilingues and co-chairs the boards of the ACUFC and eCampus Ontario. She also serves on Invest Ottawa's board. Earlier in her career, she held leadership roles at Montfort Hospital, advancing French-language health services. Her collaborative leadership emphasizes innovation, talent development, knowledge sharing, and opportunities for future generations.

# Special Guests



## Terry Greene

**Senior eLearning Designer, Trent Teaching Commons**

Terry Greene is Senior eLearning Designer at Trent University, where he spends his days helping people make digital learning less robotic and more human. He holds a B.Ed. in Elementary Education from the University of Alberta and a M.Sc. in Instructional Design & Technology from the University of North Dakota. He's a longtime advocate for open pedagogy, creative experimentation, and technology that serves learning rather than the other way around. When he's not designing courses, he's probably talking about open pedagogy on his podcast, Gettin' Air: The Open Pedagogy Podcast on VoicEdRadio, and trying to find a way to sneak a little hip hop into the conversation. With a background in instructional design, open education, and digital pedagogy, Terry loves attempting to make some joyful learning possible in these spaces.



## Robert Luke, Ph.D.

**CEO, eCampusOntario**

Dr. Luke is the CEO of eCampusOntario.  His expertise is in human-centered knowledge media design and working at the intersections of education and information science to produce useful and useable technology to support education, health, and innovation systems.

He is the former Vice President, Research and Innovation at OCAD University, where he oversaw the strategic leadership and expansion of the university's research infrastructure and the development of academic business, innovation, and incubation initiatives. Prior to this he was Vice President, Research and Innovation at George Brown College, where he was responsible for initiating the College's applied research activity and scaling this to national prominence, including the College's Technology Access Centre and founding Tech-Access Canada.

In 2012, Dr. Luke was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his contributions to Canadian education and innovation.  From 2016–2018, he served on the Council of Canadian Academies Expert Panel Review of the State of Science and Technology and the State of Industrial Research & Development in Canada. He was also a panelist in 2011-2012 on the Council of Canadian Academies Expert Panel Review of Science and Technology in Canada.

Dr. Luke obtained his Ph.D. at the University of Toronto.  He earned a Master of Arts degree from Queen's University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Northern British Columbia.

# Special Guests



## Lynn Wells

**President and Vice-Chancellor, Laurentian University**

Dr. Lynn Wells is a Canadian scholar, teacher and university leader, with nearly 20 years of experience in senior academic leadership positions. In April 2024, Dr. Wells became the 12th President and Vice-Chancellor of Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada.

Dr. Wells served as Provost and Vice-President Academic at Brock University from 2020 to 2023, where she also held a concurrent appointment as Interim President and Vice-Chancellor for fifteen months. Prior to 2020, she was the inaugural Associate Vice-President, Students and Teaching at MacEwan University in Edmonton and held senior positions at the University of Regina, including Acting Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Associate Vice-President Academic. For seven years, Dr. Wells worked directly with Indigenous people and communities through her service as Vice-President Academic and Special Advisor to the President at First Nations University of Canada. As a leader, Dr. Wells has demonstrated her commitment to key issues such as national reconciliation, equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility. Dr. Wells is a respected scholar in her field of Contemporary British Fiction, having published two books and numerous articles. She holds a Master's in English and a B.A. Honours (summa cum laude) in English and French Studies from York University, along with a PhD in English from Western University.



## Elder Whabagoon

**Obishikokang, Lac Seul First Nation Treaty 3 Territory**

Elder Whabagoon is an Ojibway Elder who sits with the Loon Clan, a Keeper of Sacred Pipes, a member of Obishikokaang, (O-Bi-SHi-KO-KAA-NG), Lac Seul (LACK-SOOL) First Nation and a 60's Scoop survivor. Whabagoon is a writer, speaker, land defender and water protector.

In July 2026, Elder Whabagoon stepped into the honoured role of First Peoples Leadership and Community Relations with Native Earth Performing Arts, a natural extension of her lifelong devotion to creative expression and cultural leadership.

In April 2023, Elder Whabagoon was appointed First Peoples Leadership Advisor to the General Manager, Transportation Services, City of Toronto. A landmark engagement, this Indigenous advisory role is the first of its kind for the City of Toronto. She also has extensive experience with world renowned, StreetARToronto. She is a curator, an advisor, collaborating and working with artists in Toronto while sharing her teachings. She is the co-founder and co-lead of the youth program Nikibii Dawadinna Giigwag (NI-Kih-BEE /DOW–Ah-DIN-Nah / GEE-Gwog), now in its ninth year. She advocates for the voices of the youth to be heard and is honored to share her knowledge to shape their future role as caretakers of Mother Earth.



TESS 2026

# Human by Design

## Designing Digital Futures that Work for Learners

# Program

# Day 1 | Thursday November 12, 2026

| Conference Tracks | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LE | The Learner Experience | TT | Transformative Technology | CI | Community Impact | LA | Lifelong Learning & Adaptability |

| TIME | SESSION | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8:30 am – 9:00 am | **Registration and Breakfast** | | |
| 9:00 am – 9:45 am | **Mainstage**<br><br>**Welcoming Remarks**<br><br>• **Terry Greene (Host),** Senior eLearning Designer, Trent University<br>• **Elder Whabagoon,** Obishikokang, Lac Seul First Nation Treaty 3 Territory<br>• **Robert Luke,** CEO, eCampusOntario<br>• **Rick Anderson,** Interim President-CEO, Six Nations Polytechnic<br>• **Lynn Casimiro,** President and CEO, Collège La Cité<br>• **Lynn Wells,** President and Vice-Chancellor, Laurentian University | | |
| 9:45 am – 10:45 am | **KEYNOTE**<br><br>**Lights On: Human by Design Starts with the Science of Learning**<br><br>• **Dr. Nidhi Sachdeva,** Chair, researchED Canada | | |
| 10:45 am – 11:00 am | **BREAK** | | |
| 11:00 am – 11:30 am | **Mainstage** TT<br><br>**Human First, AI Second: A Human-Centred Framework for Ethical AI Use in Online Course Design and Delivery**<br><br>• **Megan Pickard,** Manager, Digital Learning Design and Innovation, University of Guelph<br>• **Melissa Montanari,** Digital Learning Quality Assurance Specialist, University of Guelph<br>• **David Macdonald,** Digital Learning Design Specialist, University of Guelph | **Kitchener/Oakville** LE<br><br>**Conception pédagogique augmentée : de la conception à l'apprentissage avec les technologies transformatrices et l'IA**<br><br>• **Amanda Di Lullo, EAO,** Chargée de projet, Consortium d'apprentissage virtuel de langue française de l'Ontario (CAVLFO)<br>• **Chantal Picard, EAO,** Conseillère pédagogique, Consortium d'apprentissage virtuel de langue française de l'Ontario (CAVLFO) | **Markham/Vaughan** LE<br><br>**WORKSHOP**<br><br>**U Design Learning: Connecting Accessibility, Pedagogy, and Technology Through Three Approacheps to Universal Design for Learning**<br><br>• **Samantha Chang,** Team Lead, Pedagogy and Educational Technologies, University of Toronto<br>• **Cristina D'Amico,** Educational Developer, University of Toronto<br>• **Michal Kasprzak,** Team Lead, Educational Development, University of Toronto<br>• **Michelle Smith,** Learning Innovation Specialist, York University |
| 11:30 am – 11:40 am | **BREAK** | | |
| 11:40 am – 12:10 pm | **Mainstage** LE<br><br>**Learners at the Table: Designing for What Comes Next**<br><br>• **Grushenka Ramhota,** eLearning Technology Team Lead, Western University<br>• **Deanna Grogan,** eLearning Technology Manager, Western University | **Kitchener/Oakville** TT<br><br>**Designing the Next Generation of Digital Learning: Shared Resources, Stronger Learning**<br><br>• **Sherif Elbarrad,** Professor of Accounting, Concordia University of Edmonton | |

# Day 1 | Thursday November 12, 2026

| TIME | SESSION | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12:10 pm – 1:10 pm | LUNCH | | |
| 1:10 pm – 1:40 pm | **Mainstage** (LA)<br>**People Before Platforms: How Strong Partnerships Create Better Digital Learning**<br>• **Andrea Tavares,** Instructional Designer, Oshki-Pimache-O-Win: The Wenjack Education Institute<br>• **Carmen Wehrstedt,** Special Projects Coordinator and Instructional Designer, Oshki-Pimache-O-Win: The Wenjack Education Institute | **Kitchener/Oakville**<br>**Experimentation Studio:**<br>A facilitated space for EdTech partners and members where attendees can test new technology and explore how it can be used in teaching, learning, and student support. | **Markham/Vaughan**<br>**WORKSHOP:**<br>**Exploring the Future of Work Integrated Learning (English)**<br>Participants take on different work integrated learning roles and explore how the sector might evolve across plausible futures.<br>• **Iris Elliott,** Associate, Research, Evaluation and Foresight, eCampusOntario<br>• **Natasha Jobanputra,** Specialist, Accessibility, eCampusOntario<br>• **Rimaz Mohamed,** Manager, Product and Service Design, Digital Product, eCampusOntario<br>• **Rish Rajan,** Lead, Digital Products, eCampusOntario<br>• **Paol Wierzbicki,** Senior Specialist, Strategic Communications, Governance and Public Relations, eCampusOntario |
| 1:40 pm – 1:50 pm | BREAK | | |
| 1:50 pm – 2:20 pm | **Mainstage** (TT)<br>**Leveraging Digital Infrastructure to Foster Equity and Trust in Collaborative Spaces**<br>• **Iris Epstein,** Associate Professor, York University<br>• **Sabine Fernandes,** PhD student, York University<br>• **Melanie Baljko, PhD,** Associate Professor, Electrical Engineering & Computer Science at The Lassonde School of Engineering. York University<br>• **Erika Katzman, PhD,** Associate Professor, King College | | |
| 2:20 pm – 2:30 pm | BREAK | | |

# Day 1 | Thursday November 12, 2026

<table>
<tr><th>TIME</th><th colspan="3">SESSION</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">2:30 pm<br>– 3:00 pm</td><td>Mainstage</td><td>Kitchener/Oakville</td><td>Markham/Vaughan</td></tr>
<tr><td>Across Distance, In Relationship Nurturing Students' Bundles Through Our Indigenous Teaching Framework<br><br>• Erin Moe, BA, MSW, Academic Dean – Partner College and University Programs, FNTI</td><td>WORKSHOP<br><br>Explorer l'avenir d'apprentissage intégré au travail (en français)<br><br>Les participantes endossent différents rôles en apprentissage intégré au travail et explorent comment le secteur pourrait évoluer selon divers futurs plausibles.<br><br>• Iris Elliott, Associate, Research, Evaluation and Foresight, eCampusOntario<br>• Cecile Figuiere, Acting Manager, Programs, eCampusOntario<br>• Brett Phillipson, Librarian, Technology and Open Access, eCampusOntario<br>• Rizwan Kassam, Project Manager, eCampusOntario</td><td>WORKSHOP<br><br>Make It Interactive: Turn Your Content into Practice for the Real World<br><br>In this hands-on session, learn how to turn existing materials & ideas into complete interactive experiences using Affinity's new authoring experience. Bring a laptop and a topic you teach, and leave with a working learning experience for your learners.<br><br>• Sean Doyle, Founder and CEO</td></tr>
<tr><td>3:00 pm<br>– 3:10 pm</td><td colspan="3">BREAK</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">3:10 pm<br>– 3:40 pm</td><td colspan="3">Mainstage</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">A Competency Framework for Open Education Practitioners<br><br>• Josie Gray, BCcampus, Interim Director, Open Education</td></tr>
<tr><td>3:40 pm<br>– 3:45 pm</td><td colspan="3">BREAK</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">3:45 pm<br>– 4:40 pm</td><td colspan="3">Mainstage</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">KEYNOTE & FIRESIDE CHAT<br><br>Human by Design, Step by Step<br><br>• Carley English, Owner at Wavelength Strategic Consulting and Leadership Coaching<br><br>Moderator:<br>• Robert Luke, CEO, eCampusOntario</td></tr>
<tr><td>4:40 pm<br>– 4:45 pm</td><td colspan="3">Closing Reflections & Day Two Preview</td></tr>
<tr><td>4:45 pm<br>– 6:00 pm</td><td colspan="3">Networking Social</td></tr>
</table>

# Day 2 | Friday, November 13, 2026

| Conference Tracks | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LE | The Learner Experience | TT | Transformative Technology | CI | Community Impact | LA | Lifelong Learning & Adaptability |

| Time | Session | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9:00 am – 9:30 am | **Registration and Breakfast** | | |
| 9:30 am – 10:00 am | **Mainstage**<br>**Welcoming Remarks**<br>• **Deputy Minister Erin McGinn,** Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security<br>• **Terry Greene (Host),** Senior eLearning Designer, Trent University | | |
| 10:00 am – 11:00 am | **KEYNOTE**<br>**Start with the Human: How Game Design Principles Create Digital Learning Experiences That Stick**<br>• **Dr. Kris Alexander,** Associate Professor of Educational Technology & Serious Game Design, Toronto Metropolitan University; Director, Red Bull Gaming Hub | | |
| 11:00 am – 11:15 am | **BREAK** | | |
| 11:15 am – 11:45 am | **Mainstage** LE<br>**Reframing for Skill Transfer: A Learner-Centered Model for Work-Integrated Learning**<br>• **Evana Delay,** Lead, Work-Integrated Learning Course Management, University of Waterloo<br>• **Robin Andrade,** Educational Developer, Work-Integrated Learning, University of Waterloo<br>• **Danielle Vander Wekken,** Instructional Digital Media Developer, University of Waterloo | **Kitchener/Oakville** CI LA<br>**Savoirs autochtones et intelligence artificielle : concevoir une éducation systémique à la durabilité centrée sur l'humain**<br>• **Dieu Le Grace Mbiatcha,** Doctorant, Université d'Ottawa | **Markham/Vaughan** CI LA<br>**CAMPFIRE:**<br>**Deepening Connection: Redefining Learner & Educator Success**<br>We live in a world of constant connection, yet many learners and educators experience increasing isolation—from one another, from purpose, and from themselves. This campfire session invites an open, collaborative conversation grounded in relational and dialogic pedagogies, where learning is understood as something we create together.<br>• **Apurva Ashok,** Executive Director at The Rebus Foundation<br>• **Lutfiyya Dhalla,** Events Manager, eCampusOntario |
| 11:45 am – 12:00 pm | **BREAK** | | |
| 12:00 pm – 12:30 pm | **Mainstage** CI LA<br>**Empowering Communities Through Digital Learning**<br>• **Miranda Mckenzie,** Instructional Designer, Laurentian University | **Kitchener/Oakville** LA<br>**From Signals to Skills: Continuing Education and the Future of AI Competencies**<br>• **John Lewis,** Academic Content Specialist, University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies<br>• **Samantha Stevens-Hall,** Learning Solutions Designer, University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies | |

# Day 2 | Friday, November 13, 2026

| Time | Session | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm | LUNCH | | |
| 1:30 pm – 2:00 pm | **Mainstage** LE TT LA<br><br>**You Got This: Designing Human+AI for Self-Efficacy — and Democratizing Agency for Those Who Have the Least of It**<br><br>• **Peter Jin Hong,** EQ+AI Design Leader (ex-Google Search & Assistant), Magnet, Toronto Metropolitan University | **Kitchener/Oakville**<br><br>WORKSHOP<br><br>**Explore, Experiment, Evaluate: Emerging Technologies in Education**<br><br>Join this interactive bilingual workshop to explore emerging technologies and consider their potential for teaching and learning. Through hands-on experimentation and guided reflection, participants will develop practical strategies for exploring and evaluating new tools in their own educational contexts. Participants will have the opportunity to **earn the Experimenter badge from Empowered Educator** and discover how they can continue their learning through Teaching with AI and upcoming professional learning opportunities.<br><br>• **Charlotte Delouche,** Associate, Digital Learning, eCampusOntario<br>• **Shahrzad Mirzaei,** Lead Programs, eCampusOntario<br>• **Cyrièle Kiening,** Senior Associate, Partnerships, eCampusOntario<br>• **Marie-Claire Coupèrier,** Digital Learning Associate, eCampusOntario | **Markham/Vaughan** LE TT CI LA<br><br>WORKSHOP<br><br>**The Human Skills AI Cannot Replace: Designing Micro-credentials for Human-AI Accountability in Regulated Professions**<br><br>• **Josephine Yam,** JD, LLM, MA Phil (AI Ethics); CEO & Co-Founder, Skills4Good AI |
| 2:00 pm – 2:10 pm | BREAK | | |
| 2:10 pm – 2:40 pm | **Mainstage** LA<br><br>**Upskilling in Applied AI: Personalized and authentic learning for a VUCA world**<br><br>• **Erin Jobidon,** Sr. Manager, WIL Curriculum, University of Waterloo<br>• **Danielle Vander Wekken,** Instructional Digital Media Developer, University of Waterloo<br>• **Abhay Chopra,** Instructional Digital Media Developer, University of Waterloo | | |
| 2:40 pm – 2:50 pm | BREAK | | |
| 2:50 pm – 3:20 pm | **Mainstage**<br><br>**Skills First: What We Learned Building a Micro-credential Platform That Starts with What Learners Can Do**<br><br>• **Amanda Coolidge,** VP Strategic Engagement and Growth, Pressbooks<br>• **Michelle Weremczuk,** UX/UI Designer, Pressbooks | **Kitchener/Oakville** LE TT<br><br>**Creating an AI Tutor Hub for a High Failure Rate Course**<br><br>• **John Rose,** Simulation and Immersive Learning Technologist, Lambton College | **Markham/Vaughan** LE TT<br><br>**De professeur à catalyseur : la posture enseignante en pleine mutation // From Teacher to Catalyst: The Evolving Role of the Educator**<br><br>• **Antonio Hilario,** Coordonnateur et professeur, Programme Design graphique, La Cité |
| 3:20 pm – 3:25 pm | BREAK | | |
| 3:25 pm – 3:50 pm | **Collective Reflections & Closing Ceremony** | | |



ecampusontario.ca