



**ADULT BASIC
EDUCATION**
ASSOCIATION OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025

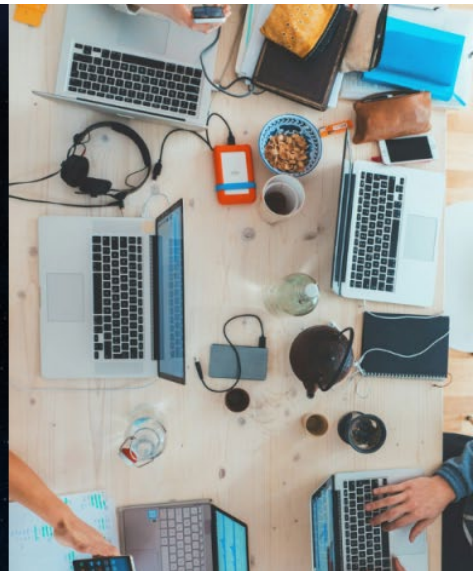
April 24th – April 25th, Victoria, BC

AUTHENTIC LEARNING IN A DIGITAL WORLD

April 24 & 25, 2025

Camosun College, Victoria, BC

Adult Basic Education Association of British
Columbia (ABEABC) Annual Conference



Hosted by:



Conference Schedule

All sessions are held in Wilna Thomas Building at Lansdowne Campus

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Time	Event		
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Conference Registration & Morning Coffee		
9:00 – 9:30 AM	Welcome & Opening Remarks Richard Stride, Acting VP & Provost, Camosun College Ian Humphries, Dean, School of Arts and Access <i>Sherri Bell Hall</i>		
9:30 – 10:30 AM	Education in an AI World: Embracing the Future with Purpose and Intention Thomas Diesch & Danika Cottingham <i>Sherri Bell Hall</i>		
10:30 – 10:45 AM	Break		
10:45 – 11:30 AM	An Introduction to the AI Toolkit for Educators Gwen Nguyen (Note: 90-minute session) <i>Room 202</i>	Decolonial Futures of Teaching with Technology Derek Murray & Sk'ing Iúudas <i>Natasha Parrish</i> (Note: 90-minute session) <i>Room 234</i>	Authentic Learning & A.I. Implementation Thomas Diesch and Danika Cottingham <i>Sherri Bell Hall</i>
11:30 – 11:40 AM			Transition Break
11:40 AM – 12:25 PM			Bio Blitz: Non-Traditional Labs for Campus Engagement Tory Anchikoski <i>Room 201</i>
12:25 – 1:50 PM	Lunch and ABEABC Annual General Meeting <i>Sherri Bell Hall</i>		
1:50 – 3:05 PM	Navigating the Virtual Classroom: Insights from EDCP Students Diane Gilliland, Valerie Neaves and Student Panel <i>Sherri Bell Hall</i>		
3:05 – 3:20 PM	Break		
3:20 – 4:05 PM	Exploring Social Engagement through Hypothe.is Julia Grav <i>Room 201</i>	Career Exploration Open Education Resource Christina Cederlof & Jeisil Aguilar Santos <i>Room 202</i>	Empowering Adult Learners: Using ChatGPT to Enhance Vocabulary Learning Sarvenaz Hatami <i>Room 234</i>
4:05 – 4:15 PM	Day 1 Closing Check-in <i>Sherri Bell Hall</i>		
6:00 PM	Dinner at Cedar Hill Golf Course 1400 Derby Road, Victoria BC V8P1T1		
			Directions: 

Friday, April 25, 2025

8:00 – 9:00 AM	Welcome Back – Networking & Morning Coffee		
9:00 – 10:00 AM	Generative AI: The Camosun Zeitgeist Sybil Harrison <i>Sherri Bell Hall</i>		
10:00 – 10:15 AM	Break		
10:15 – 11:15 AM	Indigenizing English Placement Assessments Maureen Niwa, Wendy McDonald, Charlotte Sheldrake <i>Room 234</i>	Supporting Low-Literacy Learners with Digital Tools Jade Chan (Note: max. 30 participants) <i>Room 202</i>	Webwork Assignments in ABE Mathematics Notice Ringa <i>Room 201</i>
11:15 – 11:30 AM	Break		
11:30 AM – 12:15 PM	B.C.'s Post-Secondary Digital Learning Strategy Keleigh Annau <i>Room 201</i>	Pro Literacy Mobile Learning Fund: Grant for Language Upskilling Roberta Power <i>Room 234</i>	Evolving Pedagogy: Embracing HyFlex and Emerging Trends Marcie Lundin <i>Room 202</i>
12:15 – 1:30 PM	Lunch		
1:30 – 2:15 PM	Video-Based Assessment for Oral Cultures Jack Massalski <i>Room 202</i>	Writing Clear Assignment Instructions Janet Pollock & Chrisa Hotchkiss (Note: 90-minute session) <i>Room 234</i>	
2:15 – 2:25 PM	Transition Break		
2:25 – 3:10 PM	Supplemental Materials for Math 024 Ramona Scott & Mary Ferguson <i>Room 201</i>		
3:10 – 3:25 PM	Break		
3:25 – 4:00 PM	Conference Closing & Reflections Richard Stride, Acting VP & Provost, Camosun College Ian Humphries Dean, School of Arts and Access Door Prizes!! <i>Sherri Bell Hall</i>		

For full session details and presenter biographies:

<https://abeabc.ca/conference/>



Conference Keynotes

Thursday, April 24

Education in an AI World: Embracing the Future with Purpose and Intention

Thomas Diesch and Danika Cottingham

Explore how AI is reshaping education while maintaining a human-centered approach. Practical strategies for ethical and effective use of AI in classrooms.



Thomas is a Science and Math teacher in the Comox Valley with a passion for blended learning, experiential education, and digital literacy. He holds a Master of Education in Educational Leadership and specializes in AI integration and assessment.



Danika is a blended secondary educator and professional learning advocate. Her experience spans classroom and virtual teaching, and she brings a strong focus on growth mindset and instructional innovation.

Friday, April 25

Generative AI: The Camosun Zeitgeist

Sybil Harrison

Presentation on findings from Camosun's surveys on AI use and perception across students and staff.



Sybil is Interim VP of Education at Camosun and former Director of Learning Services. She focuses on digital equity and institutional innovation. Her life can be summed up in a quote from Anne of Green Gables: "Isn't it splendid to think of all the things there are to find out about? It just makes me feel glad to be alive – it's such an interesting world."

Conference Workshops

An Introduction to the AI Toolkit for Educators

Gwen Nguyen

April 24, 10:45 am – 12:25 pm, Room 202

Using the *GenAI in Teaching and Learning Toolkit* to ethically and effectively bring AI into your teaching practice.

[Tech & Innovation] [Teaching Practice]



Gwen is a Teaching and Learning Advisor at BC Campus with a PhD in Education Studies. She specializes in instructional design and GenAI integration in post-secondary teaching. Her work focuses on ethical, creative, and inclusive applications of emerging technologies.

Authentic Learning & A.I. Implementation

Thomas Diesch & Danika Cottingham

April 24, 10:45 – 11:30 am, Sherri Bell Hall

Learn how metacognitive strategies, AI tools, and authentic tasks can support learner agency and engagement. This session bridges sound pedagogy with the evolving digital classroom.

[Authentic Learning] [AI in Education] [Growth Mindset Pedagogy]

B.C.'s Post-Secondary Digital Learning Strategy

Keleigh Annau

April 25, 11:30 am – 12:15 pm, Room 201

Learn about B.C.'s provincial Digital Learning Strategy, including its key priorities, recommended actions, and implementation tools. This session highlights how the strategy supports access, flexibility, and digital equity in post-secondary education.

[Leadership & Strategy] [Tech & Innovation]



Keleigh is the Director of Policy & Engagement in the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills. She leads initiatives that support digital learning and literacy across B.C.'s post-secondary system.

Bio Blitz! Using non-traditional laboratory practices to create opportunities for students to be involved in campus initiatives

Tory Anchikoski

April 24, 11:40 am – 12:25 pm, Room 201

Discover how a campus-wide biodiversity initiative can be adapted into a lab activity that fosters community, place-based learning, and environmental responsibility. Ideal for those looking to integrate ecological awareness into science teaching.



[Science & ABE] [Non-Traditional Labs] [Environmental Stewardship]

Tory is an Assistant Teaching Professor in Adult Basic Education (ABE) science in the University and Employment Preparation Department (UEPrep) at Thompson Rivers University in British Columbia. Her passions include making science education interesting, engaging, accessible and attainable for a diverse student population.

Career Exploration Open Education Resource: Using technology to promote authentic learning that is engaging and inclusive

Cristina Cederlof and Jeisil Aguilar Santos

April 24, 3:20 – 4:05 pm, Room 202

Explore how inclusive, technology-driven resources grounded in Universal Design for Learning principles promote authentic learning in postsecondary education by integrating theoretical foundations with practical applications.

[Tech & Innovation] [Career & Transitions] [Equity & Inclusion]



Christina is a professor at Thompson Rivers University with 30 years of experience supporting students who face barriers to education. She has led inclusive programming and facilitated workshops on

instructional design and learning strategies. Her work focuses on empowering learners through strength-based, accessible education.



Jeisil is a learning technologist at TRU and a researcher in education, ideology, and critical pedagogy. She also teaches and coordinates postgraduate programs

across Canada and Latin America. Her practice emphasizes emancipatory, culturally rooted approaches to learning and the ethical use of technology.

Decolonial Futures of Teaching with Technology

Derek Murray and Sk'ing lúudas *Natasha Parrish*

April 24, 10:45 am – 12:25 pm, Room 234

This workshop explores how educational technologies can both reinforce and disrupt colonial systems. Drawing on teachings from the Gesturing Towards Decolonial Futures collective, and grounded in relationship, participants will reflect on colonial habits of being and engage with land- and water-based pedagogies. Together, we'll reimagine how technology can support more ethical, relational, and transformative approaches to teaching and learning.

[Equity & Inclusion] [Tech & Innovation] [Teaching Practice] [Indigenization]



Derek is an educational developer at Camosun College and a historian teaching at Capilano University. His work focuses on decolonization, instructional design, and faculty development grounded in critical pedagogy.



Natasha is Haida Kyaanuslii and an educator with Camosun's CETL. She supports faculty in Indigenizing and decolonizing curriculum, guided by Haida principles and Indigenous Nationhood.

Empowering Adult Learners: Using ChatGPT to Enhance Vocabulary Learning

Sarvenaz Hatami

April 24, 3:20 – 4:05 pm, Room 234

Showcases how ChatGPT supports vocabulary acquisition through interactive and personalized strategies. While acknowledging ChatGPT's limitations, this presentation will highlight how ChatGPT can be superior to using other tools for word learning such as dictionaries and concordances.

[Tech & Innovation] [Literacy & Language]



Sarvenaz is an Associate Professor of TESOL in the Department of Linguistics at California State University Long Beach. Her research focuses on second-language vocabulary teaching and learning.

Evolving Pedagogy: Embracing HyFlex and Emerging Trends

Marcie Lundin

April 25, 11:30 am – 12:15 pm, Room 202

Marcie reflects on her shift from traditional instruction to implementing HyFlex teaching. She shares successes, challenges, and insights gained through embracing evolving educational models and technologies.



[Hyflex] [Evolving Pedagogy] [Tech & Innovation]

Marcie has been a Math and Science instructor at Northern Lights College for over 13 years. With a background in biology from UNBC, she is passionate about inspiring diverse learners to explore their potential and develop a love for science.

Exploring social engagement through hypothe.is

Julia Grav

April 24, 3:20 – 4:05 pm, Room 201

Learn how to use Hypothe.is to enhance social reading, discussion, and critical engagement. Examples and marking rubrics will be provided.



[Tech & Innovation] [Teaching Practice]

Julia teaches Applied Business Technology at Camosun and leads curriculum development in the School of Business. She has over a decade of experience in tech entrepreneurship, web design, and consulting. Her teaching centers on Universal Design for Learning, emphasizing inclusivity and student autonomy.

Indigenizing English Placement Assessment

Maureen Niwa, Wendy McDonald, and Charlotte Sheldrake

April 25, 10:15 – 11:15 am, Room 234

Learn about a national initiative to redesign English placement assessments through an Indigenous lens. Presenters will share strategies, examples, and guidance from the Indigenous Advisory Circle to support more culturally responsive evaluation practices.

[Literacy & Language] [Indigenization]



Maureen is an English faculty member at Camosun College and chair of the national working group on Indigenizing English Placement Assessments.



Wendy is a proud Métis educator who spent over 30 years supporting Indigenous learners at Camosun College.



Charlotte is a faculty member in Camosun's Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

Navigating the Virtual Classroom: Insights from to Education and Career Planning (EDCP) Students

Diane Gilliland and Valarie Neaves

April 24, 1:50 – 3:05 pm, Sherri Bell Hall

Student panel shares experiences transitioning to virtual learning, peer mentoring, and AI for career exploration.

[Tech & Innovation] [Equity & Inclusion] [Career & Transitions]



Diane is an EDCP instructor at Camosun with expertise in trauma-informed and online learning. She's passionate about building community and expanding access for learners through flexible, student-centered approaches.



Valarie is a Camosun instructor and student navigator with 25+ years in adult education. She champions digital equity and inclusive learning environments grounded in cultural humility and lifelong learning.

Pro Literacy Mobile Learning Fund: A Grant for Language Upskilling

Roberta Power

April 25, 11:30 am – 12:15 pm, Room 234

Learn how to apply for "The Mobile Learning Fund" grant that provides free access to an AI-enhanced language upskilling platform. Roberta will share how this tool supports newcomer settlement, language learning, and career readiness in a Canadian context.



[Literacy & Language] [Career & Transitions] [Tech & Innovation]

Roberta is an experienced EAL and LINC educator and the Canadian Educational Consultant for Pro Literacy. She specializes in adapting literacy resources for Canadian learners and passionately promotes creative, confidence-building approaches to language education.

Supplemental Materials for Math 024/Different Ways to Learn Multiplying and Dividing

Ramona Scott and Mary Ferguson

April 25, 2:25 – 3:10 pm, Room 201

Presentation on a Math 024 booklet featuring multiple strategies and video-linked resources for multiplication and division.

[Math & Assessment] [Teaching Practice]



Ramona is a math educator with experience in adult upgrading, public schools, and international teaching. She joined Camosun's Community Learning Partnerships team in 2020.



Mary is a retired science and math teacher from Saskatchewan. Now at Camosun, she continues to support adult learners as an instructional assistant.

Supporting Low-Literacy Learners with Digital Tools: Insights, Resources and the Power of a Digital Newspaper

Jade Chan

April 25, 10:15 – 11:15 am, Room 202

Using insights from the latest PIAAC results, this session explores how digital tools—like *The Westcoast Reader*—can help adults build essential literacy and digital skills. Includes practical applications and resources from BC's provincial literacy network.



[Literacy & Language] [Equity & Inclusion]

Jade is an educator with over a decade of experience in teaching and curriculum development across age groups. She currently works with Decoda Literacy Solutions, focusing on adult literacy and digital learning.

Video-Based Assessment: Modifying Evaluation Methods for Students from Predominantly Oral Cultures

Jack Massalski

April 25, 1:30 – 2:15 pm, Room 202

Discover how video-based assessments offer culturally responsive alternatives to written essays, supporting students from oral traditions.



[Equity & Inclusion] [Teaching Practice] [Indigenization]

With over 25 years in English language education, Jack is an educator and researcher with expertise in TESOL, applied linguistics, and intercultural communication. His work focuses on inclusive pedagogy and technology-enhanced assessment practices in diverse learning environments.

Webwork Assignments in ABE Mathematics

Notice Ringa

April 25, 10:15 – 11:15 am, Room 201

Discover how Webwork supports timely feedback, independent learning, and improved student performance in math. This session covers how to create and assess Webwork assignments, with real student feedback and examples.



[Math & Assessment] [Tech & Innovation]

Notice is an Assistant Teaching Professor at Thompson Rivers University with a PhD in Applied Mathematics. His teaching and research focus on mathematical modeling, assessment, and digital learning in ABE and post-secondary education.

Writing Clear Assignment Instructions

Chrisa Hotchkiss and Janet Pollock

April 25, 1:30 – 3:10 pm, Room 234

Learn how to write student-friendly assignments using plain language and clear structure. This interactive session includes practical examples, a chance to revise a sample assignment, and space to share your own best practices.

[Teaching Practice] [Equity & Inclusion]



Chrisa is the Academic Success Centre Coordinator at Camosun College. She brings a background in English instruction, editing, and learning skills development to her work supporting student success.



Janet is a writing consultant, editor, and published author. She has worked at Camosun's Writing Centre since 2017 and is passionate about helping students find clarity and confidence in their writing.