

DRNBC for Post-Secondary Education
32nd Annual Conference: *Honouring the Cultural Diversity in Disability*
May 21 & 22, 2015

Speakers - Biographies

Keynote Speaker: “*Redrawing the Lines*”

Jonathan Mooney is a writer and learning activist who did not learn to read until he was 12 years old. Jonathan is a graduate of Brown University’s class of 2000 and holds an honors degree in English Literature. Jonathan has spent his entire professional career as a social entrepreneur developing organizations, programs, and initiatives to improve the lives of marginalized groups. In 1997, as an undergraduate at Brown University, Jonathan co-founded Project Eye-To-Eye, a non-profit advocacy organization for students with learning differences. As the founding president and Executive Director, Jonathan grew the organization from an undergraduate project conceived in his dorm room into a national organization, which currently has 38 chapters in 20 states working with over 10,000 parents, educators, and students. Jonathan has also worked extensively to create career and college pathways to move low-income youth and adults out of poverty creating the Los Angeles Energy pathway program; The Urban Teacher Fellowship; and the Promo Pathway, an initiative Vice President Al Gore called “a model for moving at-risk youth into the creative economy.”

With the publication of Learning Outside The Lines (now in its 18th printing) when he was 23, Jonathan has established himself as one of the foremost leaders in the neurodiversity and learning revolution. His second book, The Short Bus: A Journey Beyond Normal was published in the spring of 2007 to outstanding reviews in The New York Times Book Review, The Los Angeles Times, The Chicago Tribune and many other national publications. Both books are considered foundational texts in the disability rights movement, the inclusive education movement, and the learning revolution and are used in undergraduate and graduate program at universities and colleges across the country including Harvard’s Graduate School of Education and Teachers College, Columbia University.

Jonathan’s work has been widely recognized for its innovation and social impact. In 1999, Jonathan was selected as a Harry S. Truman Scholar for Public Service. In 2000, Jonathan was selected as a finalist for the Rhodes Scholarship. In 2002, the LD Access Foundation recognized his work for students with disabilities with the Golden Advocacy award. Previous honorees include David Boies, Judith Rodin, former President of The University of Pennsylvania, and former New Jersey Governor Thomas H. Kean; and In 2008 Jonathan’s social impact work was recognized by the Lab School of Washington where he shared the stage with the Vice President of the United States, Joseph Biden.

Jonathan is a highly sought after speaker on neurodiversity, education reform, the learning revolution, and creating college and career pathways for at risk youth. He has lectured in 43 states and three countries. He has been featured and quoted in/on The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, The Chicago Tribune, USA Today, HBO, NPR, ABC News, New York Magazine, The Washington Post, and The Boston Globe.

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Workshop 1: “Deaf Culture: Navigating Success in Post-Secondary Classrooms”

Anita Harding is a freelance consultant whose passion for curriculum design has benefited many American Sign Language – English Interpretation programs across Canada. She is a college instructor who has developed curricula for Deaf interpreting, created resource materials, devised methodologies for assessment of ASL competencies and made several instructional design improvements in her domain. Anita has worked extensively to create courses that meet the transfer agreement as set out by the BC Transfer System. Anita obtained her M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction from Simon Fraser University, British Columbia.

Shirley Coomber is the Coordinator of Post-Secondary Communication Access Services (PCAS). PCAS is funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education to provide leadership on communication access for deaf and hard of hearing students across British Columbia (BC) and is housed at BCIT. Her background includes experience as a vocational rehabilitation counsellor and counsellor educator. Professional activities have also included teaching, curriculum design, as well as vocational assessment. Shirley has a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership.

Piper is a certified, Registered ASL-English interpreter, and has been working in the field of sign language interpretation for 29 years, and has been involved in the arena of post-secondary education and accessibility since her beginnings at the University of Alberta, in 1988. She has grown up with an older sibling who is Deaf and is passionate about access and equality for members of the Deaf community.

Workshop 2: “Creating Online Video Tutorials: An Introduction to Screencasting”

Kristina Oldenburg is a public services librarian working at Vancouver Community College.
Maria Paz is the assistant department head of Library Public Services at Vancouver Community College.

Workshop 2a: “Exploring engagement and using practical strategies for empowerment in the classroom”

Deborah Provencher MAEd AD has 30 years of experience in working with individuals who have hidden abilities. She has worked in institutions, private industry and presently teaches at Vancouver Island University in Duncan. She has been the Coordinator and Instructor of an Employment and Life Skills Program for 6 years. During this time challenged herself to focus on Student Centered teaching strategies to demonstrate the impact on retention. The result has been retention of all the registered students for the two year program for the past five years. During the past two years Deborah has focused on engagement in Literacy Math and English, Her passion for learning, engaging herself and her students has proven to surpass all expectations, her own, her students and her colleagues.

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Workshop 3: "The EPBC: A Panel of Client Stories Navigating the Post-Secondary World"

Anita Sharma is the Manager of Diversity & Client Inclusion with the Ministry of Social Development & Social Innovation.

Anita has been working in the employment services field for the last 15 years. Her breadth of experience has included vocational rehabilitation, disability management, stakeholder engagement and employment programming. She has worked in the non-profit sector providing front line services, as well as with the health authority (BC Children's Hospital, BC Women's Hospital, Riverview Psychiatric Hospital and Forensics Psychiatric Institution) providing disability claims management services, and is currently with the provincial government's employment and labour market services division, providing expertise for Specialized Populations as a Senior Advisor. Anita brings a lens and perspective to ensure accessibility of services that result in labour market outcomes for individuals from marginalized populations.

Bernd Gruenhagen is the General Manager, Employment Service, with Back in Motion Rehab Inc.

Bernd has worked with Back in Motion Rehab Inc. for over 16 years, and has had the opportunity to work in both their Rehabilitation, as well Employment Services. As a Vocational Rehabilitation Consultant he has had the opportunity to work with individuals in planning, implementing and monitoring return to work programs as part of the overall rehabilitation plan. His experience in Employment Services includes, the STEP (Supported Transitional Employment Program) program, Triumph Vocational Services, Skills Connect for Immigrants, Customized Employment Program and WorkBC contracts. Currently, in the role of General Manager Employment Services, Bernd works with 5 EPBC contracts and Customized Employment Services. He has been involved in EPBC proposals, implementation and ongoing operations of the ESC's. Additionally, he is involved in several working groups including CPAC Specialized population, CPAC Skills Training and CLBC/WorkBC working group. This has allowed him to continue to provide input into services and processes to evaluate and affect positive changes in removing barriers to employment, and assisting individuals towards meeting vocational goals.

Bernd obtained a MA in Counselling from Gonzaga University in 1999, and holds his RRP and CCRC designations.

Christine Buchanan is the Director of Performance Management and Quality Assurance with OPEN DOOR GROUP. Christine has over 15 years' experience in the field of Employment Counselling & Vocational Rehabilitation working with multiple-barriered clients and persons with disabilities. Open Door Group has been assisting persons with disabilities in employment and training since 1976

Workshop 4 : "Disability Services 101: For Disability Service Providers New to the Field"

DRNBC for Post-Secondary Education
32nd Annual Conference: Honouring the Cultural Diversity in Disability
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***Ruth Warick** is Senior Diversity Advisor – Disability in Access and Diversity at the University of British Columbia and she coordinates the work of disability advising in the office. She works directly with students, determining their disability-related accommodations and facilitating their provision. Within an intersectional framework, she is involved in diversity projects to promote an accessible and inclusive campus. Ruth has been at UBC since 1991 and obtained a PhD in 2003 with her doctorate research focused on higher education and disability issues. . She was previously employed in media, continuing education and government, and has extensive voluntary experience in disability and women’s issues. She is currently president of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People and Second Vice-President of the International Disability Alliance, a cross-disability organization centred around implementation the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities to improve the lives of persons with disabilities worldwide.*

***Sheila Doncaster** has been teaching and providing Disability Access Services at North Island College for 25 years. . She also chairs The Department of Access for Students with Disabilities at NIC . The Department provides both Programs and Services for students with disabilities at the College. Sheila also coordinates a Peer Tutoring Program at NIC. She has been a member of the BC Post-Secondary Articulation Sub Committee that developed the Orientation Manual for New Service Providers. She continues to appreciate the challenge of providing exemplary and creative access services for students that continue to break down barriers and inspire new ways of approaching learning.*

***Shirley Coomber** is the Coordinator of Post-Secondary Communication Access Services (PCAS). PCAS is funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education to provide leadership on communication access for deaf and hard of hearing students across British Columbia (BC) and is housed at BCIT. Her background includes experience as a vocational rehabilitation counsellor and counsellor educator. Professional activities have also included teaching, curriculum design, as well as vocational assessment. Shirley has a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership.*

Wine & Cheese Social @ 4 Corners: “Roshni’s Chutney: Self-employment success PowerPoint”

***Roshni Kashyap** “I decided to become Self Employed and start making and marketing Roshs Chutneys, after several attempts to get a job that would give me an opportunity to use the skills I had learnt in my Food Services program at VCC.”*

Besides being extremely enthusiastic and willing to learn, Roshni is...

- *Passionate about cooking, serving and helping in the kitchen*
- *Friendly, personable, sociable and an excellent hostess*
- *Excel in people skills and communication*
- *Organized and good with details and following instructions*
- *Good at Art and Clay modeling*
- *An excellent trained dancer*

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- *Fluent in spoken English and Hindi*
- *Widely traveled and have lived in different countries*

Roshni has received the following certificates, awards and more...

- *St. Johns- Life Savers First Aid, 2012*
- *Foodsafe Level I Certificate in 2010 and a refresher class in 2012*
- *World Host, 2010*
- *Healing Hands Chair Practitioner Certification, BC , 2009*
- *Baby-sitting Training Certificate, BC, 2008*
- *Awards*
- *The Bruce and Alexander Andison Memorial award for the student who made commendable progress in her studies and had a positive influence on their peer group – Vancouver Community College, 2013*
- *The Best All Round Ribbon at the BC Special Olympics Rhythmic Gym competition*
- *Selected to share the ‘Story of my Transition’ for InCommon TV at CBC studio. Presented my story to an audience of over 100 people. This recording is available on their website*
- *I am currently an Ambassador for the Easter Seals*
- *Self-Advocate, Disability Resource Network Conference*

Workshop 5: *“Also Here, Also Queer: Building Inclusive Communities for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Queer and Questioning People Labelled with Intellectual Disability”*

Dr. Stephanie Bryson is an assistant professor at the UBC School of Social Work. Her areas of interest include queer theory, social policy, and the rights and needs of children and youth with complex health needs, including youth labeled with intellectual disability. She is currently PI of a trauma informed care evaluation at BC Children’s Hospital and Co-Investigator of a 3-year, 3-site study of mental health stigma among Asian men and boys.

Tess Vo, MES Candidate, has over a decade of experience as a community-based researcher, educator, service provider and health promoter in various social service sectors in Toronto and New York City. Tess has co-authored a number of articles focusing on sexuality, HIV, settlement and mental health, incorporating community-based approaches to research. Additionally, as an artist working through a creative continuum that includes film, photography, digital video and writing, she is dedicated to cultural production and art activism in order to engage mobilize and co-create alongside outsider groups to promote equity.

Tess currently supervises the reachOUT program, within Griffin Centre Mental Health Services. In 2008, the program won the Jay Browne Living Legacy Award from the Ontario HIV Treatment Network and more recently, a number of awards for youth engagement from the City of Toronto.

DRNBC for Post-Secondary Education
32nd Annual Conference: Honouring the Cultural Diversity in Disability
May 21 & 22, 2015

Alex Magnussen is an international public speaker and consultant to organizations about the experiences of trans people labelled with intellectual disability.

Workshop 6: "Making Meaning of Disability in the Ableist Culture of Post-Secondary Education"

Earlene Roberts has 25 years of experience working in the disability service field as a social worker and now as the Diversity Advisor at UBC Okanagan Campus. She is a PhD candidate whose research focuses on the ways in which post-secondary institutional practices influence how disabled students take up, resist and/or occupy the subject positions that give meaning to their university experiences.

Workshop 7: "Sharing Positive Experiences with Inclusive Employment"

Shawn de Raaf is the Research Coordinator at the BC Centre for Employment Excellence, leading the Centre's research programme that aims to promote innovation in the province's employment services sector. He is excited about partnering with other researchers, employers, employment service providers and policy makers to find new and better ways to improve employment outcomes for all BC job seekers.

Rachelle Hole is an associate professor at the UBC School of Social Work in the Okanagan and co-director of the Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship. Rachelle is committed to furthering the inclusion of individuals with developmental disabilities locally, provincially, and nationally. She enjoys doing research with people in the community living sector with the aim to inform policy and practice that promote inclusion.

Jon Corbett is an Associate Professor at UBC Okanagan. Jon is a lover of maps, and luckily his research involves making a lot of them. All aspects of his research include a core community element; this means that the research is of tangible benefit for the communities with whom he works and that those communities feel a strong sense of ownership over the research process.

Workshop 8: "Exploring and Reflecting on: Your Culture, My Culture, and Our Culture"

LaVonne Kober earned her Master of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies from the University of British Columbia, Okanagan (UBCO). She earned her B.A. in Sociology from UBCO and her Certified Education Assistant Diploma from Okanagan College. Her research spans multiple disciplines including History, Sociology, Indigenous Studies, and Feminist Studies and focuses on cross-cultural relationships between Indigenous women and Ukrainian women in British Columbia during the early era of colonization. LaVonne has explored women's histories and retrieved some their stories from the silence and invisibility that their lives represented in the past. Her research also addresses racism, oppression, and marginalization of people who have historically been relegated to the outskirts of society.

DRNBC for Post-Secondary Education
32nd Annual Conference: *Honouring the Cultural Diversity in Disability*
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LaVonne believes that all individuals are experts of their own lives and reserve the right to tell their stories and express their lived experiences in ways that are the most comfortable and appropriate. She believes in, and advocates for, disability identity, choices and equal rights.

LaVonne is currently a Liaison and Instructor in the Adult Special Education Department at Okanagan College. In this role, LaVonne supports students with disabilities in their exploration and preparation for employment. The art of instructing, coaching, and mentoring students who have disabilities is a major aspect in her interactions with both the students and community organizations and businesses.

DRNBC for Post-Secondary Education
32nd Annual Conference: Honouring the Cultural Diversity in Disability
May 21 & 22, 2015

Workshop 9: *“Communication Access Now: providing access to goods and services for people with speech and language disabilities”*

Lois Turner is a speech language pathologist with 30 years of experience working with adults and children with severe speech and language disabilities. Her specialty is in helping people, whose speech does not meet their daily needs, find other ways to communicate.

Glenda Watson Hyatt is the Social Media Coordinator with Communication Disabilities Access Canada. She lives in Surrey with Darrell, her husband of 16 years, and her adopted kitty Buddy.

Workshop 10: *“To be confirmed”*

Closing Plenary: *“Dream Catchers: An Interactive small group workshop”*

Colin Sanderson: “I identify as a Metis-Ojibwe person from the Land of the Red River; known today as Winnipeg. My European back ground is a mixture from UK and France. I have been advising on Education and Economic Development for over 17 years, with the study structured around Native Studies and Law. I am currently the Aboriginal Education Advisor with Vancouver Community College.”