

DRNBC for Post-Secondary Education  
33rd Annual Conference: *Great Expectations: The Post-Secondary Challenge*  
May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Keynote & Workshop Descriptions

Day 1: Tuesday May 17<sup>th</sup> 2016

8:30 am – 10:00 am

Welcome Remarks

**Keynote Speaker:** “Nothing to See Here: Some Lessons from Blindness”



<http://ryanknighton.com/vitals.html>

**Ryan Knighton** is an internationally acclaimed author, screenwriter and performer, best known for his memoir *Cockeyed*, which was shortlisted for the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour. He has appeared on *This American Life* and *the Moth*, and has written for magazines and newspapers around the world, including *Vice*, *The New York Times*, *Esquire*, *Men’s Health* and many others. He is currently writing a pilot for FX, produced by Charlize Theron.

Ryan will tell stories from his life and work as a blind writer and what his peculiar point of view has shown him about disability in modern culture.

Day 1: Tuesday May 17<sup>th</sup> 2016

10:30 am – 11:45 am (75 min)

**Workshop 1: “Academic Accommodations Related to Mental Health Issues: Dialogue and Action to Implement New Recommendations”**

**Sarah Joose Provincial Coordinator, Health Minds, Healthy Campuses, from CMHA BC**

This session will explore how the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) recommendations for academic accommodations are being, or can be implemented in the various Post-Secondary institutions in British Columbia. What are the barriers to implementing the recommendations? This follows the work of a very successful co-hosted webinar with CMHA BC and a research project from Ontario focusing on academic accommodations for students experiencing emotional health concerns. This will be an interactive workshop.

**Learning Objective(s):**

- Understand the recommendations for academic accommodations
- Understand how emotional health effects the accommodation process in post-secondary
- Consider factors related to educational success and accommodation

- Consider how to implement the recommendations in your institution
- What is working for some institutions?
- How can we collaborate?

10:30 am – 11:45 am (75 min)

**Workshop 2: “Service Learning as an Integral Part of the Education and Skills Training Program”**

**Lois Peters and Students from Thompson Rivers University**

*The Faculty and students will illustrate how Service Learning from the Human Service Program has become an integral part of the curriculum of the Education and Skills Training Program. The University has established collaborative projects within other TRU programs and community agencies. Through these collaborative projects they have met the learning objectives in both the Human Service Program and the Education and Skills Training Program.*

*Learning Objective(s):*

- Outline how learning outcomes can be met
- Describe the Workload distribution
- Demonstrate how to connect students to their community using four examples of projects which Include serving dinner for seniors at New Life Community Agency and the creation of a digital story with seniors at a Residential Care Home

1:15 pm – 2:45 pm (90 min)

**Workshop 3: “The Kiosk Project: Education and Skills Training Program at Thompson Rivers University”**

**Leanne Mihalicz and Saskia Stinson and ESTR Students from Thompson Rivers University**

*The ESTR Retail Kiosk Project is a new and innovative initiative for the Retail Worker and Kitchen Assistant Certificate Programs. The purpose of the project is to provide hands-on, retail and food service training that enhances the experiences offered by employers who provide practicum placements for the students. The goal is to empower and better prepare the students for employment in the retail and food service industry.*

*Learning Objective(s):*

- To showcase how the kiosk provides opportunities for the students to connect classroom theory to real employment training and practice
- To share the successes, challenges and benefits for the students, the program, the campus and the community
- To discuss experiences with building partnerships

1:15 pm – 2:45 pm (90 min)

**Workshop 4: “Relieving Common Barriers to Learning through Universal Design for Learning (UDL)”**

**Amanda Coolidge from BC Campus, Sue Doner from Camosun College, and Tara Robertson from CAPERS**

*This session will discuss how course materials, time-based assessments and course activities can frequently present barriers to students with a disability. In order to access course components, these students usually rely on receiving accommodations through their institution’s disability services. However, if UDL principles are applied to course materials, assessments and activities at the course development stage, it is possible to remediate the most common barriers to learning before a course even begins.*

*This will be an interactive workshop with participants being encouraged to contribute additional ideas for proactive UDL based support. Through discussion and brainstorming, the workshop will begin to create a sustainable model for accessible course delivery in our post-secondary institutions – a model that does not heavily depend upon an institution’s disability services to make learning experiences accessible to their students.*

*Learning Objective(s):*

- *Understand the Fundamentals of Universal Design for Learning principles*
- *Practical application of UDL to course materials, assessments and activities*

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**DRN Awards @ Room 420**

*Description not available at this time.*

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

**Wine & Cheese Social in Room 420: “Celebrate the Entrepreneurial Spirit”**

*We are assembling a small business marketplace highlighting businesses which provide innovative goods and services, operated by those with barriers to employment. There will be merchandise and services for sale at some booths; information from post-secondary courses on how to start a small business; and a demonstration of how expectations about a career or a business can change.*

## Day 2: Wednesday May 18, 2016

8:30 am – 10:00 am (90 min)

### **Workshop 5: “A Revolutionary Communication Service for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing”**

**Devin Currie, Nataly Malka, Ruthie Nazarian, and Nigel Howard from Maple Communications Group**

*In this workshop, Devin, Nataly, Ruthie and Nigel will present the Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) service. They will describe how they provide workshops and training on the use of this service.*

*Learning Objective(s):*

- *Understanding Video Remote Interpreting technology*
- *Raising awareness about the deaf community*
- *Training standards for Interpreters*

8:30 am – 10:00 am (90 min) **Please note: This workshop has two sections of 45 minutes each.**

### **Workshop 6a: “Abilities at Work: Turning Workplace Inclusion Inside-Out”**

**Mark Gruenheid, Alexis Chicoine and Peter Stone from BC Centre for Ability**

*Abilities at Work is a program focused on building the capacity of employers to attract, hire and develop staff with disabilities. Abilities at Work provides training to HR personnel, hiring managers and supervisors while also working with people with disabilities to help link them to co-op and employment opportunities. The session will share lessons learned working on the inside with business partners. Three distinct efforts will be described: The Culture shift in the organization; Attraction and Recruitment of Individuals with Disabilities and The Engagement and Retention of staff with disabilities.*

*Learning Objective(s):*

- *Focus on the power of attraction and language usage in corporate recruitment*
- *Highlight experiences of assisting employers with sourcing and accommodating candidates*
- *Provide stories about individuals with disabilities finding meaningful employment*
- *Speak to the importance of the development of a community of best practice*

### **Workshop 6b: “BC Partners in Workforce Innovation”**

**Shawn de Raaf, BC Centre for Employment Excellence and Jamie Millar-Dixon, MacLeod Silver HR Business Partners**

*Learn about this collaborative and innovative pilot that is forming partnerships with leading BC Employers to recruit people with disabilities. The project launched in June 2015, is starting with employers and a network of local disability employment service agencies and post-secondary institutions in the Greater Vancouver region to streamline the recruitment process, making it easier for businesses to recruit qualified, candidates with diverse abilities. Current employer partners include: London Drugs, Century Plaza Hotel, ClPrime Restaurant, Edgewater Casinos, ASTTBC, Canucks Autism Network, BC Construction Association and Seaspan.*

*Learning Objective(s):*

- *Introduction to an innovative strategy in which disability-serving organizations are forming partnerships with employers who are committed to inclusive hiring and retention practices.*
- *Introduction to current and upcoming employment opportunities with the employer partners*
- *Consider how your students can better prepare for these positions*

10:30 am – 12:00 noon (90 min)

**Workshop 7: “Obsessive Compulsive Disorder Stumbling or Building Block to Academic Success - Best Practices when Advising and Accommodating Students with OCD in the Office and the Classroom”**

**Philip Rash and Scott Hosford from Brigham Young University**

*This session describes the experiences of Academic Advisors who are often the first college professionals to meet students experiencing a range of anxiety disorders. With 2% of the Canadian population (National Institute of Mental Health) and 1% of the US populations diagnosed with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, it is likely that students on the caseloads experience the effects of this potentially disabling illness. How can a Disability Advisor recognize the signs and symptoms of OCD in students who may not understand their own experience? How does this effect their academic performance or even their visit with the Academic Advisor? The workshop will examine case studies and mock video presentations of an advisor working with students with OCD.*

*Learning Objective(s):*

- *Determine the scope of students with OCD attending post-secondary education*
- *Recognize the signs and symptoms of OCD in students*
- *Articulate how OCD directly impacts academic skills in students*
- *Observe an advisor working with students with OCD and identify their own concerns when working with similar students*
- *Identify potential referral resources for students in the campus and their community*
- *Describe possible academic accommodations in the classroom and the office for students experiencing OCD*

10:30 am – 12:00 noon (90 min)

**Workshop 8: “Using Mixed Media to Encourage Learning of Literacy and Essential Skills”**

**Candace Witkowskyj from Bow Valley College, Calgary Alberta**

*This session will present a number of creative ways to engage foundational level literacy learners and learners with disabilities in literacy and essential skills learning while strengthening their sense of personal expression, empowerment and autonomy. Participants will be invited to try out a number of forms of mixed media and discuss ways in which they might be able to incorporate such techniques with their learners.*

*Learning Objective(s):*

- *Be introduced to the variety of mixed media-based activities available*
- *Explore the benefits of utilizing mixed-media with adult learners*
- *Experiment with mixed media-based learning activities (ex .plan a blog outline, use music lyrics, write a poem, etc.)*
- *Engage in a creative discussion with colleagues about mixed media learning activities*

1:45 pm – 2:45 pm (60 min)

**Workshop 9: “Tech for Success! Integrating Technology into the Classroom”**

***Brittany Sully, Davi Bachra and a panel of four students from Douglas College***

*This workshop aims to increase the service provider’s awareness and understanding of the positive benefits of integrating apps into the classroom by hearing first hand experiences of students currently using the apps in post-secondary settings. A diverse panel will share a brief description of the post-secondary program they are attending and/or an employment story along with an app or e-learning tool that has promoted success. Three of the students on the panel have completed the Career and Employment Preparation Program at Douglas College and have gone on to pursue further education to reach their career goals. The fourth student currently accesses support from a Student Services Learning Specialist at Douglas College. A demonstration of each app will be provided in order to offer a comprehensive look at the ways in which you, too can use the app with students. Examples include: study tools such as flashcards, essay tools such as grammar feedback and mind mapping to organize thoughts and ideas. The panel will be facilitated by Davi Bachra, Faculty, and Brittany Sully, Instructional Facilitator from Douglas College. This workshop will be held in a computer lab.*

*Learning Objective(s):*

- *Increase understanding and confidence around how to integrate apps and e-learning tools into their classroom and/or employment settings*
- *Develop awareness of resources to add to the service provider’s toolkit*
- *Celebrate student success*

1:45 pm – 2:45 pm (60 min)

**Workshop 10 “Indigenous Peer to Peer Mentorship to Support Diversity at BCIT and Beyond”**

***Derik Joseph and Shannon Kelly from BCIT***

*This session will present the startup and success of retention-focused program to help with success rates for Aboriginal people attending BCIT. Update with some new developments at BCIT including a pilot to re-structure student group work in class to be more supportive of neurodiversity and learning differences. Provide opportunities for disability networks to involve students directly in leadership positions and save costs in the process. Dialogue with attendees – strategies to empower students to advise and to mentor their peers. Discuss how mentorship can reduce staff workload and allow those resources to be leveraged elsewhere in the educational departments. Build a program that is campus and organization wide.*

*Learning Objective(s):*

- *Develop awareness of successful Aboriginal student leaders at BCIT with skills that apply directly to life and the workforce*
- *For incoming or new students at BCIT (first year level) retention and personal success, self-esteem and cultural awareness support through team and relationship building*
- *Partnering and making sure the DRNBC are aware of the program, who the mentors are, and how they can help high school transition.*
- *Celebrate student success and retention!*

**2:45 pm – 3:30 pm (45 min)**

***Closing Plenary: “I Can’t Do This! Experience a Zendala Coloring Workshop with Jill”***

***Presenter Jill Kavanaugh from Kamloops***

*This will be an interactive workshop on Zendala art. Jill who is a graduate of Thompson Rivers University, Education and Skills Training Program, has found her passion in art. Jill will show us the many benefits such as stress reduction, increased concentration and stimulation of the right side of the brain. The expectation of the zen experience will be relaxation, lots of laughter and time to network with your fellow artists.*