

Sheridan

Summit: Improving the International Student Experience

July 25–26, 2022

Participant biographies

Master of Ceremonies: Sheldon Pereira

Sheldon Pereira joined the Sheridan College community in December 2021 as Vice Provost, Student Experience and Enrolment Management. He was previously the Chief of Staff to the president and vice-chancellor at Wilfrid Laurier University, and Senior Executive Officer for Internationalization. He brings over a decade of senior experience in higher education, municipal affairs, government relations, innovation strategy, communications, issues and risk management, and international partnership development. Sheldon has held the positions of Director for Strategic Institutional Initiatives, interim executive lead on the Milton Campus expansion, as well as Ashoka Changemaker Campus Change Lead. He has led a variety of intra/entrepreneurial endeavours for social impact including: the establishment of the CityStudio Waterloo partnership between Wilfrid Laurier University and local government, designing the implementation framework for the IBM Smarter Cities Challenge recommendations at the City of Waterloo and serving as a community ambassador for Canada 150 with an emphasis on bringing reconciliation, inclusion and environment into sharper community focus. Sheldon earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Wilfrid Laurier University, a Master of Design in Strategic Foresight and Innovation from OCAD University, a certificate from Harvard University in Confronting Racism in Higher Education, and a certificate from First Nations University in the Four Seasons of Reconciliation. Currently, he is a doctoral researcher and student at Lancaster University in the United Kingdom, where he is pursuing a PhD in higher education policy and leadership.

Mahmuda Aldeen

Mahmuda Aldeen is program and member relations officer at SICI Canada. She is an international development professional with over 25 years of experience managing programs related to Higher Education Internationalization and Social & Community Development in Canada and South Asia. Mahmuda manages the program operation of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) in Canada. SICI is a bi-national consortium of 40+ Canadian universities and 130+ Indian universities established in 1968 under a joint vision of two prime ministers, Lester B. Pearson and Lal Bahadur Shastri. Its key activities comprise research collaboration, student and faculty mobility, institutional partnerships building and engaging Canada in India and vice versa. SICI is happy to see that nearly 250,000 Indian international students have chosen Canada as their home for higher education. However, SICI is also concerned about the challenges many Indian students face in making their Canadian higher education experience smooth and pleasant.

Leia Ali

Leia Ali is currently a BBA Finance student moving onto her second year at Sheridan and is the clubs coordinator for the Hazel McCallion Campus at Sheridan. From Trinidad and Tobago, she has been in Canada for the past seven months. She wishes to achieve the success of influencing other international students like her, that with the correct mindset, their educational development will be aligned.

Julie Allen

Julie Allen has worked in international education for over 20 years. Before joining UKCISA in 2014, she worked at London School of Economics, Queen Mary, University of London and University of the Arts, London. She has also taught English overseas, including a post at the British Council in Kyoto, Japan. Julie leads the Member Services and Policy team at UKCISA who work to support the membership, which includes the website, training and events and the annual conference. Her team also works on international student policy with a focus on the international student experience.

Aamir Amla

Aamir Amla came to Canada in 2010 to pursue post-graduate studies in Business Management at Humber College. Prior to moving to Canada, he was a flight attendant with Air India. After completing his two-year program, he began his second career in Canada in the building supplies industry and later moved into healthcare. He has held various roles in project management in the healthcare industry. He is currently working as a Sr. Project Officer with Ontario Health supporting the launch of a provincial clinical viewer. Aamir is passionate about supporting the international student community. He is a member/mentor at Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council (TRIEC) supporting new immigrants and members, hoping to create a career path in the project management field of study. He also conducts monthly coaching sessions at Humber and George Brown colleges. As student relations director, Aamir's role is the voice of the international student community at BMG (Brilliant Minds Group). He brings forward the concerns, challenges and matters faced by students.

Ritika Arora

Ritika Arora is the program coordinator at Soch Mental Health and a Master of Public Health Candidate at McMaster University. Soch is a non-profit mental health organization that aims to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate mental health support for the South Asian community. With a consistent reach that is upwards of about 10,000 community members, Soch has provided over 200 in-person and online mental health workshops to the community and regularly appears on local and national media outlets such as PTC Punjabi, OMNI TV, Ramz Punjabi and CBC News. The Pardesi Project in particular aims to address and showcase the unique mental health challenges faced by South Asian international students in Canada. It is a collection of short films in both English and Punjabi on topics such as adjusting to Canada, substance use and mental health concerns. Please visit sochmentalhealth.com to stay updated regarding Soch's most recent events and activities, including the recently launched Youth Empowerment Series.

Dr. Jaspreet Bal

Dr. Jaspreet Bal is a child and youth care practitioner and the Chair for the Child and Family Studies department at Centennial College in Toronto. A community organizer and educator, her practice involves radical youth work with underserved populations across North America. She is the editor of the Relational Child and Youth Care Practice Journal, the Vice President, Ontario, for the World Sikh Organization (WSO) and cohost of the podcast #AskCanadianSikhs. In her work with WSO, she creates and facilitates national training for international students, as well as staff and faculty who work with them. Her grassroots work for international students has been fueled by her inside understanding of the college system.

Joanne Barker

Joanne Barker has worked in Australian international education for 20 years. Her PhD in public policy at RMIT University examines the role of the Australian Government in an international scholarship program. Joanne was Director International at the University of Adelaide for ten years until 2016 and has also worked in international education management roles at Flinders University and in the private sector. She was an elected member of the

International Education Association of Australia (IEAA) Board for two terms from 2012 to 2016, is a Senior Fellow of the IEAA and was an invited member (representing Australasia) of the US-based TOEFL Board from 2014 to 2018. She will speak to The Education Services for Overseas Students Act (ESOS) and how and why it has been transformational for Australian international education over the past two decades. The session will discuss the evolution and the impact of the ESOS legislation and the ESOS National Code and how providers manage compliance with the requirements.

Jenni Barrett

Jenni Barrett was involved in the development of the well-being and safety code, with a key role in planning and running a six-week consultation period with diverse stakeholders, including learners, community groups, tertiary education and student accommodation providers and staff, and government agencies. She continues to support the implementation of the code and is currently working on projects to embed and strengthen partnerships between tertiary learners and government. Before working at the Ministry of Education, she worked as a tour guide at the Museum of New Zealand, Te Papa Tongarewa. She holds a First Class Honours in Cultural Anthropology and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Cultural Anthropology from Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington.

Robin Bates

Robin Bates is senior counsel at the Office of the Ontario Ombudsman, which oversees thousands of public sector organizations in the province. Robin has extensive experience in issues related to the education sector, including matters related to school boards, colleges and universities. Robin came to Ontario as an international student and is happy to now call Canada home.

Maria Lucido Bezely

Maria Lucido Bezely proudly serves as the Dean of Students and Student Affairs at Sheridan College, alongside a student-centric team of colleagues. Maria's career in the postsecondary sector spans three decades as a leader, practitioner, faculty member, administrator, learner and collaborator. Her expertise is in the "college student experience" and the developmental journey across the full student life cycle. At Sheridan, Maria has held leadership roles in the areas of new student transition and adjustment to college and the first year experience; holistic student advisement; student persistence, wellness and success; peer mentoring and tutoring programs, "*Students Helping Students*"; career development and Work Integrated Learning; and graduate employment and employer relations. She earned a BA from McMaster University and a Masters in Adult Education with a concentration in Educational Administration and Community College Leadership from Central Michigan University. Maria's passion lies in creating the conditions and coordinated structures that allow students to thrive, to overcome barriers, to have transformative learning experiences and to successfully reach their desired goals.

Manvir Bhangu

Manvir Bhangu is a community builder and gender equity advocate. At the age of 21, Manvir founded Laadliyan (laad-lee-ah), Celebrating & Empowering Daughters, a non-profit organization that inspires South Asian daughters of all ages to become empowered individuals through education, engagement and awareness. Most recently, Laadliyan launched Udaari, a program specifically for women-identifying international students who face a variety of barriers in the community. Since the start of the program, Laadliyan has supported 241 international students directly providing over \$41,500 in financial and food support. In 2018, Manvir was honoured with Brampton's Top 40 Under 40 award by the Brampton Board of Trade and in 2022, was awarded the Women Working in Social Activism on Behalf of Women and Children Award by the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO). In 2021, Manvir had the opportunity to co-author Canada's first ever State of the Youth Report for the Prime

Minister's Office. She has been involved in various community-based research projects with The Canadian Women's Foundation, The Wellesley Institute, Region of Peel, United Way and St. Michael's Hospital. She has a BA in Human Rights & Human Diversity and Criminology from Wilfrid Laurier University and a Masters from McMaster University in Globalization and the Human Condition.

Chief Bill Boyes

Chief Bill Boyes is the Fire Chief for Brampton Fire & Emergency Services since 2017 and started as a firefighter with BFES in 2004. He is responsible for leading 554 staff across 8 divisions. He is working on a PhD dissertation at the University of Toronto, which supplements his master's degree in public policy and administration and bachelor's degree in public management.

Lisa Brunner

Lisa Brunner is an international student advisor at the University of British Columbia. She is also a PhD candidate in Educational Studies, a Liu Institute for Global Issues scholar and a Centre for Migration Studies Executive Committee member at UBC. She is a regulated Canadian immigration consultant with 15+ years of professional experience in international education, including 10+ years as an international student advisor. Her doctoral dissertation focuses on the ethical paradoxes of 'edugration,' or education-migration, in Canada. Previously, Lisa participated in multiple research projects mapping and assessing the settlement experiences of government-assisted refugees in Metro Vancouver (with Immigrant Services Society of BC) and the USA (with the Center for Applied Linguistics). She serves on Canada's national Pathways to Prosperity Standing Committee of Students and Junior Scholar Engagement. She holds an MA in Geography and a BA in English Literature and Political Science.

Kyle Budge

Kyle Budge is president of the Sheridan Student Union and has been a major advocate for the betterment of international students through sustainable, lasting solutions for the unique situations they face. With Sheridan, Ontario and Canada being such a diverse mosaic of cultures, Kyle understands that there is no one-size-fits-all solution to the different circumstances of each individual. Kyle has directly supported individual students, provided equitable solutions for cultural groups on and off campus and developed Advocacy Policies that will guide and shape the Sheridan Student Union into being a bigger player in student advocacy both on and off campus. Partnering with other student unions, student associations, external partners and governmental advocacy groups, Kyle hopes to shift the systemic inequalities that international students experience when coming to Canada.

Vinicius Campos

Vinicius Campos joined UKCISA in January 2022 to support policy research and development, with a special focus on the International Student Charter (ISC). He has been working closely with UKCISA's #WeAreInternational student ambassadors and members on the elaboration of the ISC, which is the UK's first student-led document on international student experience. Vinicius is a Brazilian postgraduate student, holding a Global Futures Scholarship at Birkbeck, University of London, where he pursues an MSc in Government, Politics, and Public Policy. Prior to joining UKCISA, Vinicius has worked in the public, private and third sectors in Brazil, and is a member of the Vetor Brasil network of public sector leaders. Vinicius has also been an international student in the USA previously.

Julia Colyar

Julia Colyar works with team members to support the development of research-based policies and practices in Ontario's postsecondary education sector. Julia joined HEQCO with more than two decades of experience in higher education policy and research. Prior to joining HEQCO, Julia was Director of Policy and Sector Collaboration at the

Council of Ontario Universities, and she was a faculty member in educational leadership and policy at Southern Illinois University Carbondale and the University at Buffalo.

Samantha DeBoer

Samantha DeBoer, MA, RCIC (she/her): Manager, International Student Experience; International Student Support, Student Life & Learning Support; and Toronto Metropolitan University (Formerly Ryerson University).

Jake Dheer

Jake Dheer is Senior Manager with OMNI Television, Canada's only multilingual and multicultural television broadcaster. Jake has and continues to contribute in a leadership capacity on boards of several organizations, some of which include City of Mississauga's Economic Development Advisory Board, Mississauga Chinese Business Association, Mississauga Board of Trade, Trillium Health Partners Foundation, Heritage Mississauga, Carassauga, Mississauga Tourism West Toronto Advisory Board, Mississauga Sports Council, Peel Regional Police's Sikh Advisory Council, Legends Row Founding Member, Community Living Mississauga Tribute Dinner Committee, William Osler Health System Foundation's Holi Gala Committee, Volunteer MBC and International Film Festival of South Asia. Jake also served as Chairman of Sheridan College's Big Picture Gala and was a member of Sheridan's Campaign Cabinet. Jake has been honoured with numerous awards and recognition in the broadcast industry and for his 35+ years of volunteer community engagement and humanitarian work. He was recently recognized by The Senate of Canada with The Senate Sesquicentennial Medal for outstanding service to Canada. He was also listed in this year's Transformation Canada's coffee-table book as one of 150 Extraordinary Canadians as visionaries who inspire the next generation. Other accolades include, but are not limited to, being named Mississauga's 2005 Citizen Of The Year, 2020 Hazel McCallion Power of Giving Award by Volunteer MBC, 2009 Paul Harris Fellowship from Rotary International, 2015 Melvin Jones Fellowship from Lions International, Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012, Ted Rogers Innovation Award in 2011, Mississauga Board of Trade's Employer Of The Year 2012, Mississauga Arts Council's Marty's Award for Volunteer of the Year 2107, Canadian South Asians Supporting Independent Living (C-SASIL) Award for Commitment and Compassion 2017, Intercultural Dialogue Institute (IDI GTA) Excellence in Community Service Award 2017, Pink Attitude Ally Award 2017 in support of women empowerment, Excellence in Media Award at Anokhi Awards 2017 and profiled in the 2017 Anokhi (Unique) Coffee Table Book as one of 30 most prolific South Asians in the world. In 2013, Mississauga News named Jake as one of Mississauga's Top 30 Most Influential people in the region.

Yilmaz E. Dinc

Yilmaz E. Dinc is a senior research associate for the Immigration Knowledge Area at The Conference Board of Canada. Yilmaz brings a decade of experience in applied research, along with his passion for inclusion, to drive thought leadership on immigration. Before joining the Conference Board, Yilmaz worked on research and cross-country projects with a focus on immigration and workforce development. Most recently, he worked as Research and Evaluation Manager at the Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council, and before that he was with the global private sector hub of the United Nations Development Programme. His presentation will focus on the transition of international students to the labour market and to permanent residency, and how the challenges in both transitions are intertwined.

Emillie I. Etcubañez

Emillie I. Etcubañez is a Professional Practice Leader for Nursing and has been with William Osler Health System for a decade. She began her career as a staff nurse at the Etobicoke site on the inpatient surgery unit. Following the completion of her Masters of Nursing - Nurse Educator, she was the Nurse Educator at Brampton site for the inpatient surgery unit. Emillie's current role primarily focuses on nursing professional development along with

nursing recruitment and retention. Her talk will speak to her professional experience related to international students' access to acute care services and perceived needs and gaps.

Marketa Evans

Marketa Evans is currently vice president, Government & Stakeholder Partnerships at Colleges and Institutes Canada, the national member association representing over 140 publicly funded Canadian colleges, institutes, cégeps and polytechnics. Marketa leads teams responsible for government relations, advocacy and an extensive portfolio of Government of Canada funded programs which bring members together to develop and implement new solutions for complex labour market challenges. She was previously the Vice President, Community Programs and Vice President, Innovation at WoodGreen Community Services, Toronto's largest community agency. She established WoodGreen's Innovation Lab and led a new integrated service delivery model with a focus on labour market outcomes for people facing barriers. A former corporate banker with CIBC, Marketa was the first executive director of the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto. She has held senior leadership roles in the public and private sectors, including as Special Advisor on CSR to the Minister of International Trade, and with Plan International Canada and United Way Toronto. Marketa holds a PhD in International Relations from the University of Toronto.

Christina Furtado

Christina Furtado is the Mental Health and Wellness Specialist with guard.me and has spent two decades working within mental health and wellness in various capacities. As a trained mental health practitioner specializing in the areas of substance-use disorders, mood-related disorders, as well as anxiety and trauma-related disorders, Christina brings her clinical expertise to the guard.meCARES platform through the Wellness and Learning Initiatives Program. Prior to becoming a mental health practitioner, Christina devoted 15 years to supporting students' well-being as an educator and administrator within the k-12 private sector. As a practicing member of the Canadian Psychological Association, the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association and the Ontario Association of Mental Health Professionals since 2015, Christina continues to be a passionate advocate through various mental health initiatives across Canada.

Shawna Garrett

Shawna Garrett is originally from the Maritimes. She held registrarial and student and enrolment services positions at Acadia University, NSCAD University, College of the North Atlantic – Qatar and Mount Allison University. She has also worked as a superintendent, principal and dean at international schools in Japan and China. Shawna holds degrees from the University of Prince Edward Island and Acadia University and is currently a PhD candidate in educational studies in Nova Scotia's inter-university doctoral program. She will speak to the organizational structure and basic founding principles of EduNova Cooperative Ltd., and how it engages with various stakeholder groups when designing and implementing programs and services for international students. She will share collaborative partnership models such as Study and Stay CONNECT program, the Discover Nova Scotia New Student Resource Hub, the Agent Training Program (with CBIE), The International Admissions Staff Training Program (with WES), Onboarding MyCreds (with ARUCC) and the Post-Graduation Immigration Support Program.

Paula Gouveia

Paula Gouveia has served as Vice-President, Academic at Cambrian College in Sudbury, Ontario since August 2018. Prior to joining Cambrian, she held progressive academic positions at Seneca College and at Humber College, where she served as Dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences from 2009 to 2018. Given her lived experience as an immigrant to Canada and first-generation learner, she has volunteered as a mentor to internationally trained professionals as part of the TRIEC mentoring program and promoted student success working with organizations

like Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Toronto and as a member of the Federation of Portuguese Canadian Business and Professionals. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the United Way Centraide of Northeastern Ontario and co-chairs Board of the Sudbury Art Gallery. Her research interests include student self-efficacy, retention, essential skills and student success. Dr. Gouveia completed her PhD in French literature at the University of Toronto in 2013 and TESL Canada Certification in 2014, which has allowed her to more effectively support the needs of diverse learners by focusing on teaching and learning excellence. As a life-long learner, she has completed micro-certifications in digital learning and a micro MBA with the University of Maryland.

Tania Das Gupta

Tania Das Gupta is full professor in the School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies, York University. Her publications, teaching and research interests are in the following areas: South Asian diaspora and transnationalism, race and racism, anti-racism, migration, state policies, women, work and families, community activism and racism in the labour movement. She has published widely in these areas, including most recently *Twice Migrated, Twice Displaced: Indian and Pakistani Transnational Households in India* and also earlier publications *Real Nurses and Others: Racism in Nursing* (2009); *Racism and Paid Work* (1995); and co-editor of *Race and Racialization: Essential Readings* (with Carl James, Chris Andersen, Grace-Edward Galabuzi, Roger Maaka). Her current research is about Punjabi newcomers in Canada in the context of Covid-19 (with Dr. Sugandha Nagpal). The different levels of racism experienced by international students will be the focus of her talk – micro, meso and macro (everyday, institutional and state). She will be referring mainly to Punjabi/South Asian students and also mention discrimination from within one's own community.

Puneet Kaur Johal

Puneet Kaur Johal is a recent Sheridan graduate from Punjab, India. Puneet graduated from the Chemical Engineering Technology program in 2021 as the valedictorian. She received the CSCT Silver Medal Award (2020) from the Chemical Institute of Canada (CIC) and the Wackerlin/Kogut Award of Excellence in Chemical Sciences (2021). She is currently working as a research assistant at Sheridan. Puneet is deeply passionate about learning and researching and her interests include quantum physics, chemical physics and astrophysics.

Sharanjeet Kaur

Sharanjeet Kaur is the senior vice president of the World Sikh Organization of Canada and lead of the Canadian Sikh Family Helpline. Her community work is focused on advocacy, cultural safety and humility training, international student supports, community capacity building and youth leadership and mentorship programs. Professionally, Sharanjeet has over 15 years of experience working across diverse portfolios in the public sector. Her career trajectory includes progressive leadership positions in health, education, urban planning and social service sectors. Sharanjeet is currently the executive director of the Toronto Metropolitan University's new School of Medicine. Sharanjeet holds a Bachelor of Science in Honours Health Studies from the University of Waterloo and a Master of Public Administration from Queen's University.

Simran Kaur

Simran Kaur is a member of Naujawan Support Network (NSN). NSN is a group of international students and immigrant workers based primarily in Brampton. They organize to support members facing exploitation from employers, landlords and immigration consultants. This involves learning about legal rights, discussing shared experiences and directly confronting exploiters through public campaigns.

Balraj Kahlon

Balraj Kahlon has an undergraduate (honours) degree in Economics and a Master of Public Policy from Simon Fraser University. He works as a public policy professional in the B.C. Public Service. He is also the co-founder of One Voice Canada and author of the report *The Realities of International Students: Evidenced Challenges*. Balraj's presentation will give a brief overview of the organization's advocacy efforts and experience interacting with news media and governments.

Julie Keenan

Julie Keenan oversaw policy and legislation work to develop New Zealand's learner well-being and safety changes for tertiary and international education, including the new Code of Practice, from 2019 to 2022. She is an experienced policy advisor and leader with two decades of experience advising Ministers on policy including education, justice, and Treaty of Waitangi issues; and developing teams of policy advisers and leaders. Her previous career achievements include leading policy advice in the team that won the Prime Minister's Award at the Public Sector Excellence Awards 2018 and secondments to the offices of Ministers of Education. She holds an Executive Masters in Public Administration from the Australia and New Zealand School of Government and a Master of Arts in history from Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington.

Achuth Kesavan

Achuth Kesavan has over ten years of experience in the field of immigration ranging from working for a service partner of the Indian Consulate to handling corporate accounts related to Global Immigration. More recently he started practising Canadian Immigration as a licensed RCIC. Achuth has a Masters in Business Administration from Lakehead University. He has studied and worked across four continents and uses his lived experience to inform his work with international students.

Nicholas Keung

Nicholas Keung was born and raised in Hong Kong. He studied in the United States as an international student and graduated with a degree in communications and psychology before immigrating to Canada. He worked as a general assignment reporter at Sing Tao Daily in Toronto before joining the Star in 1997. He has been the paper's immigration reporter since 2003. Over the years, he has covered many stories about Canada's immigration policies on international students, including a project that examined the surge of international students in the country in 2019 and a series titled "Hard Lessons" published in early 2022 about their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nauman Khan

Nauman Khan is Associate Vice President of Government and Community Relations at Sheridan. He works to connect Sheridan's academic programming and research to community priorities and strengthen Sheridan's role as an anchor institution in Peel and Halton. Prior to Sheridan, Nauman led community engagement in Brampton for TMU's School of Medicine proposal, and before that, United Way Greater Toronto's public affairs team. He has served on key community collaboratives in Brampton, such as Peel Alliance to End Homelessness, Peel Community Benefits Network and Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy. He also serves as a board member of Catholic Family Services of Peel Dufferin.

Dr. Yasir Khan & Dr. Shivajan Sivapalan

Dr. Yasir Khan is a lecturer with the University of Toronto, Department of Family and Community Medicine, and is the co-site director of Postgraduate Education at the Markham-Stouffville Hospital Family Medicine Teaching Unit.

He is also currently a masters student in the Queen's University Healthcare Quality program. Dr. Shivajan Sivapalan is the Director of Clinical Operations at the SAAAC Autism Centre. In this role, he has published research on autism within the south Asian community, specifically on program evaluations and peer counselling programs. Together, Dr. Khan and Dr. Sivapalan are family physicians at the Campus Health Centre on the shared campus of Durham College and Ontario Tech University in Oshawa. They have been working closely with the international student population at these institutions, researching common health conditions and improving access to care and services, as well as advocating for culturally sensitive health education. They have recently completed a large-scale research project on international student health.

Parina Khosla

Parina Khosla is an international student with aspirations to become a psychologist. She is currently in her fourth year at York University and will be graduating soon. She is excited but also a little scared about what lies ahead. She came to Canada in 2018 with mixed feelings of fear, joy and excitement all at once to be in a new country miles away from home. Just like every international student, Parina is trying to develop her own individual unique identity in a diverse country, and she hopes that her journey will get easier in the future. Her plan for the near future is to graduate, enjoy the summer and hopefully get into the real world of jobs.

Jessica Kwik

Jessica Kwik is the director of the Peel Newcomer Strategy Group (PNSG), the local immigration partnership project in Peel Region. PNSG is a project of United Way Greater Toronto (UWGT) funded by Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship Canada, the Region of Peel and UWGT. PNSG engages local partners to collectively support newcomer settlement and inclusion through research and service integration, community consultation and planning and professional development and capacity-building for the settlement sector. Jessica has an educational and work background in applied health sciences, environmental studies, mental health promotion and settlement supports. Prior to joining PNSG, Jessica supported the development of equity approaches at Peel Public Health and in the COVID-19 response.

Cory Latimer

Cory Latimer is the Associate Director, Cooperative & Career Education at Sheridan College. Over the past 15 years, Cory with his team have provided opportunities for students to explore their strengths and career aspirations, experience and practice their skills, and connect with employers and new networks.

Amy (Hoi Wan) Leung

Amy (Hoi Wan) Leung is currently a first year Sheridan student from Hong Kong studying office administration - executive diploma. She is honoured to be the recipient of the Sheridan International Outstanding Achievement in a Certificate, Diploma or Post-Graduate Scholarship (Spring/Summer 2022). During her study at Sheridan, she participated on the First Year Experience Advisory Committee and now works as the campus service ambassador. Her goal is to learn as much as she can and give back when she is capable. She truly believes that "actions speak louder than words."

Andrii Ligun

Andrii Ligun is a returning student from Ukraine. Andrew is a peer mentor and second year student in the Chemical Engineering Technology program at Sheridan. He came to Canada a year ago from Ukraine with an electric passion for science. He has big plans for his future as a chemical engineer and is very eager to share his knowledge with others on his way.

Harinder Malhi

Harinder Malhi recently joined Sheridan as Director of Government and Community Relations (Davis Campus). She brings a wealth of knowledge and experiences, having lived and worked in Brampton her whole life, with senior roles in elected office as School Board trustee, Member of Provincial Parliament and Associate Minister of Women's Issues. Most recently, she served as Director of Employment Services at Indus Community Services and has also completed her MBA from Rotman School of Management.

Lilach Marom

Lilach Marom is currently chair of the Department of Educational Studies and Arts Senator at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, and recently appointed faculty at Simon Fraser University. In her research Lilach draws on critical social theories to focus on questions of diversity, inclusion, anti-racism and social justice in education. Lilach has worked as an educator in multiple locations and countries (Israel, the United States and Canada) with culturally, linguistically and ethnically diverse populations. Her research has appeared in publications such as *Review of Education, Pedagogy, and Cultural Studies* (2017), *Teaching and Teacher Education* (2019/2020), *Race Ethnicity and Education* (2019), *Critical Studies in Education* (2019), *Globalisation, Societies and Education* (2021) and *Higher Education* (2022). This presentation will focus on the experiences and challenges of Punjabi international students in Canadian higher education.

Monica Mavrak

Monica Mavrak leads the team that develops and oversees partnerships, outreach and engagement activities with other federal government departments, provincial and territorial governments, national educational associations, academics and other community-based organizations in the international education sector. Monica's whole career has been focused on the development and implementation of policies and programs aimed at improving outcomes for individuals who face barriers to full participation in society. This work has greatly been influenced by the partnerships she has been able to forge and she is honoured to have recently been recognized by community partners for her contributions to the advancement of their work. Prior to joining IRCC, Monica previously oversaw a team that was responsible for policy and program development and implementation related to Indigenous and community corrections and worked closely with a variety of partners and stakeholders to find innovative solutions to complex social problems. Monica has also worked in community-based crime prevention and in women and children's health with a view of enhancing safety and well-being.

Dale M. McCartney

Dale M. McCartney is an assistant professor at the University of the Fraser Valley in Abbotsford, British Columbia, where he teaches introduction to university-style courses. Before joining UFV, he spent more than a decade working as a sessional instructor, primarily at a private, for-profit pathway program affiliated to a large Canadian university. From this perspective he was inspired to research the history of international student policy in Canada, including the roots of pathway programs themselves. He and his co-author Amy Scott Metcalfe found that pathway programs were very new but expanding rapidly, becoming ubiquitous in the university sector. They argued that while these pathway programs varied in important ways, they threatened the stability of the college sector, and they tended to increase the vulnerability of students, staff and faculty to abuse or exploitation. Dale's talk will briefly discuss this research and offer some thoughts about how private pathway programs especially are changing Canadian postsecondary education and putting international students at greater risk for mistreatment and abuse.

Andrew McNeill

Andrew McNeill leads a team who continually innovates to deliver policy and planning solutions to issues facing the City of Brampton – a rapidly growing and urbanizing city. Andrew draws on his 23 years of experience in Canada and the United States integrating land use planning, urban design, transportation planning, real estate and economic development, where he has worked to position multiple cities and towns for success.

Julia Moore

Julia Moore leads the New Zealand Qualifications Authority's (NZQA) administration of the code of practice for the pastoral care of tertiary and international students. Having joined NZQA from the tertiary student services sector, she is committed to supporting the well-being and safety of all students in Aotearoa New Zealand and – equally – the staff who support them.

Janet Morrison

Janet Morrison joined Sheridan in 2016 as Provost and Vice President, Academic before moving into her current role. Having worked in the postsecondary sector in Canada and the United States for over 25 years - including 17 years at York University in various roles focused on learning, discovery, and engagement - Janet remains passionate about student success and community engagement. She's an active volunteer, previously serving as the Chair of the Board of Trustees at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital and on the Board of Directors for the Children's Aid Society of Toronto. She was appointed to the Federal Advisory Committee to Prevent and Address Gender Equality and is the co-chair of the Colleges and Institutes Canada Working Group tasked with the development of a National Standard on Psychological Health and Safety for Post-Secondary students.

Moyo Mutamba

Moyo Mutamba is an antiracism, DEI and decolonization educator, leadership coach and scholar. With extensive experience in social justice and equity work, Mutamba has worked with diverse organizations and leaders to achieve deep cultural shifts through capacity building, shifting mindsets and creating structures for sustaining transformation.

Ganesh Neelanjanmath

Ganesh Neelanjanmath arrived in Canada in 2010 to pursue post-graduation in project management at [Sheridan College](#). With an engineering degree in Computer Science from [B.V.B. College of Engineering and Technology, Karnataka, India](#), an ITIL V3 Foundation Certification and over 16 years of experience working in India, Europe, Canada and the US, Ganesh served multiple organizations as a software programmer, business analyst and an intrapreneur leading and managing teams and innovative projects. Today, Ganesh is a successful entrepreneur leading iCent, his own bootstrapped venture, with the operational team and clients spread across the globe. Based on his challenges, experience and learnings as an international student in Canada, Ganesh founded '[iCent-the International Student app](#)' to empower public institutions with an effective information delivery and communication management tool, bridging the gap between international offices and international students. Having conceived the idea in 2013 and launching the app in 2015, iCent has served over half a million international students and staff spread across 800 campuses spanned over multiple countries in Canada, USA, New Zealand and the European Union.

Jane Ngobia

Jane Ngobia is the Vice President, Inclusive Communities at Sheridan College. She has held progressive leadership positions spanning more than 15 years locally and abroad within the postsecondary sector. Jane is described as a

DEI coach, community builder and empathetic change agent. In April 2021, she was [recognized by The Globe and Mail as a recipient of the 2021 Best Executive Award](#) for her work in advancing equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) at Sheridan and beyond. Over the years, she has launched and overseen pan-institutional initiatives to facilitate systemic and institutional equity. In June 2022, Dr. Ngobia was recognized with a Silver Award of Excellence for Leadership in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) by the World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics (WFCP). Since joining Sheridan in 2019, Dr. Ngobia has helped the college take strong, definitive steps to embed EDI principles across learning, business operations and decision-making processes. This has led to Sheridan being recognized by FORBES 2022 as a top ten best diversity employer. Jane's passionate pursuit of an equitably shared world has moved her to extend her personal and professional capital towards fostering a culture of care and justice for all.

Tarun Paul

Tarun Paul is a news reporter and host for OMNI television/City TV. He came to Canada in 2018 with a law background and did his journalism program at Sheridan College. Graduating in 2020, he got the opportunity to work with OMNI from September 2020 onwards, where he covers stories from diverse backgrounds and brings them to the forefront to inspire change.

Jock Phippen

Jock Phippen has worked in roles supporting student success in higher education for 20+ years. Currently Jock works collaboratively across Sheridan on a Strategic Initiatives Framework dedicated to organizational, process and system changes to deliver an integrated, intuitive and inclusive learning experience that maximizes personal support and provides learners opportunities for real-world and community problem-solving.

Ali Raza

Ali Raza is a reporter and writer for CBC News in Toronto where he reported for its temporary pop-up Brampton bureau in late 2021 and early 2022. Before joining CBC, he had written for The Narwhal, University of Toronto Magazine, and has covered local communities for a variety of Torstar newspapers across the Greater Toronto Area. Ali was born and raised in Brampton, where he currently lives.

Elyse Redquest

Elyse Redquest is the manager of the Well Series and Academic Integrity Office (AIO) at Sheridan and also a professor of sociology. Elyse holds a Masters in Sociology with an emphasis on inequality within postsecondary studies. Change initiatives in higher education have become more common in the face of changing learner needs and higher education funding (Kang et al., 2020; Bok, 2015). Elyse will speak about Sheridan's student academic support vision for delivering equitable, diverse and inclusive supports.

William Reid

William Reid is a lawyer in good standing with the Law Society of Ontario and serves as in-house counsel to several student unions in the Greater Toronto Area, including the Sheridan Student Union. At each, he provides legal advice and assistance to individual students with respect to almost any law, as well as legal support to the student union itself. At the summit, he will be participating on the panel regarding housing, and will speak about challenges international students face in securing appropriate accommodation.

Sue Sadler

Sue Sadler is senior vice president of Services and Program Innovation at ACCES Employment. She designs and oversees specialized employment programming that helps immigrant job seekers secure viable employment in their fields. Sue has introduced experiential learning, future skills and post-hire supports into programming and has leveraged these learnings to not only promote career mobility among those served by these programs, but to also advance her organization and her various portfolios by safeguarding accountability frameworks and generating creative strategies, resulting in a longstanding history of overachievement of targets and increased revenue year after year. Sue is an Aspen Institute fellow, specialized in executive leadership and workforce development. Sue will speak to how the six pillars of service delivery embedded into ACCES Employment's sector-specific Bridging Program Delivery Model can be leveraged to bridge international students into Canadian employment opportunities at a level commensurate with their skills and education.

Jaskaran Sandhu

Jaskaran Sandhu is one of Canada's top political and community organizers, with deep experience in public affairs and public relations. A lawyer by training, he has served as the Senior Advisor to Brampton's Office of the Mayor, as the Executive Director of the World Sikh Organization of Canada, and as a Senior Consultant at a national government relations firm before launching his own public affairs agency, State Strategy. Jaskaran is also the co-founder of Baaz, a digital news outlet of record for the global Sikh and Punjabi communities. A panelist on CANDALAND's The Backbench, as well as a regular commentator on CTV, CBC and ethnic media platforms, Jaskaran is a sought-after expert on current political and community affairs with op-eds also appearing in various print outlets such as the Washington Post and the Toronto Star.

Rajan Sandhu

Rajan Sandhu serves as Vice President, Strategic Alignment and General Counsel at Sheridan College, and is a key member of the Office of the President team. Rajan is a lawyer who has held various positions at Sheridan throughout the last six years. His portfolio areas include institutional strategic initiatives, strategic advice to the president, governance, legal services, privacy and access to information, records management, and policies and procedures.

Dinesh Sharma

Dinesh Sharma is the founder and CEO of Brilliant Minds Group (BMG), a not-for-profit organization. BMG is creating pathways for new immigrants and international students to achieve their full potential in Canada through education, employment and community integration. The mission of BMG is "Committed to Your Growth – We Are Better Together." Through his presentation, Dinesh will be sharing the insights on the work BMG is doing on "Work experience and employment: precarity, challenges and worker rights."

Sunand Sharma

Sunand Sharma has been a proud member of the Sheridan community since 2005 and is currently the Associate Dean - Community Citizenship and Student Leadership & Engagement in Student Affairs. He holds a Masters of Leadership degree from Royal Roads University and is passionate about improving the lives of students. He will focus on housing research and international students' experiences finding accommodations in Brampton and Sheridan's partnership with WUSC to deliver the Student Refugee Program which provides educational pathways to settlement.

Leslie Smith

Leslie Smith is a currently serving officer with the Peel Regional Police and is entering his 22nd year in policing. He recently joined the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Bureau Team and has enjoyed prior postings in the Neighbourhood Policing Unit (high schools), Youth Education (K-8), Recruiting Bureau, Intelligence, Homicide, 12, 21 and Airport Divisions. Prior to policing, he was involved in the automotive industry. He is a licensed automotive/truck and coach technician and now enjoys that as a hobby along with coaching soccer and youth fitness programs in the GTA.

Prabhjot Sohal

Prabhjot Sohal is a Brampton-based journalist and communications researcher. She is currently working as a news reporter with Red FM Toronto. Prabhjot covers local, regional and national issues. However, she focuses on local journalism with an aim to serve the diverse communication and information needs of local/cultural communities. Prabhjot has over ten years of experience in journalism and strategic communications. In the past she has worked as a journalist with leading newspapers in India – The Indian Express and Hindustan Times. She has also taught journalism at the postsecondary level in India. Prabhjot's research interests focus on local news, journalism practice, the safety of journalists and cultural health communication. In her presentation, Prabhjot will focus on communication strategies and local media partnerships to build an informed student community that is engaged in the community in a meaningful way.

Dr. Sharada Srinivasan

Dr. Sharada Srinivasan is associate professor of Development Studies and Canada Research Chair in Gender, Justice, and Development at the University of Guelph. She is also the Inaugural Director of the Canada India Research Centre for Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE). Established in February 2020 at the University of Guelph, the Canada India Research Centre for Learning and Engagement – CIRCLE – is an interdisciplinary nucleus in Canada for cutting-edge research on India, south Asia and their diasporas, to showcase, advocate, catalyze and foster an equitable, respectful and sustained exchange of knowledge between Canadian, Indian and south Asian scholars on complex and emerging (and unexplored) topics related to sustainability and social and economic well-being. To learn more, visit <https://canadaindiaresearch.ca/>

Christine Szustaczek, MCM, APR

Christine Szustaczek, MCM, APR is the Vice President of External Relations at Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning in Canada, where she oversees communications, marketing, alumni and advancement, government and community relations and special events. Prior to joining the college in 2013, she ran her own communications consultancy for ten years, helping colleges, universities, hospitals and social service agencies to communicate their impact. She also held earlier positions in communications and fundraising at various non-profits and university Faculties. Christine is a board member at the Screen Industries Research and Training Centre in Toronto and the Alice and Murray Maitland Charitable Foundation. She's an avid learner and is passionate about higher education and the role it plays to transform people's lives, benefit the economy and advance social well-being.

Tony Tai

Tony Tai is a currently serving officer with the Peel Regional Police and is entering his 18th year in policing. He has completed his tenure in the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Bureau Team and has enjoyed prior postings in Road Safety Services, Homicide and Missing Persons Bureau, 12 and Airport Divisions. Prior to policing, he was in the satellite communication industry, and worked on XM Satellite Radio in California. He is a Sheridan College alumni.

Will Tao

Will Tao is a Canadian immigration and refugee lawyer. He co-founded Heron Law Offices in 2021 and provides legal services in all areas of Canadian immigration and refugee law with a particular focus on complex refusals, appeals and judicial reviews of international student, family class and foreign worker-related applications. He won the Canadian Bar Association (CBA) Immigration Section Founders' Award for his accomplishments in his first five years of practice (2020) and won the CBA Immigration's Volunteer Recognition Award (co-winner) for his work with the Section's Anti-Racism Committee (2021). Will also provides strategic advice and consultation to government, media, educational institutions and businesses on immigration-refugee, decolonization and race/inclusion-related issues. Will previously taught Immigration Law through the UBC Certificate in Immigration: Laws, Policies and Procedures (CILPP) program.

Roopa Desai Trilokekar

Roopa Desai Trilokekar comes to an academic career after 20 years of experience as a professional in the field of international education in Canada, India and the US. Her 2020 co-edited book *International Education as Public Policy in Canada*, along with Tamtik, M (Manitoba) and Jones, G. A (Toronto) was awarded the Catalyst Award by the Canadian Bureau of International Education for bringing cutting-edge knowledge to the field of international education. Her most recent research looks at a discourse analysis of the 'International Students as ideal immigrants' global policy discourse across Australia, Germany and Canada, funded by The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). She has also recently completed a project with IRCC titled *What distinguishes the international student experience in the Canadian labour market? A comparison of Two Provinces*. She was awarded a Fulbright Canada Research Chair in Public Diplomacy at the University of Southern California (2020-2021 academic year) for her project titled *International Education as Soft Power: Its relevance in a world of changing U.S.-Canada relations and new geopolitics*.

Luan Truong

Luan Truong is a third-year Computer Engineering Technology student at Davis Campus, from Vietnam. Currently, he is the peer mentor team lead for the Davis team and the board of directors of the SSU. Getting involved with the Sheridan community has been a tremendous experience for him. He has learned and developed a lot of skills through this, and enjoys helping other folks who are studying or will study at Sheridan. Luan will continue his journey at Sheridan after graduating from the computer engineering program and transfer to the Honours Bachelor of Information Science at the Trafalgar Campus and will continue getting involved in the amazing Sheridan community.

Rajveersinh Vaghela

Rajveersinh Vaghela is a Sheridan College student from India, who is currently pursuing a diploma in computer technician software engineering and is in his first year. In this short time, he has become a peer mentor and has served as co-lead marshall at Sheridan convocation.

Nathaniel VeltKamp

Nathaniel VeltKamp is the Director of International Education at St. Clair College. Nate joined St. Clair in May of 2015 after spending six years in Canadian federal politics, serving in his final capacity as special assistant to a Member of Parliament. A graduate of the University of Windsor, Nate returned to his adoptive hometown accepting the task of growing and diversifying St. Clair College's international student recruitment. Since 2016 the College's international student body has grown from 500 international students to over 7,500 full-time students from 62 countries.

David Ip Yam

David Ip Yam serves as the Dean of Students at Centennial College where he leads with colleagues to create conditions for learners to thrive. Before joining Centennial, David's career in student affairs was shaped by various roles within leadership, international student services, orientation, conduct, health and wellness, and career education and development at York University. While at York he earned a BA, MEd, and certificates in dispute resolution and change intelligence leadership and was a course director. He is currently working on his PhD where he is studying organizational leadership in postsecondary education. David is also the host of the Student Success Exchange podcast, a series of deep conversations about real student stories between David and the students he served. Have a listen at davidipyam.com/podcasts and feel free to connect with him on Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter @davidipyam.