

WELDING EDUCATORS CONFERENCE 2023

Session Speakers



Al Sumal

Retired Welding Instructor | Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Al started his welding career as an apprentice in England in 1973 and came to British Columbia in 1977. Since then, Al has worked in fabrication shops, pressure vessel piping, construction, energy sector projects, repair & maintenance welding, contract pipe welding, project management, teaching, inspection and consulting. His education and certifications in Canada include: BC Welder's Logbook, Level A registration, Interprovincial Red Seal, Alberta B Pressure, TSBC Class "A", numerous ASME alloy pressure welding procedures and CSA W47.1 in SMAW, FCAW, GMAW and SAW welding processes. Al recently retired from Kwantlen Polytechnic University after a 40-year career as a welding instructor, which included 12 years as department chair.



Bernard Gervais

Program Lead for Technology and Arts | Rainbow District School Board

Bernard has been teaching at the secondary level for 25 years. He started teaching Math and Physics, but has been combining his love of manufacturing and teaching over the last 15 years. Since then, hands-on projects have led to the approach he takes in class to optimize learning. Bernard has been using CNC for the last two decades and I have led the purchasing of this technology such as CNC plasma, CNC mill, CNC router, laser cutter, and 3D printers. Currently, he's a Program Leader for Tech and Arts, the Manufacturing and Design Tech Teacher, and Lead Teacher for the Manufacturing Specialist High Skills Major program at Confederation Secondary School in Greater Sudbury.



Bill Chisholm

President & CEO | Arcelor Mittal, Mexico and Samuel, Son & Co., Ltd

Since 2021, Bill has served as Board Chair for Mohawk College; the College is renowned for its innovation culture and for skilled graduates ready to make a difference. Bill is the past CEO of Samuel, Son & Co., Limited a leading value added processor and distributor of metal. Founded in 1855, Samuel is the fourth largest metal processor and distributor in North America. Bill is a graduate of Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology in Chemical Engineering Technology, and had continued his education at both McMaster University and the Ivey School of Business.



Christelle Keefer

Global Product Manager for Robotics Education | ABB Robotics

Christelle Keefer is the Global Product Manager for Robotics Education and leads the Global Solutions Center for Education at ABB. She has a Master's degree in Instructional Design/Training and Development from Oakland University in Rochester Hills, Michigan. Christelle has a passion for workforce training and development. She has developed certification programs for industry, educators, and students in robotics and automation. She enjoys collaborating with industry professionals and educators around the world to help prepare the workforce of tomorrow.



Dayton Block

Technical Education Specialist | CWB Welding Foundation

Dayton Block completed an undergraduate science degree at the University of Lethbridge right after high school. In order to financially support his studies, he entered into a welding apprenticeship. This led to receiving his Red Seal welder ticket, leading to 11 years of industry experience working as a welder, a shop foreman, and eventually as a project manager in the custom metal fabrication industry.



Dave McCutcheon

Executive Director | Apprenticeship Manitoba

David is currently the vice chair of the Canadian Council of Directors of Apprenticeship. David has a long history of skilled trades advocacy as a former Chair of Construction Trades at Red River College and a trades instructor for many years. David is passionate about apprenticeship and is always looking for opportunities to promote and discuss skilled trades and apprenticeship with all who are interested.



Derrick Derringer

Welding Instructor | Saskatchewan Polytech

Derrick Derringer is a Welding/Metal Fabricator Instructor at the Saskatchewan Polytechnic Regina Campus. He's been teaching for 7.5 years, and it's been the most challenging, rewarding, interesting and fulfilling job he's ever had. Derrick enjoys the time spent with students and is always excited about the opportunity to better himself as an instructor. Further to teaching, he has worked closely with the CWB helping develop and refine content for learners via online and modular platforms. Before teaching, Derrick owned and operated a mobile welding truck and worked in the oil and gas industry along with producing custom fabrication. He's the father of two girls who keep things constantly busy, challenging, and interesting.



Eric McKellar

Weld Application Specialist | ABB Robotics

Eric is a Welding Application Specialist at ABB Inc. who believes in the early adoption of robotic concepts in our education system. In over 20 years, his field experience has ranged from small weld shops to Tier 1 automotive facilities to integration machine builders. Currently 10 years with the leading robotics OEM, he has the opportunity to work with cutting edge technology while continuing working in all of these fields. Eric graduated from Lambton College (Welding Techniques) and Conestoga College (Welding Engineering Technology) and lives in Guelph, Ontario. While not working, he enjoys time with his family, home renovations, and playing sports such as hockey, golf, and baseball.



Gordon Elson

Executive Director- Strategic Partnerships | RedShelf

RedShelf's mission is to improve education through technology. Nearly half of all U.S. colleges and thousands of publishers and businesses choose RedShelf, making us one of the leading education companies in the nation, named 2022 Publishing Software of the Year, named to the Inc. 5000 for the past four consecutive years, and more. Skilled at consensus building from groups with varied interests.



Grant Dolson

Solution Sales Manager | Miller Electric

Grant has been with ITW Welding for 27 years, primarily working with End User Customers to improve their operations through the implementation of Automation, Welding Intelligence and Advanced Processes. He started with Hobart Brothers in 1996 managing the Robotic Applications Team and moved over the Miller Electric Group in 1999. He has held the positions of Product Manager, Corporate Applications Trainer, Corporate Accounts Manager and Field Applications Specialist. Prior to Joining ITW Welding, Grant spent 5 years with Fanshaw College as an Instructor/Coordinator of Welding Programs and Part Time Welding Instructor with the Oxford County Board of Education. He started his welding career as a Welder-Fitter Apprentice, spending most of his practical welding time in the Pressure Vessels and Custom Fabrication industries.



Ian Howcroft

CEO | Skills Canada

Ian has been the Chief Executive Officer of Skills Canada- Ontario since 2018. He's an action oriented leader and decision maker with a focus on customer needs and service. Ian can lead a team and is able to build consensus to maximize and leverage strengths of team members to the overall benefit of the organization. Customer focused; working to better develop and deliver services and products that members need and realize benefits from. Ian has built partnerships with the relevant organizations to develop products and increase impact. Also responsible for securing CME's most successful business development program to assist manufacturers implementing advanced technologies to increase productivity and grow their business. (SMART).



Ian Schaan

Head of Welding and Metal Fabrication | Saskatchewan Polytech

Ian Schaan was born and raised in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and currently is the program head of the welding and metal fabrication department in northern Saskatchewan, overlooking two welding and fabrication shops in Saskatoon. In August of 2008, Ian started his career instructing both the Welding trade and Metal Fabrication trade at Saskatchewan Polytechnic, gaining experience teaching Level 1, 2, and 3 welding, Level 1,2,3 Metal Fabrication and Certificate Welding and Metal Fabrication programs. Ian has also received a certificate in adult education through the University of Regina and a Blue Seal for business competencies. Ian took on the role as program head starting July of 2020 to present.



j'Amey Bevan

Director of National Training | Boilermaker NTTF (Canada)

For over 25 years, j'Amey Bevan has worked in the industrial construction and maintenance industry. She holds an Interprovincial Red Seal in the Boilermaker trade, a Blue Seal and a Masters in Leadership through Royal Roads University. She is the Director of Boilermakers' National Training and has served on multiple boards and committees including Chair of the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board, Interprovincial Alliance of Board Chairs, and Canadian Apprenticeship Forum. Ms. Bevan believes in continuous learning, supportive work environments and trade mastery and recognizes that apprenticeship is the foundation on which many careers and economic stability is built.



Jim Galloway

Professor & Coordinator of Welding Programs | Conestoga College

Jim Galloway is a Professor & Coordinator of Welding Programs at Conestoga College in Cambridge, Ontario. He holds a B.A.Sc. in Industrial Engineering Technology, is a Certified Engineering Technologist, a graduate of Conestoga's weld tech programs, and holds a Journeyman Welder (Red Seal) qualification. Over his 42-year career, he has worked as a welding inspector and R&D technologist in the power generation industry, and as a technical manufacturing manager in production welding facilities. Jim currently volunteers with several CSA Technical committees including CSA-W117.2 (welding safety), CSC26 (arc welding equipment), and CSA-W48 (electrodes & filler metals).



Joe Saundercook

Manager, Fund Development | CWB Welding Foundation

Joe Saundercook has been the Manager of Fund and Partner Development for the CWB Welding Foundation since September 2019. Joe is responsible for raising funds in partnership with public and private organizations, foundations and individuals. A significant part of Joe's work involves collaborating with like-minded organizations to enable career pathway development in support of the Canadian welding industry. Joe has extensive experience in education as former VP of Partnerships & Business Development for the McGraw-Hill Higher Education Division, and Senior Manager of Development for Sheridan College.



John Smit

Assistant Director of Training | UA Local 527 Southwestern Ontario

John started his career working as a Welding Supervisor and Welder and Machinist for over 20 years at AECON Industrial. He continued to work as a Welding Specialist at Shoreline Power Group and Fabrication Manager at Sutherland- Shultz. His knowledge expands to an extensive machining background with knowledge of hydraulics, pneumatics, boiler rooms, heating and hot oil systems. John has a unique ability to enable workers, welders and welding operators to be the best they can be. Currently, he works for UA Local 527 as the Assistant Director of Training and has broad experience with training and testing welders.



Josh Fortin

Technical Education Specialist | CWB Welding Foundation

Growing up in a family with welders, Joshua, who is French/English bilingual, has had a passion for welding since he was young. He decided to return to school to obtain his Diplôme d'études professionnel les (DEP) trade certificate in Welding and Fitting. Now a Journeyman welder with over 10 years of welding experience, Josh has worked on various projects from welding and fabricating military-grade equipment to high pressure pipe welding. With a passion to pass down his knowledge to future welders, he decided to enter into education and began his career at the Western Quebec Career Centre as a Welding educator. Joshua continues to help promote the welding industry.



Kayla Vandermolen

Pre-Apprentice Instructor and an ABSA Certified Welding Examiner | Boilermakers Lodge 146

Kayla Vander Molen is the Pre-Apprentice Instructor and an ABSA Certified Welding Examiner at the Boilermakers Lodge 146 in Calgary. Kayla is a RSE Journeyman pressure welder and has worked in the industry for over a decade. Kayla has been published in the Boilermakers International Reporter Magazine, received the International Women's Day SAIT Futures Award, and received the North American Building Trades Union Trade Women Heroes Award. Kayla has a ground-up approach to education in the skilled trades and focuses on recruitment, mentorship and retention. Kayla actively works towards making the skilled trades more inclusive and participates in events geared towards women and diverse groups looking to evolve, find or change careers.



Kent MacDonald

Vice President/Training and Apprenticeship Coordinator | Ironworkers Local 765

Kent MacDonald is the Vice President and Training Coordinator for the Ironworkers Local 765 in Ottawa. He schedules training classes for apprentices and Journeymen, helping apprentices to get registered with the Ministry. Also, he works with members and contractors to stay updated with training, overseeing the building and equipment needs of the Local. This includes applying for grants and purchasing equipment to keep the Local on the cutting edge of the Ironworker trade. He is a certified Ironworker Instructor, a Red Seal endorsed Ironworker, and a CWB certified welder and inspector.



Lou Petillot

Instructor/Trainer | CWB Group

Lou holds a Master's Degree in Adult Education and is a W178.2 certified Level 3 Visual Welding Inspector and Red Seal Welder. He also has an Alberta B Pressure Welding Certification and was a Babcock & Wilcox Nuclear Welder in the training program and apprenticeship for 2.5 years. Lou has 27 ASME Tickets and 4 all position CWB tickets with T classification. He's also has 25 plus years welding experience in the Nuclear, Mining, Structural fields including self-employment. Lou spent 12 years teaching at the College Level - Pressure Vessel and CWB structural courses, practical & classroom. Currently he's spent 9 years teaching for CWB in the following courses: Welding Supervisor Steel, Welding Supervisor Aluminum, Level 1 Welding Inspector, Level 2 Welding Inspector and custom courses including practical welding.



Matt Scott

Welding Instructor and Department Chair | Portland Community College

Matt Scott is a Welding Instructor and Department Chair at Portland Community College. His welding career began in high school when his metal shop teacher sent him to work at a local fab shop. This path led to bridge work and then into his ultimate goal in the piping industry. He has been training and testing welders for over 30 years, and finds immense joy when his students return to share their success stories from the industry.



Melissa Young

CEO and Registrar | Skilled Trades Ontario

Melissa is a results-oriented, change leader who has over 20 years of experience in workforce development and skilled trades. Her work focused on promoting the trades, harmonizing apprenticeships, developing partnerships with First Nations communities, Indigenous groups, labour and management, and influencing the national landscape for apprenticeship. Melissa has served as past Chair of the Canadian Council of Directors of Apprenticeship's Communication and Promotion Committee and Board member of the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum and was also appointed to the Government of Ontario's Skilled Trades Panel.



Mike McCormick

Manufacturing Technology & Design Technology Educator | Sacred Heart High School

Mike started his career directly from school into a welding apprenticeship. From there an opportunity to start a second apprenticeship as a fitter machinist presented itself and was completed. This work experience made the transition to becoming an educating instructor in the field of manufacturing/engineering a natural fit with the varied experience. For the last 13 years working with Sacred Heart High School in Walkerton propelling the manufacturing program forward. A focus to supporting students in their chosen pathway by creating opportunities while continuously improving was the key to his educating career. He advocates for trades as a viable post secondary choice and takes every opportunity to get young people to consider the opportunity of trades for them.



Patricia Carr

National Manger of Education & Workforce Development | Miller Electric

Patricia Carr has been with Miller Electric for 5 years as their National Manager of Education and Workforce Development. She partners with schools and career centers to build welding training programs throughout the country. Patricia joined Miller Electric in 2019 to support the education industry with Training Solutions, which are instructional tools to help create the workforce of tomorrow. Her educational management background with NYC Department of Education has yielded her the experience to develop industry relationships, create workforce programs in high demand sectors and identify unique funding. With her experience, Patricia has been able to foster the education to employment pipeline.



Rogelio Menz

Instructor/Trainer | CWB Education

Rogelio entered the welding industry in Edmonton, Alberta, where he completed his level 1, 2, and 3 of welding apprenticeship program. He worked in structural and industrial pressure vessel fabrication as well as refineries. Rogelio then extended his education at NAIT by completing Material Technologies Program, as well as course to become a welding instructor there. While instructing, he completed a Bachelor of General Studies at Athabasca University. In June 2012 he joined Canadian Welding Bureau using his understanding of practical as well as technical education and experience to teach all three levels of welding inspection. His passion for education began many years ago but has remained strong nourishing his students quest for knowledge and practical levels of inspection advancement.



Scott Fraser

Sales Engineer | Liburdi

Scott works as a Sales Engineer for Liburdi, specializing in machine welding equipment and services. He holds a degree in Mechatronics Engineering from the University of Western Ontario. Passionate about robotics and welding, Scott began his professional journey in 2017 as a software engineer at Liburdi Dimetrics, where he played a pivotal role in designing the next generation of machine welding systems. Leveraging his extensive technical knowledge of these systems, Scott currently assists customers by providing tailor-made solutions for their unique welding challenges, ranging from standard equipment to comprehensive on-site service solutions.



Stacy Richardson

Industrial Hygiene Technologist (IHT) | 3M

Stacy Richardson is an Industrial Hygiene Technologist (IHT) who has been with 3M Company for 20 years. Currently, she holds the position as an application development professional for the Personal Safety Division. The role includes technical support in US and Canada on the 3M filtering facepiece respiratory protection, reusable respiratory protection, and fit testing/training for the respiratory protection business. Stacy graduated from Lambton College with an Industrial Hygiene Technology Diploma and completed her Bachelor of Science degree from Athabasca University. She currently holds the CRSP – Canadian Registered Safety Professional designation.



Stephan DeLoof

Executive Director of Operations | FrancoSud School District

Stéphan De Loof is the Executive Director of Operations of the FrancoSud School District in Calgary Alberta. Previous to this assignment Stéphan taught welding and various other subjects with Calgary Catholic School District for 23 years. Stéphan is a Red and Blue Seal journeyman welder, has a cabinetmaking certificate and a Master in Education from the University of Alberta focusing on career and technology studies. Stéphan is currently collaborating on the trade and technology task force of Alberta Education and has an active role with the Alberta Education Trades, Apprenticeship, and Vocational Education Committee (TAVE). He is the author of academic articles on trades at the high school level and co-author in collaboration to Joe Norris academic book on duoethnography.



Susan Watson

Curriculum Coordinator | Portland Community College

Susan Watson was the Curriculum Coordinator at Portland Community College when she worked with the Welding faculty to develop short-term Maritime Welding certificates. Susan is currently a Grant Manager and continues to work with Welding faculty on projects like a mobile Welding trailer used to reach rural communities in Oregon.



Todd Barnett

Maritime Welding Instructor | Portland Community College

Todd Barnett is a Maritime Welding Instructor and Sitting President of the local 104 Boilermakers Union. Todd's beginning in welding started from remembering his stepdad welding on an old tombstone welder when it became time for him to become reeducated due to the lack of work in the forest industry. Todd has also been the weld test supervisor for Vigor Industrial since 2008 where he has had the pleasure of meeting and testing people from around the world! He too finds great pleasure in teaching.



Victor Andrisani

Manager, CWB Consulting

Victor is the Manager of CWB Consulting and he is also a Welding Engineer. He has been in the welding industry for over 20 years. He focuses on helping welding companies obtain certification and helps them maintain it with regular visits to their facility and documenting all of their welding procedures. As a retained Welding Engineer he currently represents over 500 companies in Canada, US and internationally.



Virgil Graham

Learning Specialist- Skilled Trades, Government of New Brunswick

Virgil Graham has been a skilled trades educator for over 25 years. During this time, he has educated thousands of learners in more than 15 different skilled trades courses across multiple sectors. Currently, he is working at the New Brunswick Department of Education and Early Childhood Development as the Skilled Trades Learning Specialist. During his time at the Department, he has been an advocate for skilled trades awareness and education strengthening links between industry, apprenticeship, and the public school system. He resides in Upper Queensbury, NB with his wife Tracy and two sons.

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