



2025 ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

CAAHP  
ACPTS

# **REINVENT, REBUILD, RISE:** Navigating Transformation Together

**Thursday May 22 & Friday May 23, 2025**

The British Columbia Institute of Technology, Burnaby, British Columbia



Explore



Connect



Engage

The Canadian Association of Allied Health Programs (CAAHP) is an affiliated group of Colleges and Institutions across Canada that represents unique professions in allied health and facilitates meaningful dialogue between programs to propel education forward. CAAHP supports members by providing valuable industry insights, news, learning, networking opportunities, and forums for sharing best practices.

Each year, the Canadian Association of Allied Health Programs hosts the National Education Conference, welcoming allied health professionals and educators across the country.

This annual event serves as a meeting ground for key leaders interested in exchanging perspectives. With a curated lineup of dynamic speakers and engaging sessions, the CAAHP Education Conference provides opportunities for real-time discussions, exploring the most relevant topics for Allied Health innovators & decision makers.

In these turbulent times, colleges are confronting unprecedented challenges as they navigate rapid changes in education, technology, and workforce demands. Recent policy shifts have significantly impacted institutional priorities, requiring colleges to respond quickly and make strategic decisions to ensure their continued success.

This year, we come together with a shared purpose: to explore innovative, collaborative solutions to address the complex realities of post-secondary education today. With a focus on shaping emerging roles, supporting underserved communities, and exploring the opportunities of AR/VR, our sessions will offer practical, scalable strategies that can be implemented by institutions of all sizes. Whether you're looking for actionable insights to bring back to your college or hoping to expand your professional network, this conference provides invaluable opportunities for growth, learning, and connection. Join us in the vibrant city of Burnaby as we navigate the future of allied health education.

The Conference will be hosted in-person on May 22 & 23, 2025 at the British Columbia Institute of Technology in Burnaby, British Columbia.

To register for the event, please [visit our website](#).

A block of hotel rooms has been reserved at a discounted rate at the Holiday Inn Express Metrotown 4405 Central Blvd Burnaby, BC for May 21-24.

[Reserve your room here](#) before April 1, 2025 to take advantage of the group rate.

**Register Now**



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# REINVENT, REBUILD, RISE:

## Navigating Transformation Together



### DAY 1 AGENDA (THURSDAY MAY 22)

## Continental Breakfast & Networking

8:15am - 9:00am

## Welcome

9:00am - 9:15am | Jennifer Figner, Provost & Vice President, Academic BCIT

## Opening Address & Theme Setting: Shaping the Future of Care: Building a Skilled Workforce for Canada's Evolving Care Economy

9:15am - 10:00am | Wendy Lawson, President, CAAHP

The conceptual framework of Canada's Care Economy plays a critical role in shaping the landscape of allied health professions. As nearly half of Canadians engage in caregiving, the demand for skilled professionals to support both paid and unpaid care work is more urgent than ever. Today's keynote will explore the intersections between the care economy and allied health education, highlighting the growing need for a workforce equipped to tackle the sector's evolving challenges. We will delve into innovative strategies for training, collaboration, and the integration of technology to enhance care delivery. Join us as we explore how we can collectively build a resilient and responsive care workforce for the future, ensuring that all Canadians receive access to high-quality care.

## Networking Break

10:00am - 10:15am

## Session 1: Reimagining Education: Adapting Our Learning Model to Address the Evolving Needs of Rural and Remote Communities

10:15am - 10:45am | Lesley McGuirk & Jill Latschislaw, RRC Polytech | Facilitated by Sonja Chamberlin

Two different panels will address the evolving needs of rural and remote communities with the potential for broader application for the mainstream. As healthcare systems continue to face increasing pressure, emerging and hybrid roles are becoming essential to bridge gaps in the delivery of care. These innovative roles, combining skills across disciplines, offer new solutions to address workforce shortages, improve access, and enhance patient outcomes. Today, we will explore how allied health education can equip the next generation of healthcare professionals with the skills needed to thrive in these dynamic roles.

### **10:45am - 11:15am | Carl Damour & Sierra Pettipas, ACCLXT | Facilitated by Sonja Chamberlin**

This presentation aims to explore the origin and developments of the Canadian Combined Laboratory and X-ray (CLXT) profession. The presenters will explore the unique professional practice contexts of this profession and identify how recent health system challenges may have contributed to the national growth and recognition of the profession.

In addition to exploring the unique facets of the CLXT profession, the presenters will also highlight the efforts underway to strengthen and sustain the CLXT profession into the future. Join us for an engaging presentation on the evolution, impact and future of this dynamic Canadian health profession.

### **11:15am - 11:45am Q&A Period**

## **Lunch Break**

### **11:45am - 12:30pm**

## **Session 2: : Appropriate Health Care - What Can We Do? (timing, training, technology, culture)**

### **12:30pm - 1:00pm | Dr. Ivar Mendez & Joey Deason, Saskatchewan Polytechnic | Facilitated by Christa MacLean**

Access to timely and culturally appropriate healthcare remains a significant challenge across the country. This session will bring together a panel of thought leaders to explore innovative approaches to training healthcare professionals, leveraging technology, and implementing workforce development strategies tailored to meet specific regional needs through a project called Virtual Health Hub and Teledoc.

### **1:00pm - 1:30pm | Laura Thomas, Mohawk College | Facilitated by Wendy Lawson**

This engaging lecture will explore the latest innovations in health care education. We will highlight the transformative role of Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) technologies, which offer immersive, hands-on learning experiences. These tools allow students to practice medical procedures in a safe, simulated environment, enhancing their skills and confidence.

We will also discuss the significance of innovative partnerships between educational institutions, health care providers, and tech companies. These collaborations are essential for developing cutting-edge educational resources and ensuring students receive the best training. Moreover, we will examine flexible and accessible pathways for students to register for training programs. Special focus will be on initiatives that support students from underserved and rural communities, enabling them to bring their expertise back to their home regions and improve local health care services.

### **1:30pm - 2:00pm Q&A Period**

## **Networking Break**

### **2:00pm - 2:15pm**

## **Session 3: The Impact of Virtual Innovation on Education**

### **2:15pm - 2:45pm | Dr. Efreem Violato, Jacinda Daley & Roger Crowe, NAIT & Bow Valley College | Facilitated by Denise Maclver**

In this session, we will explore the innovative use of AR/VR and other simulation technologies in clinical education, with a focus on how these tools can supplement or even replace traditional clinical placement time. Dr. Efreem Violato from the Centre for Advanced Medical Simulation will share his research on the effectiveness of simulation in enhancing clinical learning, while Bow Valley's AR/VR simulation initiatives will provide a unique perspective on how these technologies can be integrated into healthcare education.



## Continental Breakfast & Networking

8:15am - 9:00am

## AGM Session

9:00am - 9:30am | Facilitated by Wendy Lawson

## Affiliate Updates

9:30am - 10:30am | EQUAL, CSMLS, Simulation Canada, CAMRT

## Networking Break

10:30am - 10:45am

## Session 4: Navigating Federal Policy Changes: Supporting Colleges and Institutes in a Shifting Landscape

10:45am - 11:15am | Anna Toneguzzo, Vice-President, External & Member Relations, CICan | Facilitated by Dr. Tamara Chambers-Richards

Join us for a discussion on how colleges and institutes can navigate major federal policy changes, particularly the reforms to the International Student Program. We'll explore how these shifts impact institutional priorities, how CICA is engaging members institutions to develop strategies and approaches to adapt, and what the broader policy landscape means for the future of postsecondary education.

11:15am - 11:45am Q&A Period

## Working Lunch & Conversation Café: Solve My Problem

11:45am - 2:15pm

Topics and issues will be collected both from participants and CAAHP members.

## Closing Remarks

2:15pm - 2:30pm | Wendy Lawson, President, CAAHP

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