



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



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. Efrem Violato, Jacinda Daley & Roger Crowe, NAIT & Bow Valley College | Facilitated by Terry Schlitter

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. Efrem 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.

2:45pm - 3:15pm | Carrie Meagher, Emily Tang, Tammy Hardie, Ray Lee, Sarah Ho, Lea Ducharme | The British Columbia Institute of Technology | Facilitated by Denise MacIver

This workshop will explore how virtual innovation is reshaping education and clinical training. We'll discuss how these technologies enhance learning experiences, improve patient care, and better prepare future healthcare professionals. Join us as we examine current trends, challenges, and opportunities in leveraging virtual innovation to advance healthcare education.

3:15pm - 4:00pm Q&A Period

Wrap Up

4:00pm - 4:15pm | Wendy Lawson, President, CAAHP

BCIT Health Sciences Centre Tour

4:15pm | Led by Carrie Meagher & Jessica Armstrong | The British Columbia Institute of Technology

The BCIT School of Health Sciences is home to one of the largest simulation spaces in Canada, designed to enhance experiential learning. The Health Sciences Centre features 64 state-of-the-art simulation spaces, with an additional 30 spaces in the newly renovated SE12 building. Equipped with advanced technology—including high-fidelity patient simulators and realistic clinical environments—these spaces provide students with immersive, hands-on training that mirrors real-world healthcare settings. This cutting-edge approach ensures graduates are well-prepared to meet the evolving demands of the healthcare industry.

Cocktail Hour & Group Dinner

6:00pm | Cactus Club Cafe, Station Square | 6090 Silver Drive Burnaby, BC

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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 CICan 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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