



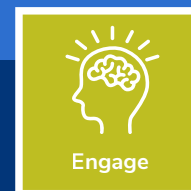
2026 ANNUAL  
**EDUCATION  
CONFERENCE**



# THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

**THURSDAY MAY 21 & FRIDAY MAY 22**  
SOUTHERN ALBERTA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (SAIT)





## The Power of Partnerships

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.

As institutions across the sector face growing pressures on workforce, funding, and infrastructure, collaboration within the college system has never been more critical. This year we bring together colleges and affiliate members to explore how partnerships – internal, cross-college, and with industry and community – can drive program innovation, streamline resources, and create lasting impact.

Together, we'll explore proven partnership models, uncover opportunities to share programs and infrastructure, and build meaningful connections to bring back to your college, transforming shared challenges into shared successes.

Join us in the lively city of Calgary as we navigate the future of allied health education through *the power of partnership*.

[Register Here](#)



CAAHP  
ACPTS

# THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

DAY 1 AGENDA | ALDRED CENTRE, 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, ARIS - TECH HALL, CA415

## Continental Breakfast & Networking

8:15am - 9:00am

## Welcome

9:00am - 9:15am | Dr. Janet Welch, Vice-President, Academic, SAIT

## Opening Address & Theme Setting: Shared Purpose, Shared Impact: Reimagining Education and Care Through Partnership

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

In a period defined by disruption and constraint, partnerships do more than help us cope - they unlock innovation and measurable improvements in learner preparation, community health, and system performance. Evidence shows that community-academic collaborations strengthen trust, align interventions with local priorities and sustain health-equity gains-outcomes directly tied to shared governance, transparent funding, and long-term institutional investment.

This keynote connects the conference program's rich sessions - partnering with communities, patients and families, students, governments, and peer institutions - to emerging practice guidance and national frameworks that position purposeful co-design as the standard for quality and safety improvement in Canada.

## Networking Break

10:00am - 10:15am

## Session 1: Bridging Care, Research, and Education: A Partnership Model for Allied Health Innovation

10:15am - 11:15am | Laura Thomas, Associate Dean Medical Imaging & Academic Director CIAMI and Jamie Mattina, Director, Research & Administration, CIAMI | Facilitated by Wendy Lawson

This presentation examines the development of the Centre for Integrated and Advanced Medical Imaging (CIAMI) as a collaborative model integrating clinical care, applied research, and academic training within a postsecondary institution. Mohawk College team members will discuss key considerations, governance and regulatory challenges, and outcomes associated with partnerships with McMaster University, GE Healthcare, and local hospital systems. The session highlights lessons learned and implications for academic institutions seeking to advance experiential learning, translational research, and cross-sector collaboration

## Session 2: Choosing to Learn - The Importance of Student Autonomy in Post-Secondary Education

11:15am - 12:15pm | Danny Oppenheimer, Professor, Carnegie Mellon | Facilitated by Mary Parrott

This session explores how autonomy-supportive policies can improve student motivation, attendance, and learning in higher education. Drawing on research studies, it highlights the impact of allowing students to choose whether attendance counts toward their grade and whether to participate in a more rigorous assessment stream. Findings show that when given meaningful choices, students are more likely to attend class, invest greater effort in their work, and achieve stronger mastery of course material. The session will also consider broader opportunities to apply choice-based approaches to support student learning and well-being.

## Lunch Break

12:15pm - 1:00pm

## Session 3: Patient and Community Partnerships in Health Professional Education at the University of British Columbia

1:00pm - 2:00pm | William Godolphin, Cathy Kline, Darren Lauscher, Angela Towle, Mandy Young | Facilitated by Deborah Richards

In this session, presenters reflect on two decades of experience in bringing patient and community voices into the education of health professional students at the University of British Columbia. Drawing on stories, insights, and practical examples, we'll explore what it really takes to move from intention to impact including the rationale for involving patients, the Interprofessional Health Mentors program, benefits to students and patients, patient roles, building and supporting a patient community, and lessons learned.

## Session 4: Community-based Partnerships within SAIT's School of Health and Public Safety

2:00pm - 3:00pm | Stacey Chaisson, Academic Chair, School of Health and Public Safety, SAIT | Facilitated by Sonja Chamberlin

This session highlights two community partnerships within SAIT's School of Health and Public Safety that aim to improve access to care while providing students with opportunities to gain additional practice hours in real-world settings. *The Alex Dental Bus* provides mobile dental services to underserved Calgary populations, giving dental assisting students real-world experience. *Nations Vision* connects optician students with patients who lack access to vision care, building clinical skills, empathy, and confidence. Together we'll learn how these partnerships were developed, their impact on student learning, and key lessons from these initiatives.

## Networking Break

3:00pm - 3:15pm

## Session 5: Culture Matters - Navigating Workplace Dynamics in Collaborative Projects

3:15pm - 4:15pm | Sheldon Bailey EdD, Associate Dean, School of Health and Life Sciences, NAIT | Facilitated by Terry Schlitter

As partnerships between post-secondary institutions become more common, successful collaboration requires more than shared goals and deliverables. It also depends on understanding and navigating differences in institutional culture. This presentation explores how acknowledging cultural differences, recognizing shared norms, understanding power structures, aligning values, and fostering psychological safety can strengthen collaboration and improve outcomes.





## **Continental Breakfast & Networking**

**8:15am - 9:00am**

## **AGM Session**

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

## **Affiliate Updates**

**9:30am - 10:30am**

## **Networking Break**

**10:30am - 10:45am**

## **Session 6: An Interprofessional Partnership Approach to Simulation-Based Education (Interactive Workshop)**

**10:45am - 12:00pm | Tami Riley and Sarah Ho, Simulation Specialists, BCIT**

This interactive workshop explores how interprofessional collaboration can transform simulation-based education into a more cohesive, engaging, and effective learning experience. Participants will learn how a shift from a siloed approach to a shared, systems and team-based model can enhance consistency, reduce duplication, and foster innovation. Through discussion and practical examples, the session will highlight strategies for building sustainable partnerships, strengthening educator collaboration, and creating richer learning environments.

## **Lunch Break**

**12:00pm - 12:45pm**

## **Session 7: Partnership Design Lab (Interactive Workshop)**

**12:45pm - 1:45pm | Facilitated by CAAHP Directors**

Discover the Power of Partnerships through an engaging, hands-on design lab. This interactive session brings together participants from diverse allied health professions to explore how intentional partnerships can strengthen education, practice, and workforce outcomes. Through guided activities and collaborative discussion, attendees will co-design partnership approaches that respond to real-world challenges across programs and disciplines. The lab emphasizes shared learning, mutual value, and practical strategies that can be adapted to a variety of educational and clinical contexts. Participants will leave with new connections, fresh perspectives, and actionable ideas to advance partnership collaboration and/or initiatives.

## **Closing Remarks**

**1:45pm - 2:00pm | Wendy Lawson, President, CAAHP**

