

2025 VIRTUAL OCEA FALL SYMPOSIUM
Cooperative Education: Opportunities for All
and Success in a Modern World
Thursday, November 13, 2025
ONLINE VIA ZOOM



Pathways to Success

SYMPOSIUM VIRTUEL D'AUTOMNE 2025 DE L'AÉCO
Éducation coopérative : Des occasions pour tous
et la réussite dans un monde moderne
jeudi 13 novembre 2025
EN LIGNE VIA ZOOM



Tracer son itinéraire vers la réussite

<p>COLOUR CODES: We are offering colour codes to identify each workshop level throughout the conference sessions. These codes are only meant as a guide and does not reflect on anyone's level of knowledge. The colour codes being used are as follows:</p>	<p>Green = NEWer to Co-op Purple = Experienced Pink = Advanced Orange = Exhibitor Blue = All</p>
<p>CODES DE COULEUR: Nous proposons des codes de couleur pour identifier chaque niveau d'atelier tout au long des sessions de la conférence. Ces codes n'ont qu'une valeur indicative et ne reflètent pas le niveau de connaissance de chacun. Les codes de couleur utilisés sont les suivants :</p>	<p>Vert = débutant dans l'éducation coopérative Violet = expérimenté Rose = avancé Orange = exposant Bleu = tous</p>

SYMPOSIUM AGENDA / PROGRAMME DU SYMPOSIUM

(The agenda is subject to change without notice. / L'ordre du jour peut changer sans préavis.)

<p>8:45 – 9:00am 8h45 à 9h00</p>	<p>LAND RECOGNITION FORMAL ADDRESS / SYMPOSIUM WELCOME / SPONSORS ANNOUNCEMENT RECONNAISSANCE FORMELLE DU TERRITOIRE / BIENVENUE OFFICIELLE / ANNONCES DES COMMANDITAIRES</p>
<p>9:00 – 10:00am 9h00 à 10h00</p>	<p>SESSION A WORKSHOPS ATELIERS DE SESSION A</p>
<p>A1 Bleu = tous Orange = exposant</p>	<p>SOUTENIR LA RÉUSSITE PROFESSIONNELLE DES ÉLÈVES À L'AIDE DES RESSOURCES TFO Explorer les ressources TFO gratuites, adaptées et captivantes sur le thème de la recherche d'emploi, des métiers spécialisés et des compétences essentielles pour exceller en tant qu'employé. Ces ressources fiables et de qualités permettront aux élèves d'affronter la recherche d'emploi et le monde du travail avec confiance. Cet atelier vise également à outiller les enseignant(e)s afin d'appuyer leurs élèves dans leurs parcours professionnel. <i>Sophie Dion, Spécialiste de liaison aux priorités éducatives, TFO</i></p>
<p>A2 Blue = All Orange = Exhibitor</p>	<p>MTEL: NEW USER INTERFACE This workshop will focus on the new user interface (UI) and its new functions. MTEL's new UI is powerful and offers cost-effective solutions. Our one stop shop application for experiential learning programs now includes an electronic signature feature. Come and see the new UI and its latest functions! <i>Jennifer Beaulieu-Bélanger, MTEL Coordinator/Coordonnatrice OGAPE, Le Centre franco</i></p>
<p>A3 Blue = All</p>	<p>ADOPTING THE PORTFOLIO MINDSET: FUTURE-PROOF STUDENTS' CAREERS & LIVES This engaging hands-on workshop empowers educators to guide students in developing a portfolio mindset, connecting diverse skills, passions, and experiences to thrive in experiential learning opportunities, Co-op placements, SHSM pathways, and beyond. Takeaways: - Practical strategies to help students identify and leverage multiple interests and strengths. - Tools to support adaptability and confident decision-making in evolving career and educational paths. - Methods to integrate experiential learning into real-world, future-focused planning. Why It Matters: Led by Olympian and multi-passionate OCT educator, Jessica Tudos, participants will learn how fostering a portfolio mindset equips students to navigate uncertainty, seize opportunities, and design meaningful, resilient futures. <i>Jessica Tudos, Intermediate/Secondary Teacher, Toronto DSB</i></p>

<p>A4</p> <p>Blue = All</p>	<p>BUILDING SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FOR CO-OP, SHSM & OYAP</p> <p>Finding great community partners doesn't have to be scary or time-sucking... It can be fun! Beanstalk has built over 100 successful community partnerships across Ontario, and we'll share our top tips and lessons learned to save you time and energy whether you're looking for placements or SHSM event partnerships.</p> <p><i>Joel Hilchey, CEO, Beanstalk Creative and Chelsea Duckworth, General Manager, Beanstalk Creative</i></p>
<p>A5</p> <p>Blue = All</p>	<p>WORK PLACEMENT SCREENING FOR SAFE PLACEMENTS</p> <p>As a work placement screener, you must make decisions about whether the work placement will provide a safe place to work, both physically and mentally, for the student. This session will provide work placement screeners with health and safety insights on how to identify potential workplace hazards, which can be used to help screen out potentially unsafe placement scenarios and keep students safe in higher-risk learning environments.</p> <p>This session will also highlight newly funded opportunities for health and safety inspection training, external inspections of high-risk learning environments in schools and new safety resources for tech teachers.</p> <p><i>Pat Dinsmore, Health & Safety Consultant, Workplace Safety & Prevention Services (WSPS)</i></p>
<p>A6</p> <p>Blue = All</p>	<p>OYAP 1, 2, 3 + FAST!</p> <p>The Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) has 1-2-3 levels of opportunities for students to explore careers and get started on their apprenticeships. This energetic workshop will remodel your thinking, build up your understanding, and rev your Cooperative Education engine to help your students on their road to success! The new OYAP-FAST will also be discussed.</p> <p><i>Matt Bradley, OYAP Recruiter, Toronto DSB and Joachim Vallentin, OYAP Recruiter, Hamilton-Wentworth DSB</i></p>
<p>A7</p> <p>Blue = All</p> <p>Orange = Exhibitor</p>	<p>A CO-OP PLAYBOOK: PERSPECTIVES FROM CO-OP STUDENTS</p> <p>This workshop is designed to familiarize Co-op teachers with a resourceful playbook that encapsulates effective practices for a co-op student who starts in a new workplace. Following the workshop, attendees will receive complimentary access to this valuable book. Authored collectively by co-op students, supervisors, and teachers, the book serves as a practical guide or playbook for new co-op students, offering them insights and strategies as they embark on their initial co-op workplace experiences.</p> <p><i>Hanna Acuna and Crystal Chen, HR Coordinators, York Region Educational Services</i></p>
<p>10:00 – 10:15am 10h00 à 10h15</p>	<p>BREAK PAUSE</p>
<p>10:15 – 11:15am 10h15 à 11h15</p>	<p>SESSION B WORKSHOPS ATELIERS DE SESSION B</p>
<p>B1</p> <p>Vert = débutant dans l'éducation coopérative</p> <p>Bleu = tous</p>	<p>COFFRE À OUTILS POUR COOP</p> <p>Cet atelier vise à outiller les nouveaux enseignants en éducation coopérative. Le but est de présenter une panoplie de ressources qui existent pour pouvoir appuyer le programme de COOP. Les participants quitteront la session avec un coffre à outils remplie de belles ressources prêtes à être utilisées!</p> <p><i>Jacynthe Kelly, Enseignante, Conseillère en orientation / Éducation coopérative, Conseil scolaire du Grand Nord</i></p>
<p>B2</p> <p>Green = NEWer to Co-op</p> <p>Blue = All</p>	<p>CO-OP CLASSROOM COMPONENT: PRE-PLACEMENT LESSON PLANS FOR COOPERATIVE EDUCATION 2023©</p> <p>This NEWest resource is for OCEA members only, especially for NEWer Co-op teachers. Workshop participants will get an overview of this extensive resource and how it could support their own Co-op Classroom Component. We will touch on some of the lessons for students as they prepare for their Co-op placement in the community (Strand A: Health, Safety, Well-Being, Planning and Preparing, and Initial Requirements).</p> <p><i>Pasquale (Pat) Piro, Co-op Teacher, Hamilton-Wentworth CDSB and Marianne Salvo, Co-op Teacher, Halton CDSB</i></p>
<p>B3</p> <p>Blue = All</p>	<p>ETHICAL GUIDELINES AND LEGAL ISSUES (OCEA RESOURCE)</p> <p>In this workshop, we will explore the Ethical Guidelines and Legal Issues (OCEA Resource) to raise awareness of the resource, understand its purpose, and learn how to apply it to make informed decisions on the legal and ethical issues educators face when implementing co-op and experiential learning opportunities. This will be an interactive session, offering opportunities for engagement and discussion.</p> <p><i>Jenny Garrett, Co-op Teacher, Adult Education, Dufferin-Peel CDSB</i></p>

<p>B4</p> <p>Blue = All</p>	<p>EMPOWERING EDUCATIONAL LEADERS IN THE K-12 CLASSROOM</p> <p>Educational leadership is not reserved for principals and school board management. Leadership in the classroom is often what propels innovation and creates an educational environment where students are exposed to meaningful experiences beyond simply learning to read, write and do math. Teachers make a difference that reaches well beyond their individual classrooms.</p> <p>This workshop will help teachers leverage their knowledge and skills to become educational leaders within their organizations.</p> <p><i>Alexandra Desbiens-Leighton, Coordinator of Student Services, Lester B Pearson School Board (Montreal)</i></p>
<p>B5</p> <p>Green = NEWer to Co-op</p> <p>Blue = All</p>	<p>PLACEMENT ASSESSMENT: BACK TO BASICS</p> <p>PLACEMENT ASSESSMENT - It's one of the most important steps in ensuring your student's safety at their placement, but in some cases, it has become...complicated. We're taking it back to the Ministry of Education policy requirements: Is it a safety inspection? - (spoiler alert - no), is it virtual or in person? Is it optional? – (definitely not!) - Initial assessments, monitoring visits, navigating the workplace, hazard assessment, mitigating risks, capturing relevant information - simply, and effectively and all about your student's safety.</p> <p><i>Sue Boychuk, Cooperative Education Safety Specialist since 2000; Ontario Ministry of Labour Manager of Young Worker Safety (retired)</i></p>
<p>B6</p> <p>Blue = All</p>	<p>PROJET INTERGENERATIONNEL « LIENS ENTRE GENERATIONS: APPRENDRE ET S'EPANOUIR ENSEMBLE »</p> <p>Conjointement aux conseils scolaires de langue française catholiques et publics, aux partenaires clés de la communauté de Simcoe Nord Muskoka, ce projet du RPMAFO/FARFO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vise la transmission et la préservation de la langue et de la culture franco-ontarienne, ainsi que le bien-être émotionnel et psychologique des personnes âgées tout en favorisant une réduction de l'âgisme, des stéréotypes et des préjugés liés au vieillissement. • favorise les activités intergénérationnelles dans les centres de vie active, résidences pour personnes âgées et autres dans le cadre des 40 heures de bénévolat, des stages d'éducation coopérative et de la Majeure Haute spécialisation en santé (MHS). <p><i>Saveria Caruso, Projet intergénérationnel, RPMAFO/FARFO et Jacqueline Noiseux, Coordinatrice régionale, Ottawa et l'Est de l'Ontario, FARFO</i></p>
<p>B7</p> <p>Blue = All</p>	<p>CONNECTING SHSM TO CO-OP</p> <p>How does CO-OP connect to SHSM, and how does SHSM connect to CO-OP? Learn how your CO-OP program can build capacity within the SHSM sectors of your school and learn how your SHSM program can build capacity for your CO-OP students!</p> <p><i>Kimberly Leger, Lead Co-op Teacher & SHSM Coordinator, Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB</i></p>
<p>B8</p> <p>Blue = All</p>	<p>CONTINUING THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP PILOT PROJECTS</p> <p>If you are (or were) involved in the province's entrepreneurship funding pilot, this session is for you. We'll facilitate a roundtable to discuss past successes, challenges, and approaches. Specifically, we'll talk about the 3 big funding choices: teachers vs students; individuals vs teams; and breadth vs depth.</p> <p><i>Joel Hilchey, CEO, Beanstalk Creative</i></p>
<p>11:15 – 12:00pm 11h15 à 12h00</p>	<p>LUNCH BREAK DÉJEUNER</p>
<p>12:00 – 1:00pm 12h00 à 13h00</p>	<p>SESSION C WORKSHOPS ATELIERS DE SESSION C</p>
<p>C1</p> <p>Vert = débutant dans l'éducation coopérative</p> <p>Bleu = tous</p>	<p>NOUVELLE RESSOURCE: COMMENT PLANIFIER LA COMPOSANTE SCOLAIRE EN COOP : L'INTÉGRATION DES EXPÉRIENCES D'APPRENTISSAGE EN ÉDUCATION COOPÉRATIVE</p> <p>Cet atelier permettra aux participantes et participants d'explorer et de planifier avec la ressource créée par l'AÉCO pour l'intégration de l'apprentissage en éducation coopérative. Cette ressource vise à remplacer et à mettre à jour celle de 2004, conçue avant la mise en place du nouveau curriculum en éducation coopérative.</p> <p>Pendant l'atelier, les enseignantes et enseignants auront l'occasion de partager leurs pratiques réussies, de créer des liens entre les besoins de leurs élèves et les composantes scolaires du programme, et d'adapter la ressource tout en se familiarisant avec les activités proposées.</p> <p><i>Roman Nowak, Directeur général - français de l'AÉCO, CEC du Centre-Est (CECCE)</i></p>

<p>C2</p> <p>Bleu = tous</p> <p>Orange = exposant</p> <p>Bleu = tous</p>	<p>OGAPE : NOUVELLE INTERFACE UTILISATEUR</p> <p>Cet atelier portera sur la nouvelle interface utilisateur et ses nouvelles fonctions. La nouvelle interface utilisateur d'OGAPE est puissante et offre des solutions rentables. Notre application unique pour les programmes d'apprentissage par l'expérience inclut une fonction de signature électronique. Venez découvrir la nouvelle interface utilisateur et les récentes fonctionnalités!</p> <p><i>Jennifer Beaulieu-Bélanger, Coordonnatrice OGAPE/MTEL Coordinator, Le Centre franco</i></p>
<p>C3</p> <p>Blue = All</p>	<p>EMPOWERING PATHWAYS: CO-OP AND DUAL CREDIT</p> <p>In this presentation, we will explore how the Co-op course and the Dual Credit program equip students across all pathways—apprenticeship, college, university, and the workplace—with the skills, experience, and confidence needed to succeed in today's workforce. By integrating real-world learning with academic achievement, these programs provide students with hands-on experience, industry exposure, and a head start on postsecondary education. Educators will gain insight into how these pathways foster career readiness, support student engagement, and bridge the gap between classroom learning and future employment opportunities. Discover how collaborative education models can enhance outcomes and empower students for lifelong success.</p> <p><i>Jessica Muldoon, Co-op Teacher / Dual Credit Support Teacher, Ottawa Catholic School Board</i></p>
<p>C4</p> <p>Blue = All</p>	<p>INTEGRATING GEMINI: STREAMLINING WORKFLOW FOR CO-OP TEACHERS</p> <p>Join this workshop to discover how Gemini can become your personal assistant when teaching Co-op. Learning how to save yourself time creating employer/parent emails, forms/rubrics and in-class activities to engage your students. Stop drowning in paperwork and reclaim your time for student mentorship and support.</p> <p><i>Ali Meilach, Assistant Curriculum Leader, Experiential Learning, Toronto DSB</i></p>
<p>C5</p> <p>Blue = All</p> <p>Orange = Exhibitor</p>	<p>FROM EXPERIENCE TO EVIDENCE: HELPING STUDENTS CAPTURE AND APPLY THEIR SKILLS</p> <p>As students move through school and life, they develop valuable skills connected to their interests and future goals. Skills and competencies are the new currency in post-secondary education and employment, but students need support in recognizing, documenting, and applying what they've learned through experiential opportunities.</p> <p>This session will explore how myBlueprint can help students track their skill development and apply the Experiential Learning Cycle: Do, Reflect, Apply, to programs like OYAP, SHSM, and Co-op. Educators will discover tools to help students build a personal skills portfolio, boost self-awareness, and transition with confidence.</p> <p>We'll also highlight how myBlueprint's course selection tools can be used to promote Co-op and SHSM, helping students build long-term high school plans that integrate experiential learning. You provide students with valuable experiences; let's make sure they leave with the skills, confidence, and proof they need for their next steps.</p> <p><i>Brad Booker, Partner Success Manager, myBlueprint</i></p>
<p>C6</p> <p>Blue = All</p> <p>Orange = Exhibitor</p>	<p>"DEVELOP THE FUTURE" - CODING CO-OP</p> <p>Join us to learn about the "Develop the Future" program, an innovative virtual Co-op led by the Career Education Council (CEC) that empowers students to design, build, and share their own app ideas. This program blends creativity with technical skill, guiding students through the full cycle of app development - from brainstorming and prototyping to coding in "Swift" and presenting a final showcase. Along the way, students gain confidence with digital tools, problem solving, and collaboration, building skills that apply far beyond coding.</p> <p><i>Noah Carpenter, Program Manager and Ashley McCallum, Program Coordinator, Career Education Council</i></p>
<p>C7</p> <p>Blue = All</p> <p>Orange = Exhibitor</p>	<p>AI-POWERED PRACTICE TO REDUCE INTERVIEW ANXIETY AND MASTER ARTICULATION</p> <p>Are you unprepared for high-stakes interviews? 65% of students cite anxiety and lack of authentic practice as primary concerns. This workshop uses an AI-powered simulation platform, offering unlimited, on-demand practice in a realistic "Zoom-style" environment. Students report 87% higher interview confidence after just three practice sessions. Proprietary analytics deliver instant feedback on articulation, pace, decisiveness, sentiment, and filler words. Reduce anxiety, master articulation, and boost your Hire Chance Score.</p> <p><i>Martin Borowski, CEO/Founder, Resso.ai and Rory Mackenzie, Chief Experiential Learning Officer, Resso.ai</i></p>
<p>1:00 – 1:15pm 13h00 à 13h15</p>	<p>BREAK PAUSE</p>

1:15 – 2:15pm 13h15 à 14h15	SESSION D WORKSHOPS ATELIERS DE SESSION D
D1 Blue = tous	L'ÉDUCATION COOPÉRATIVE ET L'INTELLIGENCE ARTIFICIELLE : COMMENT PRÉPARER NOS ÉLÈVES, COMMENT LEUR DONNER UN AVANTAGE POUR L'AVENIR Cet atelier vise à explorer les possibilités qu'offre l'intelligence artificielle (IA) dans le cadre du programme d'éducation coopérative. L'IA fait désormais partie intégrante de notre quotidien et influence de nombreux domaines. Au cours de cet atelier, nous examinerons à la fois les aspects éthiques et pratiques de l'IA afin de soutenir le développement des compétences de nos élèves et de les aider à naviguer dans un monde en constante évolution. Découvrez des exemples concrets, explorez comment l'IA transforme divers secteurs, réfléchissez à son intégration dans votre enseignement et progressez dans votre développement professionnel sur un sujet d'actualité ayant un impact direct sur la vie des jeunes. <i>Roman Nowak, Directeur général - français de l'AÉCO, CEC du Centre-Est (CECCE)</i>
D2 Blue = All Orange = Exhibitor	HOUR REPUBLIC: TRACKING CO-OP FORMS, HOURS, AND PLACEMENT ACTIVITIES ONLINE Students and teachers are drowning in paperwork and require the tools and resources to be efficient. Hour Republic allows students and teachers to track and manage Co-op forms, learning plans, hours, and activities online with e-signatures and much more. <i>Popy Dimoulas-Graham, CEO/Founder, Hour Republic</i>
D3 Blue = All	DESIGNING FOR SUCCESS 2020 (OCEA RESOURCE) This resource document replaces the former "Designing for Success 2009", to incorporate the new policy and curriculum expectations presented in "The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 11 and 12: Cooperative Education, 2018". Principals, Cooperative Education and other Experiential Learning teachers and board level educators will find this resource useful as a guideline for their own programs. School boards will also find this resource document helpful when establishing policies and procedures for the ever-expanding forms of Experiential Learning being offered across Ontario. <i>Rebecca Gauthier, Cooperative Education Teacher, Rainbow DSB</i>
D4 Blue = All	THE SHSM TEACHER'S CRASH COURSE TO STAYING SANE There's a LOT to coordinate to make SHSM great – community partners, awesome programming, promotional campaigns – all while keeping numbers up and completion rates high. This planning session uses simple tools and resources collected from teachers across the province and makes SHSM fun again! <i>Joel Hilchey, CEO, Beanstalk Creative and Mark Philips, CSC Providence</i>
D5 Blue = All Orange = Exhibitor	CREATING AND DELIVERING CULTURALLY RELEVANT LEARNING WITH AI This interactive workshop shows educators how AI can be used to efficiently design, deliver, and assess culturally relevant learning pathways that engage students and build essential skills. Teachers will step into the learner's perspective by trying out a pathway themselves, experiencing how culturally responsive content can spark meaningful discussion, strengthen literacy and numeracy, and increase classroom participation. The session emphasizes practical strategies for reducing prep time, personalizing instruction, and making curriculum more inclusive—helping educators integrate AI into their practice with confidence and impact. <i>Randy Osei, CEO, TrainingGround.AI and Jellisa Westney, TrainingGround.AI</i>
D6 Blue = All	ONE HEALTH, ONE WELFARE: A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO HUMANE EDUCATION It is the philosophy of the Ontario SPCA and Humane Society that environmental health, human health, and animal health are intrinsically tied together. In this workshop, we will explore how a holistic approach to education which ties in adaptable accessibility, an orientation toward success, and a dedication to the use of real workplace tools, skills, and scenarios is informed by that guiding philosophy in our SHSM certificate workshops. <i>Milas Hewson, Ontario SPCA, Humane Education Coordinator</i>
D7 Green = NEWer to Co-op Blue = All	HOW TO SURVIVE AS A CO-OP TEACHER Are you new / newer to Co-op? Then join this workshop and let's discuss the "musts" for getting a successful Co-op program off the ground and share best practices. This session is led by an experienced Co-op teacher and is intended for new / newer Co-op teachers but experienced teachers looking to share advice are more than welcome to join! <i>Kevin Kokerus, Cooperative Education Teacher, Halton DSB</i>

2:15 – 2:30pm 14h15 à 14h30	BREAK PAUSE
2:30 – 3:30pm 14h30 à 15h30	SESSION E WORKSHOP ATELIER DE SESSION E
E1 Blue = All	TO BE ANNOUNCED! / À ANNONCER!
3:30 – 3:45pm 15h30 à 15h45	CLOSING REMARKS AND SYMPOSIUM WRAP-UP / REMARQUES FINALES ET CONCLUSION DU SYMPOSIUM

(The agenda is subject to change without notice. / L'ordre du jour peut changer sans préavis.)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

2026 OCEA SPRING CONFERENCE

April 26th, 27th & 28th, 2026

Celebrating 50 Years of Cooperative Education in Ontario!

April 1976 ~ April 2026

<https://oceca.on.ca/>

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CONFÉRENCE DU PRINTEMPS DE L'AÉCO 2026

Les 26, 27 et 28 avril 2026

Célébrer 50 ans d'éducation coopérative en Ontario!

Avril 1976 ~ Avril 2026

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