

Highlights of our 2025 OCEA Spring Conference



Pathways to Success

A huge thank you to all those that attended and participated in our recent **2025 OCEA Spring Conference: *Where tomorrow begins: Empowering future ready students***", which was held on April 27th-28th-29th, 2025 at the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel in Richmond Hill! This year's focus was providing information and resources for NEW(er) and experienced Co-op / OYAP / SHSM teachers and board level educators.

Overall, we had **247 delegates** - breakdown by attendance: Full Conference (Sunday, Monday and Tuesday) = 132, Monday only = 26, Sunday and Monday = 6, Sunday only = 1, Monday and Tuesday = 76, and Tuesday only = 6.

This year's conference offered **49** workshops, **2** keynotes (Sunday afternoon: **Lee Taal**, Founder/CEO, ChatterHigh Communications Inc. and Monday morning: **Daniel Lewis**, Speaker, Storyteller, Human Centric and Leadership Expert along with **3 sponsors** and **26 exhibitors**.

There were 2 plenary sessions (1 on Monday morning and 1 on Tuesday morning), 2 social networking sessions (Sunday and Monday evening) and the annual Monday evening OCEA Awards Banquet.

On Sunday evening there was an off-site outing (at an additional cost to attendees) at the Rouge River Brewing Company, with a meal and karaoke – feedback was amazing, and fun was had by all who attended!

Destination Markham provided 2 off-site tours on Monday afternoon. The first was the farm-to-table at Honey Hills Farms and Fresh Heads Farms to learn about the sustainable businesses and the Co-op opportunities offered. The second was a tour to visit various sports-related venues in Markham to learn more about the various facilities and the Co-op opportunities in the sports and recreation sector and the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel offered a "behind the scenes" hospitality tour of their facility.

A few workshop presenters have provided their presentations in PDF format for viewing or downloading and those presentations are available to current OCEA members in the [RESOURCES \(Members Only\)](#) area of our **website**. **PLEASE NOTE:** You must be signed into your online OCEA account and have an active / current OCEA membership to access the resources in the **RESOURCES (Members Only)** area.

THANK YOU / KUDOS TO ALL THE WORKSHOP PRESENTERS! Without our presenters there wouldn't be an event to plan for our teachers and board level educators!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2025 Virtual OCEA Fall Symposium
November 13th, 2025 - Online ~ via ZOOM
The planning has just begun!

2026 OCEA Spring Conference
Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel
600 Highway 7, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 1B2
April 26th, 27th, and 28th, 2026
OCEA's 50th Anniversary!
50 years of Cooperative Education in Ontario and it all began with OCEA!
You won't want to miss this conference!



Keep checking our website for further details!