

SPEAKERS' BIOS



CHRIS BUSCH

As a senior higher education leader, Chris has led a broad range of initiatives in the areas of strategic enrolment management, internationalization, career development, student engagement, and experiential learning. In his current role as Acting Associate Vice-President Enrolment at the University of Windsor's, he is responsible for orchestrating the institution's enrolment activities, including supporting marketing of academic programs, recruitment and admissions of students, and the financial levers that drive enrolment. He is recognized as a skilled implementer of change, who is frequently seconded into leadership positions to lead large-scale transformation initiatives. His scholarly and research pursuits center on how organizational culture influences internationalization, or the process of integrating an international, intercultural or global dimension into the purpose, function, or delivery of higher education. He is currently in the final stages of completing his doctorate at the University of Calgary, focusing on investigating current trends and issues within the post-secondary context that encompasses higher education. In addition to his doctoral studies, his academic background includes master's degrees in Science (MSc. Molecular Biology) and Business Administration (MBA), a Baccalaureate degree in Biology (BSc.), publications of scholarly works, and over eighteen years' experience in the post-secondary sector, including academic instruction, planning, program review, development, and renewal. Outside of the office, he is an avid sailor and CrossFit enthusiast.



RON SEGUIN

Ron Seguin has over 20 years' experience working at St. Clair College in the post-secondary higher education sector. In his current role as Vice President, International Relations, Campus Development and Students Services, he has direct responsibility for key College areas including: International Recruitment; Employment and Training Services (Continuing Education, Corporate and Professional Training, Industry Liaison Office, Career Services, St. Clair College Employment Centres); Student Services, Registrar and Financial Aid; and, Athletics and College Recreational Services. Ron leads a number of special initiatives at St. Clair College including Campus Beautification and the development of a first-rate Sports Park on campus. Ron is a member of a number of St. Clair College Committees including Senior Operations Group, Quality Assurance Panel and College Advisory Council. He is a past member of the St. Clair College Board of Governors. In addition, Ron is a member of provincial committees including Colleges Ontario Coordinating Committee of Vice Presidents Students (CCVPS). He also participates in many local initiatives such as The S' Aints Charity Holiday Concert raising funds to benefit those in need in the community. Prior to joining St. Clair College, Ron worked in the not-for-profit sector as an Associate Executive Director for an organization focused on improving youth employment. Ron remains passionate and continues championing for youth participation in education and employment.



SUTAMA GHOSH

Dr. Sutama Ghosh is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, at Ryerson University, Toronto. Trained in urban social geography, Dr. Ghosh examines the migration and settlement experiences of immigrant and refugee newcomers in the Canadian urban milieu. Using intersectionality and mixed research methods, Dr. Ghosh has authored several peer reviewed journal articles and book chapters exploring the interplay of structural, group and individual level factors that lead to various urban inequalities among immigrant families. Her most recent research project focuses on the challenges faced by international students from India to Canada.



PAUL DAVIDSON

Paul Davidson has played leadership roles in government, the private sector and the voluntary sector for over 25 years. He joined Universities Canada in May 2009 as President and CEO where he leads a dynamic team dedicated to advancing higher education, research and innovation for the benefit of Canadians. Mr. Davidson has been named both a “top lobbyist” in Ottawa and a “top foreign policy influencer”.

Prior to joining Universities Canada, Mr. Davidson was the executive director of World University Service of Canada (WUSC) a leading international development agency active on 70 campuses across Canada, and 17 countries overseas. Mr. Davidson also held senior positions in Canadian book publishing in the early 1990s, he led the Toronto office of a prominent government relations firm after having served as a political advisor to Ontario’s Leader of the Opposition, Treasurer and Deputy Premier.



VALERIE PRESTON

Valerie Preston is the Principal Investigator (PI) of the SSHRC partnership titled ‘Migration and Resilience in urban Canada’, also known as Building Migrant Resilience in Cities – Immigration et résilience en milieu urbain (BMRC-IRMU). She is a professor in the Department of Geography at York University where she teaches urban social geography. She has published extensively on issues related to migration and settlement in Canada. Collaborating with academics, researchers and community partners, Valerie leads the partnership’s research program and provides advice about knowledge mobilization. Through knowledge exchange between academic institutions, government and non-governmental organizations, her goals are to examine the factors affecting settlement outcomes, identify ways to enhance newcomers’ abilities and strategies for overcoming settlement challenges, and pilot strategies that facilitate the efforts of social institutions to promote migrant resilience.



**WESAM ABDELHAMID
MOHAMED**

Wesam is an international student from Egypt and is currently completing his Masters of Engineering Science in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Western University. Since October 2019, Wesam has been serving as the Vice-President Advocacy for the Society of Graduate Students, a graduate student-run organization representing over 6300 graduate students at Western. Wesam has pushed various projects forward at Western, including, Student- Supervisor Memorandum of Understanding and an Emergency Bursary Pilot Program. Moreover, he is an elected representative of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) National Executive as the International Students' Commissioner and the Deputy-Chairperson for the CFS-National Graduate Caucus. CFS is the largest student organization in Canada representing over 60 student unions across Canada.



THE ROLE OF POST SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS IN BUILDING INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RESILIENCE: THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF FORUMS EXAMINING NATION BUILDING

