

**2024 LEADERSHIP  
FORUM**

**TRAILBLAZING**

**IN HIGHER EDUCATION**



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
OISE | ONTARIO INSTITUTE  
FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION

## **2024 Leadership Forum: Trailblazing in Higher Education**

April 17, 2024 | 9 AM – 3 PM ET | Registration required: [tinyurl.com/OISE2024](https://tinyurl.com/OISE2024)

*This virtual conference is brought to you by the graduating cohort of students in the Master of Education, Higher Education Leadership program cohort 10 under the coordination of Dr. Katharine Janzen within the Department of Leadership, Higher & Adult Education at Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto.*

Join this virtual conference to be empowered and inspired by dynamic discussions about your place in the future of global higher education. Whether you are a new or seasoned higher education leader, a researcher or a student, this is an incredible opportunity for you to connect with a community of like-minded individuals, collaborate and engage in discussions on embracing digital transformation, sustainability and navigating internationalization and globalization.

The day will include keynote presentations, breakouts and a digital transformation panel. You'll experience the day with a community of adaptable leaders shaping the future of higher education in 2024 and beyond. Be part of the movement, learn, and grow.

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## **Conference Schedule**

*This conference is hosted by the graduating cohort of students in the Master of Education, Higher Education Leadership program cohort 10. Thank you to the Centre for the Study of Canadian International Higher Education (CIHE) for sponsorship of this conference and to Graphic Designer, Reza Ahmad at [rezdesigns.com](https://rezdesigns.com).*

<b>Virtual Zoom doors open</b>	8:45 – 9:00 AM
<p><b>Opening Remarks and Land Acknowledgement</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Katharine Janzen</b>, Associate Professor, Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education, OISE, UofT  <b>Dr. Ruth Childs</b>, Professor and Interim Chair, Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education, OISE, UofT</p>	9:00 – 9:15 AM
<p><b>Morning Keynote Speaker</b></p> <p><b>Mark Daley</b>  Chief AI Officer, Western University  Professor, Department of Computer Science, Western University  <b>“How will AI change education? Two ways, gradually, then suddenly.”</b></p>	9:15 – 10:15 AM
<b>Break</b>	10:15 – 10:30 AM
<p><b>Concurrent Breakout Sessions: Higher Ed Leaders</b></p> <p><b>Jessica Denenberg</b>  Associate Director, Student Services  School of Continuing Studies, York University  <b>“Fostering approaches to international strategic partnerships in higher education”</b></p> <p><b>Tim Fricker</b>  Assistant Dean, Student Wellness, Support &amp; Success  University of Toronto, Mississauga  <b>“The current state of academic advising in Canada”</b></p> <p><b>David Kim</b>  Warden, Hart House  University of Toronto  <b>“Considering diversity in student spaces”</b></p>	10:30 – 11:35 AM
<b>Lunch</b>	11:35 AM – 12:10 PM
<p><b>Afternoon Keynote Speaker</b></p> <p><b>Angelique Saweczko</b>  University Registrar, University of Toronto  <b>“International enrolment management in a shifting political landscape”</b></p>	12:15 – 1:15 PM
<b>Panel Discussion: Digital Transformation in Higher Ed</b>	1:15 – 2:40 PM

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Erin Aspenlieder</b>, Associate Director, Central Programming, McMaster University</li> <li>● <b>Nathalie Mejia</b>, Manager, Industry Portfolio Lead, Deloitte</li> <li>● <b>Naureen Nizam</b>, Associate Registrar and Director of Systems &amp; Operations, Office of the Registrar, University of Toronto Scarborough</li> <li>● <b>Sesha Srinivasan</b>, Associate Professor, School of Engineering Technology, McMaster University</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Katharine Janzen</b>, Associate Professor, Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education, OISE, UofT</p>	<p>2:40 – 2:50 PM</p>

## Keynote Speakers Biographies



**Mark J. Daley**  
Chief AI Officer | Western University  
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**Angelique Saweczko**  
Registrar | University of Toronto  
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**Mark Daley**

Chief AI Officer, Western University

***“How will AI change education? Two ways, gradually, then suddenly.”***

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mjdaley/>

Mark Daley is the Chief AI Officer at Western University and a professor in the Department of Computer Science with cross-appointments in five other departments, The Rotman Institute of Philosophy, and The Western Institute for Neuroscience. He is also a faculty affiliate of Toronto's Vector Institute for Artificial Intelligence. Mark has previously served as the Vice-President (Research) at the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research(CIFAR), and Chief Digital Information Officer, Special Advisor to the President, and Associate Vice-President (Research) at Western. Mark is the past chair of Compute Ontario and serves on a number of other boards.



**Angelique Saweczko**

University Registrar, University of Toronto

***“International enrolment management in a shifting political landscape”***

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/angelique-s-7a6a7715/>

Angelique Saweczko brings over two decades of registrarial and enrolment management experience to the University, having served at York University, the University of Regina, Thompson Rivers University and the University of Calgary, where she was most recently the University Registrar. She has extensive expertise in student recruitment, strategic enrolment management, financial aid and awards, records and registration, student accounts, convocation, student systems and scheduling, academic policies and curriculum governance.

Known for her capacity to combine and leverage her skills in strategic planning with a collaborative and student-centric approach, Angelique establishes a culture of collaboration and support within the Registrar's Office with a focus on improving staff retention, and enhancing awareness of registrarial

functions across the institution. She is known for developing transparent and sustainable enrollment models, improving relationships with faculties, and upgrading service delivery through technological and procedural enhancements.

Angelique contributes to the registrarial community through her involvement in various national and international registrarial organizations including ARUCC, AACRAO and the AAU. She is also currently the Ontario University Representative in the ARUCC Board.

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## **Breakout Session Speaker Biographies**

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# BREAKOUT SPEAKER PANEL



**Jessica Denenberg**  
Associate Director  
YORK UNIVERSITY



**Tim Fricker**  
Student Affairs Leader and  
Former Dean of Students  
CONESTOGA COLLEGE



**David Kim**  
Warden of Hart House  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



## **Jessica Denenberg**

Associate Director, Student Services  
School of Continuing Studies, York University

***“Fostering approaches to international strategic partnerships in higher education”***

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jessicadenenberg/>

Jessica has been working in the field of international higher education for more than 17 years. In March 2023, she joined the York University School of Continuing Studies as Associate Director, Student Services.

In this role, she leads the Student Services team, working to build and offer a wide range of career advising and program services that contribute to a rich and meaningful student experience. Prior to joining the School of Continuing Studies, Jessica held Manager and Director-level roles in Student Services and International Relations at the University of Waterloo, the University of Toronto, the Rotman School of Management, and in the Office of the Vice-President Research & Innovation (OVPRI) and York International at York University.

From 2007-2013, Jessica worked for the German Academic Exchange Service (known commonly by its German acronym, DAAD), a German national organization responsible for the promotion and funding of internationalization and partnerships in research and higher education.

Jessica holds a PhD in Higher Education from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at the University of Toronto, a Master’s in Political Science from York University, and a bilingual specialized honours Bachelor’s degree from Glendon College, York University.



**Tim Fricker**

Assistant Dean, Student Wellness, Support & Success  
University of Toronto, Mississauga

***“The current state of academic advising in Canada”***

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/timfricker/>

Tim Fricker is currently the Assistant Dean, Student Wellness, Support & Success at the University of Toronto Mississauga. Tim guides and supports UTM’s Accessibility Services, Health & Counselling Centre, and Department of Recreation, Athletics & Wellness, while sharing responsibilities for the broader UTM Student Affairs & Services portfolio. Previously Tim worked at Conestoga College and Mohawk College as the Dean of Students.

For over two decades, Tim has worked within many areas of post-secondary education, including colleges, universities, professional associations, and the private sector. Tim’s career started in student housing and residence life, then moved into leading campus-wide advising, student success and retention initiatives, and has continued into broad student affairs executive roles. Tim has a PhD from OISE in Higher Education and has led a variety of student success research initiatives, including launching Canada’s only research centre focused primarily on student success.

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**David Kim**

Warden, Hart House  
University of Toronto

***“Considering diversity in student spaces”***

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/david-kim-ph-d-030b9163/>

Dave Kim is a lecturer at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education in the Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education where he also coordinates a student internship program. Dave holds the position of Warden for Hart House at the University of Toronto and has been part of the Uof T community for the past 17 years where he has previously worked as Dean of Residence & Director of Student Life with Spaces & Experiences, among other positions. Dave has had a long commitment to equity work through his time as a graduate student (his doctoral thesis was focused on the experience of first-generation students), previous chair of the Positive Space Committee on the St. George campus, and co-chair of the staff working group of the Anti-Asian Racism Working Group. Inspired by his first-generation roots, he is a committed mentor at the University and dedicates his time to work that is focused on equity, access and outreach.

# Digital Transformation Panel Speaker Biographies

## DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION PANEL



**Erin Aspenlieder**  
Associate Director  
McMASTER UNIVERSITY



**Nathalie Mejia**  
Manager  
DELOITTE



**Naureen Nizam**  
Associate Registrar and  
Director of Systems & Operations  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO SCARBOROUGH



**Sesa Srinivasan**  
Associate Professor  
McMASTER UNIVERSITY



### **Erin Aspenlieder**

Associate Director, Central Programming  
McMaster University

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/erin-aspenlieder-5687b424/>

Dr. Erin Aspenlieder is the Special Advisor to the Provost on Generative AI at McMaster University and in this role advises on the opportunities and risks of artificial intelligence across research, teaching and operational excellence. She coordinated McMaster's institutional Task Force on Generative AI in Teaching and Learning and led the implementation and resource development for

McMaster's Provisional Guidelines on the Use Of Generative AI in Teaching and Learning. Prior to this role Erin served as Associate Director in the Paul R. MacPherson Institute for Leadership, Innovation and Excellence in Teaching. She holds a PhD in English and Cultural Studies and continues to enjoy reading just for fun.



### **Naureen Nizam**

Associate Registrar and Director of Systems & Operations  
Office of the Registrar, University of Toronto Scarborough

LinkedIn: <https://ca.linkedin.com/in/naureen-nizam-phd-7643011>

At the University of Toronto Scarborough, Naureen oversees a diverse portfolio that includes student records and convocation, course and exam scheduling, as well as data analytics and business intelligence. She holds a PhD in Computer Science from Dalhousie University and is teaching at the Department of Computer and

Mathematical Sciences at University of Toronto Scarborough as a Sessional Lecturer. She serves on



various academic and research committees and is the recipient of the 2016 Principle's Emerging Leader Award.

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**Sesa Srinivasan**

Associate Professor, School of Engineering Technology  
McMaster University

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/seshasai-srinivasan-a512094b>

Dr. Seshasai Srinivasan has a PhD in Computational Science and Engineering from Michigan Technological University, USA. He is currently an Associate Professor at McMaster University's Faculty of Engineering and is the chair of the Software Engineering Technology program at the W Booth School of Engineering Practice and Technology. Prior to this, he has held a Research Scientist and a part-time instructor position at the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering of Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly known as Ryerson University), a postdoctoral position at the Laboratory of Food Process Engineering of Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH-Zurich) in Switzerland and a Research Associate position at the Engine Research Center of the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Dr. Srinivasan is co-director of BIOx Research Lab at McMaster, and has a very diversified research portfolio. His technical research is in the areas of applied mathematics, biotechnology, fluid dynamics, and heat transfer across a variety of applications. He has an h-index of 23 and has published over 100 peer-reviewed articles and two books. He has attracted over \$3M in research funding in the last five years and actively engages with the industry and community partners to help them resolve key research issues, with a goal of commercialization.

As an educator, his focus is on delivering top quality curriculum with a high degree of flexibility for improved accessibility, all the while balancing rigorous training for competencies with student wellness. For this, he has been working to dissolve geographic barriers by moving the Software program to a fully virtual program. He leverages technology to enable students to learn at the time and place of their choice, and delivers the curriculum content using modern pedagogies to maximize student learning while minimizing student wellness issues.



**Nathalie Mejia**

Manager, Industry Portfolio Lead  
Deloitte

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/nathalie-mejia-8302b663/>

With more than 13 years of experience, Nathalie has dedicated herself to understanding, strategizing and innovating higher education and public sector. She is known for making the complex simple, being naturally curious, and strategizing her way through

problems. She is radically people-centric and has spent her career focused on reimagining how organizations put their users at the center of change for the better.

She brings authentic creativity to building relationships, she focuses on building a collaborative environment that fosters curiosity and empowerment for her clients and teams. This has allowed her to successfully deliver complex, strategic projects even within siloed organizations. Her work with key educational partners in Canada, the US, Mexico, the UK, and Asia brings an international lens to her research analysis and insights to understand how strategic initiatives and transformations are aligned with broader market trends.