

## LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS



**TJ Bliss** is a Program Officer in Education at the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation in Menlo Park, California. He oversees grant making to expand the reach and efficacy of Open Educational Resources. Before joining the foundation, TJ was the director of assessment and accountability at the State Department of Education in Idaho. In this role, he served as the delegate for the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to the Smarter Balanced Assessment

Consortium, a group of states working together to develop a next-generation assessment system to measure student achievement of deeper learning skills. Previously, he was a member of the Open Education Group, a research team focused on understanding the impacts of OER at all educational levels. He was also an OER Policy Fellow at the International Association for K-12 Online Learning, where he conducted research on state education policies friendly to OER. TJ has a master's degree in biology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a Ph.D. in educational inquiry, measurement and evaluation from Brigham Young University. He lives in San Jose with his wife and four children. Contact: [tjbliss@hewlett.org](mailto:tjbliss@hewlett.org)



Former English teacher, financial analyst and businessman, **Michael Canuel** is the Chief Executive Officer of the Leading English Education and Resource Network (LEARN), a non-profit organization that primarily serves the public and private Anglophone, and Aboriginal, Youth and Adult Education sectors of Quebec. After having taught at the high school level for 12 years, he left to take on the challenges of the business world where he remained for over 20 years until his "retirement" in the spring of 2005. The retirement lasted one week before he took on the responsibilities of bringing together three strong and dynamic organizations to help

create what LEARN is today. Contact: [mcanuel@learnquebec.ca](mailto:mcanuel@learnquebec.ca)



**Dr. Beatriz de los Arcos** is a Research Associate in the Institute of Educational Technology at The Open University, UK and Academic Lead for the Global OER Graduate Network. She has worked on a range of open education research projects, including the OER Research Hub where she led the project's work on the impact of OER use on teaching and learning in K-12. Her work has been recognized with an Open Courseware Consortium ACE Award for Research Excellence (2014) and The Open University Engaging Research Award (2015). Contact: [b.de-los-arcos@open.ac.uk](mailto:b.de-los-arcos@open.ac.uk)



**Bill Fitzgerald** is a privacy advocate and technologist at Common Sense Media, a leading independent non-profit organization dedicated to helping kids thrive in a world of media and technology. Prior to joining Common Sense, Bill started and ran FunnyMonkey, an open source development shop focused on education, open educational resources, and peer based learning. Prior to that, he worked as a classroom teacher for 16 years. At Common Sense, Bill directs the Privacy Evaluation Initiative, a program designed to evaluate privacy policies and practices of vendors building educational technology in the United States. Bill is a firm believer in improving our educational system through an increased focus on learner

agency, and this is the lens through which he views student data privacy. Contact: [bill@funnymonkey.com](mailto:bill@funnymonkey.com)



**Bronwyn Hegarty** is a Principal Lecturer in Tertiary Teacher Education at [Otago Polytechnic](#), Dunedin, New Zealand. She teaches a Graduate Diploma in Tertiary Education using blended open educational methods, both online and on-campus, encouraging teachers to use and create OER and engage in Open Educational Practices. Bronwyn also facilitates experienced teachers in developing ePortfolios so they can gain a teaching qualification through an Assessing Prior Learning (APL) pathway. She is also an academic mentor for professionals undertaking a Masters of Professional Practice. For her Doctorate in Education research, Bronwyn designed an intervention now known as the [Three-Step Reflective Framework](#) to support professional learning and reflective practice through reflective writing. She uses this framework to guide teachers to develop their reflective capability. Her professional interests alongside Open Educational Practices and reflective writing for professional practice, include educational technology for learning and teaching, social networked media and mobile devices for flexible learning and teaching. She also promotes educational design that develops capability in digital information literacy. Contact: [bronwyn.hegarty@gmail.com](mailto:bronwyn.hegarty@gmail.com)



**Royce Kimmons** is an Assistant Professor of Instructional Psychology & Technology at Brigham Young University where he studies technology integration, open education, and social media. As a researcher, Dr. Kimmons has published over 50 scholarly manuscripts in various journals and books and has received the Outstanding Research Paper Award from AACE, multiple Best Conference Proposal Awards from AECT, and the Annual Achievement Award from AECT. He received his PhD from The University of Texas at Austin and has worked as a post-doctoral research affiliate at The University of Texas and as a faculty member and director at the University of Idaho. Contact: [roycekimmons@gmail.com](mailto:roycekimmons@gmail.com)



**Dr. Randy LaBonte** has been a senior level executive for over 30 years in the education sector, and works and teaches online in the K-12, post-secondary, and corporate training sectors. His doctoral research led him to take on the role of lead consultant and researcher for seven years at the British Columbia Ministry of Education and he was a member of a team that researched distance education for the Alberta government. He was a central figure in development of policy, agreements, and e-learning standards as well as led the design and implementation the Quality Review process for BC online K-12 schools. He presently teaches online courses for Vancouver Island University and recently took on the role of Chief Executive Officer for the Canadian eLearning Network (<http://canelearn.net>) while continuing his other contract work and studies. Contact: [rlabonte@canelearn.net](mailto:rlabonte@canelearn.net)



**Prof. Rory McGreal** is the UNESCO/Commonwealth of Learning/International Council for Open and Distance Education Chair in Open Educational Resources (OER); and Director of the Technology Enhanced Knowledge Research Institute (TEKRI) at Athabasca University. He is also co-Editor of IRRODL (International Review of Research in Open and Distributed Learning). He is the founder of the OER Knowledge Cloud, a repository of research articles on OER. Previous positions include Associate VP Research, Executive Director of TeleEducation New Brunswick, a Canadian province-wide elearning network and Supervisor at Contact North/Contact Nord in Ontario. He is also the recipient of several national and international awards for open and distance learning. Contact: [rory@athabascau.ca](mailto:rory@athabascau.ca)



**Dr. David Porter** is the CEO of eCampusOntario. David was formerly Associate VP Educational Support and Innovation at the British Columbia Institute of Technology. In that role, he provided management and direction in support of academic planning, teaching and learning excellence, library services, and other educational practice initiatives at BCIT. Previously, David was the project manager for Simon Fraser University's Task Force on Flexible Education. The Task Force was established by the Vice-President, Academic to review SFU's teaching and learning environment in order to identify future needs, define short- and longer-term institutional priorities, and develop a strategic plan for implementing and supporting flexible education at SFU. For 11 years, David was the Executive Director of BCcampus in British Columbia, Canada. During his term at BCcampus, David led a team that brought many innovative initiatives into the BC post-secondary sector including shared instructional technology services, a networked approach to student services across BC institutions, and Canada's first government funded open textbook program for students and instructors. He is also an adjunct faculty member in the Master of Educational Technology (MET) program at the University of British Columbia, and serves as the Chair of the Advisory Council for the School of Education and Technology at Royal Roads University. Contact: [davidp@ecampusontario.ca](mailto:davidp@ecampusontario.ca)



**James Swanson** is a lawyer with decades of practical experience in legal issues related to technology, intellectual property, new media and entertainment law. James is also a member of the academic faculty of Athabasca University in its MBA program (Business Law) and he has written and presented on topics related to his areas of expertise across Canada and in the United States. James is listed in the *Canadian Legal Expert Directory* under Computer & IT Law, and he has also been listed in *The Best Lawyers in Canada* under Technology Law continuously since 2006. Recently, he has been selected by his peers as *The Best Lawyers in Canada* Technology Law "Lawyer of the Year" for Calgary, 2017. Contact: [jswanson@millerthomson.com](mailto:jswanson@millerthomson.com)



**Sarah Weston** has worked in secondary education for 18 years, as a teacher, administrator, and curriculum designer. She is a graduate of Brigham Young University, holding a BA in Mathematics Education and earned her MEd from Western Governors University. She has built 21 semester courses using Open Educational Resources (OER) and currently oversees all course development and teacher training on building with OER. Sarah was awarded Utah Charter Educator of the Year in 2010; the first online educator to receive the award. Mountain Heights Academy was also privileged to be awarded 2011, 2013, and 2014 Best of State in Curriculum Development. In 2015, Mountain Heights won Open Education Excellence Award for Outstanding Site and Outstanding Courses. Contact: [sweston@mountainheightsacademy.org](mailto:sweston@mountainheightsacademy.org)

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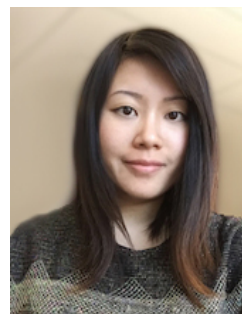
**Connie Blomgren** is an Assistant Professor in the Centre for Distance Education, Athabasca University. As the project lead for the Blended and Online Learning and Teaching (BOLT) initiative, she oversaw the redesign of graduate courses into one-credit professional learning modules for K12 teachers. Through this process, the need for current content regarding a deeper understanding of Open Educational Resources became evident and coincided with ABOER project funding. The podcasts and videos created contribute to the current landscape of K12 OER awareness and provide opportunity for the thoughtful development of OER teaching and learning practices within Alberta and beyond. Contact: [connieb@athabascau.ca](mailto:connieb@athabascau.ca) and @DocBlom.



**Verena Roberts** is a passionate online and blended k-12 educator, consultant, Michigan Virtual Research Institute Fellow, Werkland School of Education (University of Calgary) doctoral student who is completing her EdD in Learning Sciences and currently a Technology for Learning Specialist with Rocky View Schools. Her passion is K-12 Open Learning. Verena has taught and designed online courses and consulted about curriculum and technology integration from pre-K to Higher Education in Canada and the United States. She has consulted facilitated and developed a wide range of open networked learning projects with a focus on open educational resources, emerging blended learning opportunities and personalized professional learning pathways for teachers with Mozilla, CANeLearn, ERLC and iNACOL. She is the 2013 iNACOL Innovative Online and Blended Learning Practice Award Recipient. Contact: [verenanz@gmail.com](mailto:verenanz@gmail.com) and @verenanz



**Dan Wilton** is a developer, designer, and research assistant at the Centre for Distance Education, Athabasca University. Through a number of collaborative projects at the CDE, he has developed repositories for lesson plans and other open educational resources for inclusive education ([inclusivetoolbox.org](http://inclusivetoolbox.org), with Aspen View Schools) and technology-enabled learning ([telresources.org](http://telresources.org), with the Commonwealth of Learning), as well as an online map of global activity around open educational resources ([emundusatlas.org](http://emundusatlas.org), with the eMundus Consortium). He is also involved with the design, delivery, and learning analytics research for massive open online courses at Athabasca University.



**Levina (Connie) Yuen** is the Instructional Media & Technology Developer at the Centre for Distance Education (Athabasca University) and a doctoral student who is completing her PhD research in Technology in Education, Educational Psychology (University of Alberta). She has worked on numerous collaborative projects involving online and blended learning, web usability and instructional design (adult learning), and video game & multimedia design for educators. Her recent work includes integrating open educational resources for the ABOER Project as well as designing video games & virtual reality interventions for students with learning barriers. Moreover, Levina has led numerous professional development training for educational technologies, including the development of the Lego robotics & game design program for makerspaces (schools and libraries), as well as designing post-secondary courses for education, computing sciences, library information studies, and health sciences education.



**Gloria Richardson** is an Ontario Certified Teacher in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Gloria completed her Master of Education in Distance Education and Adult Education with Athabasca University in June, 2016, and continues to assist with various distance learning projects. She also holds a Law Clerk Diploma, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science/Pre-Law, and after an 18-year career practicing as a law clerk in the areas of criminal and civil litigation, she obtained a Bachelor of Education degree. In addition to managing or assisting in various research projects and facilitating various MOOCs through Athabasca University, she is currently sessional faculty at Confederation College in Thunder Bay, Ontario, where she has taught Communications in their Academic Upgrading program, as well as various post-secondary courses. Gloria is passionate about making education accessible to all learners, no matter their socio-economic or geographical status. Contact: [gjrichardson@shaw.ca](mailto:gjrichardson@shaw.ca)



**Carrie Anton** is a gold medalist from the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Summer Games in the sport of Goalball and an Edmonton Sports Hall of Fame inductee for accomplishment in sport. She continually promotes equity as a coach, a volunteer, and an athlete in a variety of sports. Recreationally, she is involved in goalball, blind ice hockey, tennis, soccer, tandem cycling, Dragon boating, skiing and more. She enjoys her role in the community on various boards such as the Edmonton Sport Council and the Alberta Sports & Recreation Association for the Blind. Professionally, Carrie has over 25 years' experience as an assistive technology and accessibility specialist. She has been with Athabasca University since December 2007. Her passion lies in ensuring accessibility and she works on projects that advance and enhance quality experiences for people with disabilities in employment, education, sport and life. As an internationally published co-researcher she has contributed to the assistive technology industry around the iPad as a mobile learning tool for post-secondary students with disabilities (study is [published in the CSUN Journal of Technology](#)). As well her research has created a distance delivery method to borrow apps for learning, to students and devices anywhere. Contact: [AT@athabascau.ca](mailto:AT@athabascau.ca)



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