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Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is an honour and pleasure to welcome you to the 2020 CIRPA Conference – our first virtual conference! I would like to acknowledge that I am joining the conference from UBC’s Okanagan campus, which is situated on the unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan Nation and their peoples, and that our Vancouver campus is situated on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the Musqueam people. I would also like to acknowledge that you will be joining us from many places, near and far, and acknowledge the traditional owners and caretakers of those lands.

The theme of this year’s meeting is “Sea to Sky: The Expansive Landscape of IRP,” which seems very appropriate given how it characterizes the current complexity of the post-secondary landscape in Canada due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Containing the spread of this virus has significantly altered the learning environment, the way we work, and the way we come together to network and learn from each other. This new landscape has spurred institutional researchers to “think differently,” as many of us have been involved in planning scenarios where there are more unknowns than knowns. In doing so, we have been able to highlight how institutional researchers and planners can play a critical role in supporting decision making during uncertain times, and in helping to shape the future design of post-secondary education in Canada.

Although we will not be able to see each other in a face-to-face environment this year, we have planned a diverse and exciting online program. The virtual three-day CIRPA 2020 conference features two keynote speakers, nineteen concurrent sessions, and multiple networking opportunities. Heather Krause, PStat, will provide our opening keynote, bringing over ten years of experience as a data scientist whose work addresses the most critical societal questions. Dr. Tom Roemer, Vice-President Academic at BCIT, will close our conference with a thought-provoking discussion about how the pandemic has accelerated and aggravated generational differences and their effects on the Canadian workforce.

In between sessions, please stick around in the virtual lounge, where you will have a chance to connect with peers (and beat them in the interactive games)!

I am also delighted to welcome our sponsors to the virtual venue. They have enthusiastically supported CIRPA’s move to an online meeting and we are so appreciative. Please make sure to explore your virtual conference bag, if you have not already, and connect with our sponsors throughout the conference and afterwards.

We are very grateful for the conference planning work done by Dorys Crespin-Mueller (Thompson Rivers University) and her team of volunteers who have organized this online event. They were able to adjust quickly from in-person to virtual, and have put together an exciting program in the new environment. Thank you all for your hard work, your creativity, and resourceful contributions! I also want to acknowledge the earlier efforts of Zareen Naqvi (Simon Fraser University) and her local arrangements committee members for their preparations when we initially planned to have the conference in Vancouver.

The year 2020 has been a challenging one for many of us, personally and professionally. We look forward to connecting with you virtually, and hope that you enjoy the conference program and this opportunity to come together to learn and support each other.

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### Conference at a Glance

**Monday, October 26**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Presenter(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:45 A.M. (PDT)</td>
<td>President's Welcome</td>
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<td>9:10 A.M. (PDT)</td>
<td>Opening Keynote</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Break</td>
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<thead>
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<tr>
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<td>CIRPA-ACPRI AGM</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Jeleana Dukic, Jeffrey Daniel, &amp; Abhinandan Raghuvanshi</td>
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<th>Session</th>
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<td>Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Data Ecosystems at Canadian Universities, a Systematic Review</td>
<td>Meghan Wagstaff</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Quantifying Our Crystal Ball: COVID-19 Environmental Scanning Signposts as Domestic Student Enrollment Forecast Scenarios</td>
<td>Ash Cullen</td>
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<td>10:55 A.M. (PDT)</td>
<td>Closing Keynote</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45 A.M. (PDT)</td>
<td>Closing Message and Outstanding Service Award</td>
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### Time Zones

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Sea to Sky: the expansive landscape of IRP • CIRPA 2020 | 6
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*None of his awards were for hosting social games.
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PRO TIPS:
/ Allow the app to adjust to your own time zone when you first login.
/ Allow push notifications to stay up-to-date with announcements.
/ Login to the app using whichever device you want to use for one-click access to the Zoom sessions — your desktop/laptop through any web browser or your tablet/phone through the app download. Or login using multiple devices to multi-task by watching Zoom on one while posting to the activity feed on the other!
How to Use Data Like You Give a Damn

Very few people build data products because they want to promote racist or sexist ideas. However, it’s very easy to accidentally fall into these traps, particularly when there’s so much talk about the objectivity of evidence. It’s really easy to make mistakes when using data. A working understanding of how to incorporate ethics and equity into data products is essential for anyone conducting data analysis or making decisions based on data analysis. This talk provides you with several shocking real-world examples and a seven-step framework for identifying inequity and hidden bias in the data product lifecycle. As interest in ethics in data grows, this remains one of the few actionable frameworks for making equitable change in the way you use data as a team. It has been successfully implemented to improve ethics within data, algorithms, dashboards and more at Mastercard, Oxfam, the UN, the Margaret Cargill Foundation, Borealis, and several national governments.

Heather Krause, PStat is a data scientist with over a decade of experience building tools that improve practices and systems. Heather is a statistician with years of experience working on complex data problems and producing real-world knowledge. She has a strong love of finding data, analyzing it in creative ways and using cutting edge visualization methods to visualize the results. Her emphasis is on combining strong statistical analysis with clear and meaningful communication. She is currently working on implementing tools for equity and ethics in data. As the founder of two successful data science companies, she attacks the largest questions facing societies today, working with both civic and corporate organizations to improve outcomes and lives. Her relentless pursuit of clarity and realism in these projects pushed her beyond pure analysis to mastering the entire data ecosystem including award-winning work in data sourcing, modeling, and data storytelling, each incorporating bleeding edge theory and technologies.

Her work proves that data narratives can be meaningful to any audience from a boardroom to the front page. Heather is the founder of We All Count, a project for equity in data working with teams across the globe to embed a lens of ethics into their data products from funding to data collection to statistical analysis and algorithmic accountability. Her unique set of tools and contributions have been sought across a range of clients from MasterCard and Wells Fargo to the United Nations, the Canadian Government, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. She is on the Data Advisory Board of the UNHCR.
From Pandemic to Anemic: How Serious Are We to Change Our Ways?

Contrary to common belief, the current pandemic has not brought forward radically new behaviours and values; instead, it accelerates and aggravates existing trends. These trends are established by the generations of Millennials and Gen-Z; to be incorporated or opposed by Boomers and Gen-X.

Tom Roemer will take a look at generational differences and their effects on the Canadian workforce and post-secondary education.

BIOGRAPHY

Tom was born and raised in Munich, Bavaria, Germany. After some time as a logistics specialist with the Air Force in Portugal, he attended the University of Munich and later emigrated to Canada.

Initially, Tom built production control systems and database solutions for industry, when he received a call from Okanagan College to design an engineering technology program around the emerging Internet. Having chaired the program for a few years, he moved into management and never managed to find his way out of the post-secondary world again. After a few years as Dean of Trades and Vice-President Strategic Development at Victoria’s Camosun College, he moved to BCIT in early 2016. As Vice-President Academic, he is responsible for the educational, international, indigenous and applied research portfolio of the Institute. This comprises about 2500 people and the lion’s share of BCIT’s $320 million budget. His passions lie with interdisciplinary initiatives, experiential learning and interculturization.

Tom holds a Master’s degree in astrophysics, a doctorate in Educational Leadership from Simon Fraser University, and various professional certificates from the University of California at Berkeley.

He has adjunct status with SFU’s Faculty of Education, and specializes in technical-vocational education frameworks.

Tom lives in both Vancouver and Victoria. In his ever-diminishing spare time he loves to go hiking with his dog Fiasco, or travel the world with his wife Karen.
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IR OPERATIONS

This topic area focuses on the day-to-day work and management of Institutional Research & Planning, including the types of functions and activities we engage in, as well as the changes and evolution of those functions. This topic area also includes presentations of IRP work conducted to support institutional decision making. Proposals may focus on methodology, data sources, analytics, or results that inform decision making.

- What are you working on in your day-to-day?
- How are your offices changing as a result of external changes such as new reporting or compliance requirements (e.g. SMA3 in Ontario)?
- What new themes are you observing in terms of internal inquiries?

RESEARCH METHODS

This topic area includes presentations that are scholarly, theoretical, and/or focused on broad understandings of higher education issues or research/analytical methods. Emphasis should be on tools, methods or data sources, rather than individual institution decisions.

- What methodological approaches are you using to conduct your daily business?
- What's working? What's not?
- What are some of the methods you've adopted to get a fresh take on some of your projects?

TOOLS & TECHNOLOGY

This topic area includes tools and technologies used in conducting and disseminating the work of Institutional Research & Planning.

- Share your innovative approaches to using tools and technologies, such as PowerBI, Tableau, or others.
- How are you integrating various data sources to tell different stories (application data, SIS data, economic data, etc.)?
- How are you developing your own in-house technological solutions to meet some of your own institution's unique requirements?
- How are you creating accompanying governance and processes for using these tools, developing with them, and maintaining data reliability and validity?

LEADERSHIP, PARTNERSHIPS AND PLANNING

This topic area includes presentations of IRP practices in leading, supporting and/or informing institutional planning efforts, as well as the development of partnerships across the organization to support and inform decision making. Leadership development within the Institutional Research & Planning unit is also included in this topic area.

- How are you building out collaborative research? In what areas?
- Tell us about some of your cross-institutional work. With whom are you partnering?
- How are you trying to launch and lead new projects within your own institution?
- What kinds of skills are you hiring for? What types of professional development are needed to advance your professional practice?
- How have you been planning for the impact of the COVID pandemic?
10:30 AM TO 11:05 AM (PDT)

Using Item Response Theory (IRT) and the Mantel Differential Item Functioning (DIF) Statistic to Examine Bias in Student Evaluations of Teaching Responses ⚫⚫⚫

We will introduce IRT and the Mantel DIF statistic and then present a case study of how we used it to assess for statistically significant differences in student evaluations of teaching responses, comparing student gender, instructor gender, and field of study. This case study provides methodological and practical contributions by highlighting how to use a well-known and robust statistical tool for examining bias, and how it could be used for other types of analyses within the realm of Institutional Research and higher education.

Camilo Peña-Moreno, University of British Columbia
Jodie Foster, University of British Columbia

Making Your Way in the World Today: Pathways to and Through University ⚫⚫

Longitudinal studies indicate that post-secondary education is strongly related to students’ future well-being, including economic and health outcomes (Ballingall, 2015; Fonseca & Zheng, 2011). To better understand students’ academic trajectories, we have merged student records from the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) and York University (11,417 students). Based on a recent study that examined access, participation, and graduation rates, results indicated that ‘how students arrive to university has a significant relationship to their academic success. For this presentation, we will discuss findings across students' socio-demographic as well as elementary and secondary school program characteristics.

Gillian Parekh, York University
Carl James, York University
Robert S. Brown, York University

The Expanding Landscape of Program Development: The Tools, Technologies, and the Mental Processes Needed in Turbulent Times ⚫

Developing the right programs that meet community needs is one of the best ways to ensure long term institutional growth and success. In an age where the labour market is shifting faster than ever, NorQuest College developed a long-term program plan and a robust program development process to sustainably grow credit programming. To do this, NorQuest adapted business prototype methodologies and used smart technologies, including labour market research software, which helped efficiency and confidence early in the development process. In the past 3 years, NorQuest has led 24 proposed programs through this process and received formal government approval for 15 credit programs.

Levi Wintz, Emsi

11:30 AM TO 12:05 PM (PDT)

Academic Program Viability: A Comprehensive Model for Teaching-Focused Undergraduate Institutions ⚫⚫⚫

On both sides of our shared border, and especially so in the post-pandemic-reality, it has become vital than ever before to prioritize the resourcing of academic offerings. For small teaching institutions with limited budgets, developing a methodology to fairly evaluate the viability of academic programs is a paradox in that it is necessary to control costs and it is costly to do so by engaging consultants and vendors. A standardized, uniform, and data-informed model built internally with broad based input and coordinated by Institutional Research & Planning professionals can be the solution.

Dr. Esam Sohail Mohammad, Butler Community College, Kansas, USA

Creating and Sustaining a Data Governance Culture at Durham College ⚫⚫

In June 2020, Durham College adopted its first Student Data Governance policy and procedure. This significant milestone was the result of the work of a dedicated cross-college working group, led by Institutional Research and Strategic Enrolment Services, that set out to establish a policy in 2015. In this session, you will learn about the Durham College journey: what prompted the initiative, how the working group educated itself, how the membership of the team evolved, how its scope was defined and redefined, and ultimately the shape and direction of the final policy and procedure.

Keith Bent, Durham College
Debbie McKee Demczyk, Durham College
Scenario Planning in the Age of Pandemic

An abrupt and disruptive uncertainty of post-COVID-19 world has promoted the use of scenario planning as a planning and learning tool for post-secondary institutions to navigate through uncertainty of the future. At TRU, scenarios were not only used as a tool to communicate external and internal trends to TRU leadership, but to bridge a discussion between the most recent visioning exercise and transition toward the development of TRU’s first integrated plan. This session will include a review of how TRU utilized the scenario planning tool during the pandemic, how it falls into a bigger picture of strategic and integrated planning, and impact on institutional culture of data and planning.

Jan O’Brien, Thompson Rivers University
Dana Prymak, Thompson Rivers University

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10:25 AM TO 11:00 AM (PDT)

A Collaborative Approach to Institutional Planning in a Time of Crisis

Institutional planning usually involves strategic plans, budgets, layers of leadership and approval processes, indicators and multi-year timeframes. But sometimes crisis strikes. At the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg we were a few weeks into the academic year when South Africa went into lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. By capitalizing on and expanding a new networked, multi-stakeholder way of working we initiated in 2019 when we developed an institutional framework for student success, we were able to plan and implement Emergency Remote Teaching and multiple forms of student support quickly, and so keep the academic program going.

Diane Grayson, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

Labour Outcomes: The Reliability of Self-Reported vs. Tax-Based Employment Incomes of Graduates

The employment incomes of post-secondary graduates are often of interest to the institutions that provide their educational programs. This information is often collected through surveys, but how reliable is such self-reported income? This presentation explores the relationship between self-reported and tax-based employment income using data from the Baccalaureate Graduate Survey (BGS) conducted by BC Stats, and StatCan’s Labour market outcomes for college and university graduates study.

Anny Slabikowska, University of British Columbia

Using R for Better Workflows: From Data Prep to Reporting

Oftentimes Institutional Researchers use multiple software packages in their workflows creating a convoluted process that can be difficult for others to validate and replicate. By using R, all steps in the workflow are performed using just one tool and all tasks, from data extraction to reporting, can be saved as syntax that can be reused in the future. In this talk we will detail Conestoga’s efforts to make our survey reporting more efficient using R markdown. This presentation will focus on the steps taken and what is possible using R markdown rather than how to code in R.

Mark Kane, Conestoga College
Fraser Hay, Conestoga College

11:25 AM TO 12:00 PM (PDT)

Informing Pan-institutional Student Success Strategy Using Findings from the COVID-19 Student Survey

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to drastic changes to the mode of program delivery and student learning experience in universities and colleges across the globe. This has brought about concerns for both students and institutions as summer and fall enrolments became less predictable than ever. In order to support institutional enrolment objectives, Humber College determined it needed to put into place a pan-institutional student outreach strategy. This presentation will 1) share the key findings from the COVID-19 Student Survey, 2) speak to how the findings brought together cross-functional stakeholders and 3) provide an overview of the strategy.

Jelena Dukic, Humber College
Jeffrey Daniel, Humber College
Abhinandan Raghu, Humber College

A User-Oriented Enrolment Scenario Tool – Dynamic Forecasting to Inform Decision Making

What would it mean to increase class sizes by 5 students? What if we did get a pandemic-created ‘double cohort’ next year? How many contract instructors do we need to fill the demand for first-year courses? These are the questions that led our team to create an Excel-based dynamic forecasting model that allowed our institutional clients to modify several input factors (for example, how many new students will be admitted, and how large class sizes can be) to produce enrolment scenarios ‘on the fly’. This tool is meant to be used in discussion with various stakeholders at the institution (department chairs, assistant and associate deans, deans, etc.) to understand the implications of various enrolment management decisions.

Pete Hrkac, Thompson Rivers University
Derek Kwok, Thompson Rivers University

Topic Modeling — A Natural Language Processing Approach to Extracting Themes from 100,000 Online Course Reviews with Python

Analyzing open-ended comments from online course reviews can be a daunting task. In this session, we will demonstrate how topic modeling, a powerful natural language processing (NLP) technique for automatically identifying topics in text, can be used to quickly group 100,000 online Coursera course reviews into meaningful themes. These themes, when interpreted by an institutional researcher, can provide faster insights that inform course improvements and student success. During Q&A, we will be happy to address any pain points attendees have faced when working with open-ended responses from their surveys.

Toshiko Shibano, University of British Columbia
Kevin Chang, Kai Analytics
Mikka Silfverberg, University of British Columbia
9:00 AM TO 9:35 AM (PDT)

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Data Ecosystems at Canadian Universities, a Systematic Review

Universities are diverse communities which strive to foster collegial cultures grounded in diversity and inclusiveness. Equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) objectives for faculty, staff, and students therefore require a critical understanding of EDI data ecosystems. To achieve a broad understanding of postsecondary EDI data a systematic review of literature, legislation, policy, data collection and reporting at Canadian universities was completed. Results will be presented to facilitate a discussion of successes, challenges, and the importance of EDI data ecosystems to CIRPA members.

Meghan Wagstaff, Dalhousie University

Transition From Secondary School to University: The University of Toronto-Toronto District School Board Cohort Analysis & Findings

Most Canadian high school graduates go directly to university or college, while others pursue further studies after a few years in the workplace. College readiness – the degree to which public school prepares students for success in postsecondary – has become a necessary measure of educational effectiveness. Canadian research on college readiness is limited. This study is the first in Canada to directly link high school (Toronto District School Board, Canada’s largest public-school board) student cohorts to the completion of studies in a university (the University of Toronto, Canada’s largest post-secondary institution). This report examines the influences of socio-economic, demographic, and school-level variables on post-secondary graduation. It ends by discussing other follow-up studies and future data sharing initiatives among school boards, colleges and universities and Ministries.

Robert S. Brown, York University
Scott Davies, University of Toronto
Neil Chakraborty, University of Toronto

COVID-19 Survey analytics of Student Feedback and Concerns

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to drastic changes to the mode of program delivery and student learning experience in universities and colleges across the globe. In order to support students, Humber College determined it needed to hear from them early on. The COVID-19 Student Survey was designed and launched within two weeks with the goal of assessing student needs (technology and other services), general wellbeing and coping, and satisfaction with Humber’s communications and response related to the pandemic. This presentation will 1) highlight the key findings from the cluster analysis that identified students at risk of not being successful in online learning environment and 2) share two intervention strategies informed by these findings.

Jelena Dukic, Humber College
Abhinandhan Raghu, Humber College

10:00 AM TO 10:35 AM (PDT)

Quantifying Our Crystal Ball: COVID-19 Environmental Scanning Signposts as Domestic Student Enrolment Forecast Scenarios

The presentation demonstrates the method used by the TRU institutional planning department to best estimate the number of new and returning domestic students for the Fall 2020 semester during COVID-19. In May and June of 2020, we were challenged to create a method by which we could use environmental scanning (particularly, tracking key signposts) to constantly update a high, mid, low and estimated scenario for domestic enrolments. We developed a ‘thought framework’ to account for various changes in the environment and then translated that research into adjustments for our standard enrolment projections.

Ash Cullen, Thompson Rivers University

A Partnership-Based Approach to UBCs COVID-19 Planning Efforts

This presentation will provide CIRPA members with an overview of how Planning & Institutional Research played a critical role in UBC’s crisis management response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The full project life cycle will be articulated, including the development of student enrolment and tuition revenue scenarios. The importance of building partnerships with stakeholders across the institution-including enrolment services, finance and operations- to develop a collaborative and unified response will be explored. The result of this effective engagement with non-IR professionals was the advancement of a planning tool that supports the needs of multiple parties now and in the future.

Joseph Ferguson, University of British Columbia
Stephanie McKeown, University of British Columbia
Brent Harris, University of British Columbia

National and International Research Performance Benchmarking: a McGill University Case Study in Identifying International Comparators and Developing of a New Metric to Account for Faculty Size

In this presentation we will discuss two new practices we have added to our national and international benchmarking process. First, we will introduce a new metric, the Funding Efficiency Index, that we developed for national research funding benchmarking. This metric normalizes data to account for the problematic, large differences in faculty size across Canadian institutions.

Second, given an increasingly international research landscape, it is important to have a set of methodically chosen and validated international comparators for international benchmarking. We will outline the step-by-step process we used to identify a set of international comparator institutions.

Candace Miller, McGill University
Victor Arshad, McGill University

Sea to Sky: the expansive landscape of IRP • CIRPA 2020 | 16
Roundtable discussions are an opportunity for informal discussion with colleagues around a specific topic.

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<tr>
<th>TIME (PDT)</th>
<th>DISCUSSION TOPIC</th>
<th>FACILITATORS</th>
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<tr>
<td>OCTOBER 26</td>
<td>The Institutional Research &amp; Registrar Partnership</td>
<td>Stephen Salem, Coast Mountain College</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:05 TO 12:30</td>
<td>CIRPA’s Strategic Planning</td>
<td>Dawn Macdonald, Yukon University &amp; CIRPA-ACPRI Board member</td>
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<td>Learning Analytics</td>
<td>Jeff Longland, Craig Thompson &amp; Stephen Michaud, University of British Columbia</td>
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<td>OCTOBER 27</td>
<td>System Partnerships</td>
<td>Robert Adamoski, BC Council on Admission &amp; Transfer</td>
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<td>12:00 TO 12:25</td>
<td>Data Governance</td>
<td>Marcela Hernandez, University of British Columbia</td>
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<td>Chaotic Decision Making during COVID-19</td>
<td>Keith Fortowsky, University of Regina</td>
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For the first time the annual CIRPA conference is going virtual, and so is our swag bag!

As a 2020 CIRPA Conference attendee, you will receive an invitation to your own personalized virtual bag. The bag features exclusive offers from our event sponsors, including an ebook, giveaways, and more—. After you register for the conference, you will receive an email invitation with a unique link to access your event bag. Explore the offers from your computer or phone, then save for later or redeem!

**LAUNCH DATE: OCTOBER 5**

*Content will be available until December 3, 2020*
CU SC-CCREU 2021 Survey of Graduating Students

Get feedback from your institution’s Graduating Bachelor students

Did they receive good value for their money at your university?
How satisfied were they with facilities and services?
What did they think of their experiences with faculty?
How much debt have they accumulated to finance their post-secondary education?
What skills did they develop during their time at your university?
What are their future plans - career or further education?
What steps did they take to prepare for employment after graduation?

*This year’s survey includes a special COVID-19 impact module*

To register for membership, the 2021 survey and for more information about CUSC-CCREU, survey procedures, prices, and survey questions, visit:
www.cusc-ccreu.ca “Taking Part”

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Prairie Research Associates

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Focus Groups
Organizational & Strategic Planning
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To get PRA to help with your next research project, contact Nicholas Borodenko at borodenko@pra.ca
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Dawn MacDonald, Yukon University
Neil Chakraborty, University of Toronto
Stephen Childs, York University

CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS

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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
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<td>Proposal Review</td>
<td>Antonia (Nonie) Sly Nichols</td>
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