

Beyond Four Walls Conference: Exploring Teaching & Learning Through Agriculture



PRESENTED BY

Dr. Holli-Anne Passmore, Dr. Kevin Jones ,
Dr. Marleny Saldaña & Dr. Patricia Dolez, Dr.
Dwayne Donald, Dr. Rebecca Purc-
Stephenson & Dr. Jenna Butler



SERIES SESSIONS

Date	Time
August 05, 2025	8:00 AM - 3:30 PM
August 06, 2025	8:00 AM - 3:30 PM
August 07, 2025	8:00 AM - 10:55 AM
August 07, 2025	11:00 AM - 3:30 PM
August 08, 2025	8:00 AM - 12:30 PM



LOCATION

University of Alberta South Campus Poultry
Science Centre - 6229 118 St NW

FEE

\$250.00

QUESTIONS?

Contact Us:

northwest@aplcc.ca
[780-882-7988](tel:780-882-7988)

REGISTER ONLINE

Visit our website to register:
northwest.aplc.ca

Learning Opportunity

Join us for an immersive, hands-on learning experience for K-12 teachers exploring elements of agricultural literacy. Agriculture is more than food, fiber, and energy production, but is a multidisciplinary sector shaped by culture, economics, politics, technology, and environment. This makes it perfect for connecting with curriculum across grades and concepts. Topics include: urban gardening, farm culture, curriculum connections to pigs and dairy, agricultural research such as textile production, and noticing nature in everyday places.

Field trip and workshop experiences include: river valley walk, a visit to the UofA Pig Science Interpretive Centre and Dairy Research and Technology Centre, a creative writing workshop with an award winning author, and a trip to Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village near Elk Island Park.

To view the full schedule, click [here](#).

August 5, 2025

Connecting Children—and Ourselves—to Nature: An Informative, Interactive, Practical Workshop - Dr. Holli-Anne Passmore, Concordia University of Edmonton

Children's engagement with nature and their level of nature connectedness is highly predictive of their well-being as children, and their well-becoming as adults. For both children and adults, even simple passive exposure to nature promotes positive changes in attention, memory, and mood. A strong connection to nature is related to experiencing reduced stress, along with greater emotional and social well-being. Moreover, nature-connected individuals engage in more pro-nature activities. Indeed, nature connectedness is the number one driver of pro-nature behaviour. Given that childhood experiences with nature are an important predictor of adult nature connectedness, clearly, fostering children's connection with nature is vital. So how do we do that? Nature-related literature, poetry, music, art, and film clips will be utilized as mediums as we explore how we can connect ourselves—and children—to nature. (And of course we'll interact with the nature in our immediate surroundings!)

Pig Science Centre Tour, UofA Farm

Located on UofA's South Campus, the center will give you a chance to learn about the care and business of raising pigs. For biosecurity reasons, you will view piglets and pigs from behind glass.

Dairy Research and Technology Centre Tour, UofA Farm

Located on UofA's South Campus, you will have a guided tour of the dairy barn and learn about the dairy industry. You will be required to wear protective booties, but you'll be able to touch calves and cows! If you're lucky, the barnyard cat may pay us a visit, too.

August 6, 2025

Learning in the UofA Garden - Dr. Kevin Jones, Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences (ALES), UofA

Learn about urban gardening and ways to make it prosper at the UofA farm (South Campus). This hands-on session will allow you to dig into gardening – literally! Come prepared to garden!

Agri-Food Discovery Place Research Tour - Dr. Marleny Saldaña (ALES), UofA

Dr. Saldaña will take you on a tour of her research lab. You'll have a chance to learn how research plays a central role in the agriculture industry.

Regenerated Cellulosic Fibre from Hemp and Post-Consumer Textiles - Dr. Patricia Dolez (ALES), UofA: Agri-Food Discovery Place Research Tour

The research aims to establish a made-in-Canada supply of regenerated cellulose fibres using Canadian sources of cellulose such as farming residues, hemp, and recycled textiles. The fibres are produced using the more environmentally-friendly Lyocell process; it has low water consumption and employs a non-toxic solvent that is more than 99% recoverable. The research involves a partnership with several Alberta companies. The lyocell fibres will find applications in a wide range of products, including personal protective equipment (PPE), workwear, dental floss and healthcare products, nonwoven products, filtration media, and consumer apparel textiles.

August 7, 2025

River Valley Walk - Dr. Dwayne Donald, Education, UofA

Dr. Dwayne Donald will share insights, reflections, and stories regarding the many layers of history, memory, experience, and wisdom that animate the place now known as Edmonton.

Ukrainian Cultural Village

We'll board a bus and head east of Edmonton for lunch and a customized program and tour.

August 8, 2025

Understanding Farm Culture: Social and Cultural Dimensions of Agriculture - Dr. Rebecca Purc-Stephenson, Augustana

Agriculture is more than food or textile production -- it's a way of life shaped by cultural values, environmental pressures, and strong community ties. This presentation shares emerging research on farm culture in Alberta and beyond. Participants will explore the values, rhythms, and stressors that shape agricultural communities and consider how these intersect with education. The session also highlights ways educators can build trust, support mental wellness, and enhance cultural relevance when working with students from farming backgrounds.

Agriculture-Based Creative Writing - MacEwan University Writer in Residence: Land-Based Creative Writing

In this hands-on session, you'll find inspiration for creative writing using the land as a departure point and a muse. Everyone has a story of connection to land, to place, to food, and to community, and finding ways to share these stories links us back to the land -- and to one another -- in powerful ways.

Presenters

Dr. Holli-Anne Passmore

Dr. Holli-Anne Passmore is an Associate Professor and Department Chair of Psychology at Concordia University of Edmonton (CUE) in Alberta, Canada. She is also Director of the multi-university Nature Meaning in Life (NMIL) Research Lab, an Editor of the International Journal of Wellbeing, and Science Chair of the Spirituality and Meaning Division of the International Positive Psychology Association. She collaborates with researchers around the globe primarily focusing on the development and validation of practical interventions to enhance well-being through noticing and engaging with everyday nature close to home. Holli-Anne's academic research articles and book chapters have been published in numerous peer-reviewed journals and publications, and featured in various media including The Guardian and CBC's The Current. She regularly presents her research findings and speaks at national and international conferences, as well delivering keynote talks and workshops at local community-based organizations' events.

Dr. Kevin Jones

Dr. Kevin Jones is an interdisciplinary social scientist researching adaptations to the social and environmental challenges which increasingly define today's world. His research explores pathways to transformative change focusing on processes of institutional and governance innovation. A central element of this work involves the role of public expertise and citizenship engagement as prompts for reflexivity and for opening-up risk issues to more robust governance approaches.

Dr. Jones is the ALES co-chair of the University's Environmental Studies program: <https://www.ualberta.ca/agriculture-life-environment-sciences/programs/undergraduate-programs/degree-programs/environmental-studies/index.html>

Dr. Marleny Saldaña

Dr. Marleny Saldana is a Professor in the Agriculture, Food & Nutrition Science department. Her research focuses on emerging processing technologies and the use of near-critical and supercritical water and carbon dioxide to treat biomass and agricultural materials for use in nutraceutical, food and industrial applications. Her research team has worked on protein, and starch processing. Main areas include: Sub/supercritical fluid processing (supercritical CO₂, subcritical and supercritical water, pressurized fluids for extraction, fractionation, reaction and particle formation); Ultrasound processing (extraction, homogenization, emulsion, reaction, etc); High Pressure Processing and High Pressure Processing assisted by Temperature to treat crops and food products.

Dr. Patricia Dolez

Dr. Patricia Dolez's research is focused on protective clothing/ personal protective equipment (PPE) and industrial applications, as well as knowledge transfer to the next generation and the industry. Her research is rooted in an interdisciplinary approach that involves collaborations across multiple disciplines and partnerships with the industry and end-users. What motivates Dr. Dolez is sharing her passion for innovation and team work.

Dr. Dwayne Donald

Dwayne Donald was born and raised in Edmonton and is a descendent of the Papaschase Cree. His Blackfoot named is Aipioomahkaa (Long Distance Runner). Dwayne is the son of Allen and Darlene, husband to Georgina, father to Kesho, and uncle to Taryn, Taylor, Kennedy, Kristofer, Sarah, Marshall, Breanne and Lauren.

Dwayne has earned the following academic degrees: Bachelor of Arts (Alberta), Bachelor of Education (Calgary), Master of Education (Lethbridge), and PhD (Alberta). His Master's thesis work at the University of Lethbridge was done under the supervision of Dr. Cynthia Chambers. The manuscript, titled Elder, Student, Teacher: A Kainai Curriculum Métissage, can be accessed via the following link: <http://www.uleth.ca/dspace/bitstream/10133/147/3/MQ83749.pdf>

Dwayne's doctoral dissertation work at the University of Alberta was done under the supervision of Dr. David Geoffrey Smith. The manuscript, titled The Pedagogy of the Fort: Curriculum, Aboriginal-Canadian Relations, and Indigenous Métissage, focuses on the fort as a mythic symbol deeply embedded within the story of Canadian nation and nationality that teaches and naturalizes a divisive and dispiriting civilizational divide separating Aboriginal peoples and Canadians. Dwayne's central argument in the dissertation is that that universities, schools, classrooms, curriculum scholars, educators, and curriculum documents typically replicate these fort teachings when considering the possible significance of Indigenous peoples and knowledge systems to contemporary educational contexts.

Dwayne's career as an educator began in the Mathare Valley slums of Nairobi, Kenya. He had the privilege to work alongside Kenyans with the Mathare Youth Sports Association while living in Nairobi. After returning to Canada in 1993, Dwayne began teaching social studies and English at Kainai High School on the Kainai (Blood) Reserve in southern Alberta. This experience changed his life. The opportunity to learn from Kainai Elders and community leaders has had a tremendous influence on Dwayne's interests and commitments as a curriculum thinker. In 2003, Dwayne and family moved back home to Edmonton to begin doctoral studies at the University of Alberta. He accepted an academic position in the Faculty of Education in 2007.

Dr. Rebecca Purc-Stephenson

Rebecca Purc-Stephenson, PhD, is an Applied Social Psychologist and professor at the University of Alberta's Augustana Campus. She studies stressors and resilience in rural and farming communities, turning research into practical programs to support the mental health and well-being of those working in the agricultural industry. She is the provincial lead researcher of the Agricultural Wellbeing in Alberta (AgWellAB) program, and was a co-founder of AgKnow, the Alberta Farm Mental Health Network.

Dr. Jenna Butler

Dr. Jenna Butler is an acclaimed poet and essayist (Seldom Seen Road, A Profession of Hope: Farming on the Edge of the Grizzly Trail; Revery: A Year of Bees), and a scholar whose research into endangered environments has taken her from America's Deep South to Ireland's Ring of Kerry, and from Tenerife to the Arctic Circle, exploring ways in which we impact the landscape we call home. Dr. Butler is the 2025 Writer in Residence at MacEwan University.

Registration Notes

This conference is also available for course credit with the University of Alberta.



Supporting every educator
in every classroom