



ONTARIO BUSINESS EDUCATORS' ASSOCIATION

2026 SPRING CONFERENCE

BALANCING TECH AND HUMANITY

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026

8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

SCHEDULE

- 8:00 AM - 8:45 AM REGISTRATION/BREAKFAST
- 8:45 AM - 9:30 AM KEYNOTE SPEAKER
- 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM EDUCATORS' RECOGNITION
- 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM VENDOR DISPLAYS
- 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM SESSION A
- 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM LUNCH
- 12:45 PM - 1:45 PM SESSION B
- 1:45 PM - 2:15 PM VENDOR DISPLAYS
- 2:15 PM - 3:15 PM SESSION C

REGISTER: WWW.OBEA.CA
\$260 + HST
 (PLUS ANNUAL OBEA MEMBERSHIP FEE OF \$65 + HST IF NOT CURRENTLY A MEMBER)

18TH ANNUAL TEACHERS HELPING TEACHERS

Bring an original resource, and receive access to a shared Google Drive!

To promote resource sharing, we are asking attendees to send an original classroom resource to communications.obea@gmail.com. The OBEA will compile all resources onto a shared Google Drive, which will be provided free of charge to all who contributed.

- EDUCATORS' RECOGNITION**
- AWARD OF MERIT
 - ACCOUNTING TEACHER OF THE YEAR
 - INNOVATIVE BUSINESS EDUCATION TEACHER
 - ROBERT HILLMER AWARD
 - LIFE MEMBERSHIP



 **DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL**
TORONTO AIRPORT WEST
5444 DIXIE ROAD
MISSISSAUGA, ON, L4W 2L2

REGISTER BY **MARCH 31** FOR BOTH:

- A 10% DISCOUNT AND
- A CHANCE TO WIN A FREE ADMISSION AND A ONE-NIGHT HOTEL STAY AT OUR NEXT CONFERENCE.



Session 'A' Workshops

10:30 AM to 11:30 AM



BEM10, BEP20, and Marketing

A1 – AI INFUSED ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Trevor Nurmi, HWDSB

This session explores how artificial intelligence can be intentionally infused into Entrepreneurship instruction—not as a shortcut, but as a powerful thinking partner. Drawing directly from classroom-tested lessons in BEM10, BEP20, and BDI3C, participants will see concrete examples of how AI can enhance idea generation, business planning, pitching, reflection, and student engagement—while still preserving creativity, critical thinking, and ethical decision-making.

All Business Courses

A2 – AI WITHOUT PANIC: HOW TO USE AI TO PUSH STUDENT THINKING (NOT REPLACE IT)

Jaymyi Lesmond, YRDSB

AI is already showing up in Business classrooms, but many teachers feel stuck in the middle. Banning it feels unrealistic. Allowing it without structure makes it hard to see what students are actually thinking.

This workshop focuses on a practical middle ground. Instead of treating AI as a shortcut or a threat, we will examine how it can be used to challenge students' thinking, judgment, and decision-making when tasks and prompts are intentionally designed.

Teachers will see how small tweaks to prompts can turn AI into a tool that supports thinking, not shortcuts, using tasks you already teach. Teachers will leave with practical prompts, task wording, and assessment ideas they can use right away.

Some hands-on examples will use generative AI, but participation with a tool is optional.

Accounting

A3 – CPA-ONTARIO + HOW TO INCREASE ACCOUNTING ENROLMENT

Vanessa Yoon, TDSB and

Ola Agboola, CPA-Ontario

We all want to see our Accounting programs flourish, but finding the right "hook" for students can be a challenge. Vanessa Yoon, recipient of the 2024 CPA Ontario Accounting Teacher of the Year award, invites you to a session dedicated to sharing what works in student recruitment. Vanessa will walk through the steps she has taken to increase Accounting enrollment, focusing on how to build a program that students are excited to join year after year.

It's not just about the numbers—it's about using the CPA brand to spark curiosity and creating a supportive classroom culture where every student feels they can succeed. Let us get together to share strategies, solve common enrollment hurdles, and help more students discover the value of Accounting.

All Business Courses

A4 – BRINGING BUSINESS TO LIFE IN THE CLASSROOM

Jen Scott, Ripyl® Limited

This interactive workshop invites teachers to step into their students' shoes and experience how real-world, relatable scenarios and creative tasks can make learning more exciting and meaningful. Participants will take part in hands-on tasks that model how active learning increases engagement, participation, and understanding. Together, we will work through high-impact, practical, classroom-tested activities while exploring strategies and unpacking common challenges in Business education. Participants will leave with adaptable activities and practical tools they can use immediately.

Session 'A' Workshops

10:30 AM to 11:30 AM



All Business Courses

Financial Literacy

A5 – LEVERAGING DESIGN TECH FOR BUSINESS

Cheryl Taylor, OCDSB

Integrate design technology into Business courses. Work with examples of design technologies that are straightforward to learn and integrate into courses that allow students to take their work beyond the idea into the full creation.

A8 - FIN LIT AND GRADUATION, HELPING TEACHERS PREPARE FOR THE NEW FINANCIAL LITERACY TEST

Kevin Maynard, CFE

This workshop is focused on helping teachers build comfort and confidence around financial literacy topics important to students. You will build a better understanding of what is commonly taught across Canada in high school financial literacy-focused courses, and how you can make financial topics fun, engaging, and effective for students.

All Business Courses

A6 – WHAT MY STUDENTS TOLD ME - ACTIVITIES TO ELEVATE YOUR BUSINESS PROGRAM

Trevor Allen, OCDSB

What does an engaging classroom look like? How do you incorporate experiential learning into your lessons? Over many years of teaching, I have asked my students what has worked for them. This session will be centred around the games, challenges, contests, and hands-on activities that create a fun and engaging classroom. In turn, they become the best marketing for your Business program.

Artificial Intelligence

A7 – SPARKING STUDENT CREATIVITY AND CRITICAL THINKING WITH AI

Afzal Shaikh, The York School

How do we teach in a world where students can get the "answer" in seconds? We change the questions. This workshop focuses on integrating AI into the learning process rather than banning it. We will explore strategies to turn students into "prompt engineers" and critical editors, using AI to brainstorm, critique, and expand their thinking rather than replace it.



Session 'B' Workshops

12:45 PM to 1:45 PM



SHSM

B1 – EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND BEYOND: MAKING SHSM MEANINGFUL AND MANAGEABLE

Chandni Chaudhary, HDSB

This collaborative workshop is designed for Business SHSM teachers who want to strengthen their experiential learning programs while effectively managing costs and administrative demands. Participants will explore certification planning strategies, creative and engaging field trip ideas, and cost-saving approaches that maximize student impact. The session will include shared best practices, practical tools, and open discussion to exchange knowledge across schools and boards. Teachers will leave with actionable ideas and new connections to support and grow their SHSM programs.

Artificial Intelligence

B2 – AI IS QUIETLY REWRITING THE FUTURE OF WORK AND WE NEED TO PREPARE OUR STUDENTS!

Corey Gill, Durham College

AI is quietly reshaping the future of work, accelerating faster than our educational models can keep up. This workshop reveals the 'invisible crisis' as entry-level roles disappear and shows why students now need pseudo-senior-level judgment from day one. Drawing on current data and clear industry trends, the session reframes AI not as a threat but as a catalyst for transforming curriculum, assessment, and faculty practice. Participants will leave with a practical roadmap for shifting from task-based teaching to AI-enhanced learning, where students learn to direct, audit, and defend outcomes. Ultimately, the workshop empowers educators to help students become architects, not victims, of an AI-augmented workforce.

Accounting

B3 – ACCOUNTING FUN–ENGAGE STUDENTS AND RESOURCES FOR YOU!

Trisha Foley, TDSB

This is just one Accounting teacher, offering to share resources and ideas with other teachers to make Accounting FUN and engaging for all learners. During this session, you will receive activities, projects, and a culminating assignment that will take your introductory Accounting course beyond the traditional "lesson-and-testing" approach (although I do include some traditional lessons and testing, too!). Most of the focus will be on BAF3M (Grade 11 Accounting); however, if there is interest, we can also discuss BAT4M. Come and join in the conversation about engaging students with Accounting FUN!

Retirement Planning

B4 – RETIREMENT PLANNING FOR EVERY GENERATION

Jeanne Kirouac, Entente Education Canada

Whatever your stage in life, there's an opportunity to consider where you are in your retirement journey. This highly interactive session will engage attendees in activities to explore the following topics:

- Find your retirement personality and learn how it influences your planning;
- What to consider at each stage of your career when it comes to planning your future;
- How to use the asset of time to your best advantage in financial planning for the future; and
- Facts and myths about retirement planning.

Session 'B' Workshops

12:45 PM to 1:45 PM



Accounting, BEM10, BEP20, Economics, and
Entrepreneurship



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: LEE TAAL,
CHATTERHIGH**

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS: *The Business
of Survival - How Financial Literacy
Unlocks Adaptability***

TEDx & Keynote Speaker, Founder & CEO of 2017 Educational Technology of the Year, Lee Taal, was a future paleontologist/football player who's career path was a complete surprise to him. A graduate of RRMC with a B.Sc in Oceanography & Space Science, he worked in the Arctic, has medals from the UN & NATO, gave advice to engineers on broken down locomotives, designed the advertising at an Airport, founded EdTech ChatterHigh and now has a mission of getting every student to talk about their future.

All Business Courses

B5 – TEN BRIGHTSPACE TOOLS THAT WILL TRANSFORM YOUR TEACHING WORKFLOW

Sam Levy, TDSB

With over 15 years of experience using Brightspace across a wide range of high school courses and teaching formats, I have gathered a set of tools, strategies, and time-saving tricks that consistently make planning, assessment, and communication smoother. This workshop highlights my top ten favourite Brightspace features—from collecting meaningful course feedback to building efficient rubrics, giving verbal feedback, and automating emails that keep students on track.

Whether you are new to Brightspace or a long-time user, you will walk away with practical, classroom-tested techniques that reduce workload, support student success, and help you get the most out of this powerful platform.

B6 – EXPLORE THE INTUIT HOUR OF FINANCE CHALLENGE AND OTHER FREE FINANCIAL EDUCATION RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR INTUIT FOR EDUCATION

Nick Chapman, Intuit

In this session, participants will be introduced to the Intuit Hour of Finance Challenge and explore additional free resources available from Intuit for Education covering personal finance, entrepreneurial finance, and QuickBooks. The Intuit Hour of Finance Challenge makes it easy to engage students in core personal finance concepts and inspire them to pursue further learning in financial literacy. Participants will explore additional free Intuit for Education courses, activities, and simulations to help get students engaged in financial education. The Intuit for Education program provides a variety of free financial curricula and self-led courses for students.

Personal Finance and Financial Literacy

B7 – PULLING THE CARROT: NEW APPROACHES TO TEACHING MONEY TO STUDENTS

Douglas Price, Author

This workshop provides educators with creative, hands-on strategies to make the student experience of learning topics such as investing, saving, TFSAs, and RRSPs more engaging and fun. Using a variety of activities, discussion questions, and lesson plans, we will explore how to teach these concepts to students in ways that maximize knowledge retention. Join us to discover how to empower your students with essential financial literacy skills, setting them up for confident, informed decision-making in the future.

B8 – CANCELLED

Session 'C' Workshops

2:15 PM to 3:15 PM



Artificial Intelligence, BEP20, Business Leadership,
Economics, Entrepreneurship, and SHSM

C1 – BEYOND THE BASICS: ADVANCED APPLICATIONS OF AI IN THE BUSINESS CLASSROOM

Dhiraj Hariramani, LearnIt, and Jason Lay, YRDSB

Many Business educators are already using AI tools such as Gemini, Microsoft Copilot, and Canva AI. The next challenge is moving beyond surface-level use toward intentional, curriculum-aligned integration that deepens student thinking rather than shortcut learning.

This interactive workshop is designed for educators who are comfortable with the basics of AI and are ready to explore advanced classroom applications. Participants will examine how AI can be leveraged to design richer performance tasks, simulate real-world business contexts, support differentiated instruction, and rethink assessment practices across courses such as Entrepreneurship, Marketing, Accounting, and Economics.

Participants will leave with practical AI frameworks, ready-to-adapt lesson ideas, and a clearer understanding of how to responsibly integrate AI in ways that align with Ontario Business Studies curriculum expectations and AI literacy goals.

BEP20, Economics, Financial Literacy, and
Personal Finance

C2 – FREE, PROVEN, AND CURATED - A TEACHER'S GUIDE TO CANADIAN FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAMS/RESOURCES

Matthew Jaekel, St. Andrew's College

Finding the right financial literacy resources can be time consuming and hit-or-miss. This session spotlights the top, free, Canadian programs that are classroom-ready, high quality, and aligned with Business course expectations. You will leave with a toolkit of vetted, engaging resources. The workshop will end with a look at the "Wealth Weekend," a program I have developed at my school to complement and connect existing resources.

Economics, International Business, and
Finance/Investment

C3 – YOU ARE THE ECONOMY: INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES FOR INVESTING, ECONOMICS, AND DECISION-MAKING

Adam Young, Bank of Canada Museum

Join us to experience Economics like never before. This hands-on workshop will introduce you to new activities and lesson plans covering financial and economic decision-making, micro- and macroeconomics, interpreting economic data, and global investing. You will leave with plenty of fresh new ideas for your classroom and a full teaching toolkit from the Bank of Canada Museum.

C4 – GAMIFY SHSM CERTS AND BUSINESS CURRICULUM WITH FREE, READY-MADE LESSONS
Lee Taal, ChatterHigh

ChatterHigh is the 2017 EdTech of the Year in Canada. They partner with 'content authorities' to provide free activities that gamify exploration and learning in key curricular areas. For example, the CRA provides their complete set of "Learn About Your Taxes" courses. Simply assign and it marks itself! Topics include taxes, money management, budgeting, insurance and much more. Schools raise funds through national competitions in these activities. Students can earn certificates that are useful for resumes or SHSM certifications.

BEM10, BEP20, Business Leadership, and Entrepreneurship

C5 – BEYOND BUSINESS AS USUAL: EDUCATORS' GUIDE TO COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES
Michelle Christmann, Ontario Co-operative Association

Discover how including co-operative business content can bring new perspectives to your classroom. In this 60-minute workshop, we'll look at the fundamentals of the co-operative business model and its relevance in today's economy. Together we'll examine how co-ops operate as socially-driven enterprises and the ways they contribute to community and economic well-being. You'll leave with practical ideas for integrating co-operative concepts into your lessons, enhancing your students' understanding of Entrepreneurship, Economics, and social responsibility beyond traditional business frameworks.

C6 – INTEGRATING AI IN BEM10 FOR EFFECTIVE LEARNING AND EVALUATION

Shannon Grinnell and Eunice Kim, TDSB

This workshop explores practical ways to integrate AI tools into the Grade 9 Business course, Building the Entrepreneurial Mindset (BEM10), to increase student engagement and deepen learning. We will examine how AI can support lesson design, differentiation, assessment, and feedback while maintaining academic integrity. The session will also emphasize the responsible use of AI, transparency through process-based evidence, and the meaningful application of Business concepts.

BEP 20

C7 – CREATING MICRO-BUSINESS IN BEP 20

Liz Niehaus, Kingsway College School

This workshop will explore the creation of micro-businesses that students can use to showcase their learning in the BEP20 course. Participants will learn about how you can set up a "school market" at an existing school event to give your Grade 10 students an authentic learning experience in selling their products.

BEM10, BEP20, Business Leadership, Entrepreneurship, and SHSM

C8 – EMPATHY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND ETHICAL LEADERSHIP: VENTURES FOR GOOD

Dr. Minna Allarakhia, BioEndeavor Inc.

In this interactive workshop, educators will explore social entrepreneurship as a powerful approach to teaching students the importance of empathy and ethical leadership in business. Using the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), participants will discuss how to guide students in identifying meaningful social and environmental challenges facing Canadian communities and transform them into sustainable, impact-driven ventures.



LOCATION



DOUBLETREE
by Hilton™

TORONTO AIRPORT WEST

5444 Dixie Road, Mississauga, ON,
L4W 2L2

**BOOK YOUR HOTEL STAY
FOR \$169 + HST**

DIRECTIONS

FROM THE NORTH

- HEAD SOUTH ON HIGHWAY 400.
- FOLLOW SIGNS TO 401 WEST.
- TAKE EXIT 346-DIXIE ROAD AND TURN LEFT.
- MAKE A RIGHT ON AEROWOOD DRIVE, THEN MAKE A LEFT AT THE HOTEL.

FROM THE SOUTH

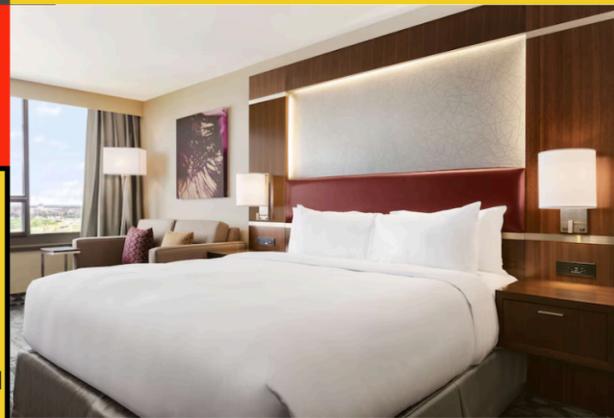
- HEAD WEST ON THE GARDINER EXPRESSWAY.
- FOLLOW SIGNS TO THE 427 HIGHWAY NORTH.
- THEN FOLLOW SIGNS TO 401 WEST.
- TAKE EXIT 346-DIXIE ROAD. TURN LEFT ON DIXIE ROAD.
- MAKE A RIGHT ON AEROWOOD DRIVE, THEN A LEFT AT THE HOTEL.

FROM THE EAST

- HEAD WEST ON THE 401.
- TAKE EXIT 346-DIXIE ROAD.
- TURN LEFT ON DIXIE ROAD.
- MAKE A RIGHT ON AEROWOOD DRIVE, THEN A LEFT AT THE HOTEL.

FROM THE WEST

- HEAD EAST ON THE 401.
- TAKE EXIT 346-DIXIE ROAD.
- TURN RIGHT ON AEROWOOD DRIVE, THEN MAKE A LEFT AT THE HOTEL.



FREE PARKING!

*Please provide license plate when
checking-in for registration on the day of the
conference.*



ONTARIO BUSINESS EDUCATORS' ASSOCIATION