

# FRIENDS OF BCCAT

\* DARRAN FERNANDEZ \*



"Transfer pathways allow students to be who they want to be, where they want to be, and what they want to be."

## Meet Darran Fernandez

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Darran served as a proactive and valuable member of BCCAT's Council from 2016 to 2019. From 2012 to 2019, he was the Associate Registrar & Director, Student Support & Advising, UBC Enrolment Services. Earlier this year, he returned to Ontario where he now holds the position of University Registrar at York University.

[Check out Darran's Story...](#)

# Darran's Story

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**BCCAT: Can you share an early memory of the BC Transfer System? What was your first impression when you learned about it?**

*DF: I moved from Ontario to British Columbia in 2008 to pursue graduate studies. My first exposure to the BC Transfer System was in the first class I took for my Master of Education. I didn't believe what I was being told – the relationship between colleges and universities in BC – and especially in 2008 – was changing and fundamentally different than that in Ontario.*

*I appreciated the intentional acknowledgement of prior learning, the desire to connect and build pathways for students and educators alike. It was not at all what I expected, but definitely something I welcomed, as it was learner-focused and reflective of shared structures in the system.*

**BCCAT: How would you describe the transfer system to others outside of BC?**

*DF: Since moving to Ontario, I've hailed the BC Transfer System as a model for transparency, student-centredness, and collaboration. Institutions that provide a learner-centric approach to mobility together with their provincial governmental partners.*

**BCCAT: How would you describe your experiences working with BCCAT/the BC Transfer System?**

*DF: As a member of BCCAT Council for almost three years, I've been very grateful for the education I've received on the unique institutions in our higher education system. The progressive conversations about the research that happens out of BCCAT on prior learning assessments, gender identity and nomenclature, and competency based learning – just to name a few areas – was inspiring and reflects a progressive approach to complement the work leaders are doing in the K-12 and post-secondary education sectors.*

**BCCAT: Could you convey in a few words the value of transfer pathway options for students?**

*Transfer pathways allow students to be who they want to be, where they want to be, and what they want to be.*

**BCCAT: What do you see as new and emerging directions and priorities facing the transfer system?**

*DF: To optimize mobility in Canada, working with the provincial Councils on Admissions and Transfer (CATs) to ensure there's national mobility measures so students can find ease in transfer from Ontario to British Columbia, Nova Scotia to Alberta and other points in between. CATs and institutions will also need to evolve to think about how new credentials (badges, micro-credentials, etc.) can translate into/with current credentialing types.*



Robert Fleming (BCCAT Executive Director and Co-Chair) expresses appreciation for Darran's contributions to the Council at an event in June 2019.



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BC Council on Admissions & Transfer

In 1989, BCCAT was established by the provincial government to facilitate transfer and articulation. BCCAT oversees the BC Transfer System, enabling links between post-secondary institutions, the education ministries, and the public and private education sectors.

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