

FRIENDS OF BCCAT

* KRISTINE SMALCEL PEDERSON *



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Meet Kristine Smalcel Pederson

Building on faculty advising and instructional experience starting in 1992, Kristine worked for almost 14 years with the Open Learning Agency (OLA) and Thompson Rivers University (TRU) in distance, open and online learning; leading to senior enrolment management roles with the University of Northern BC (UNBC) and MacEwan University, before working as an independent consultant and then joining Academica Group in 2014. She also served as a Council member in BC (BCCAT, 2011-2012) and Alberta (the Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer / ACAT, 2012-2013).

Kristine's experience of the BC Transfer System extends across a range of different roles and responsibilities over her career. As one who demonstrates a clear commitment to supporting flexible pathways for students, and appreciation for the importance of research to inform system developments, she stands as a friend of BCCAT and advocate for transfer and mobility.

Kristine's Story

My strongest early memory of BCCAT came in the form of a big, thick, paper copy of the BC Transfer Guide. It was the "advising bible" at the Open Learning Agency (OLA) because we had so many incoming and outgoing transfer students. As a "Transfer Credit Contact" for BCCAT, I remember helping with a number of projects, and was very happy when we finally moved from paper and email transfer credit requests to the online process!

It was a privilege and an honour to work with BCCAT. The organization was always in tune with the system and the BCCAT team found ways to be useful on many different levels. There were always system-vetted and value-added projects on the go. One particularly ambitious project focused on the digitization work involved with revising course listings on the BC Transfer Guide necessitated by the creation of Thompson Rivers University (TRU) which combined the University College of the Cariboo and the BC Open University / Open College.

Although I had had some personal experience with transfer credit in my first degree, working for OLA and TRU helped me truly appreciate the life-altering opportunities that an open, fluid educational system can provide to individuals. The BC Transfer System extends those opportunities by providing flexible pathways supporting diverse post-secondary student journeys.

BCCAT also plays a mentoring and teaching role in the system and this has been particularly effective in informing faculty who may be unaware of the complexity and importance of transfer and articulations. I still use and refer others to informative BCCAT resources, such as the ever-evolving *How to Articulate* handbook.

The BC Transfer System is complex, dynamic, and effective. For this reason, I made it a major focus of my doctoral studies. In my current consulting role, working with various types of institutions across Canada, BC's transfer system is still my exemplar benchmark and is what I describe as the "glue" of the BC post-secondary system. In large part, this is due to BCCAT's leadership in facilitating the system, conducting research, and enabling ongoing dialogue and development.

While working in many different Canadian jurisdictions, I long for BC's well-developed post-secondary data sets and skillful analyses to help inform institutional planning and system advancements.

Looking ahead, there are a number of challenges for post-secondary education that are increasingly pertinent, such as inter-provincial transfer and international assessments. Meanwhile, technological connectivity and rapid, secure and timely transfer of information across the system and between jurisdictions remains a priority. As well, ongoing development of a range of transfer options will continue to enable really useful and meaningful educational pathways for students. BCCAT is well-poised to offer a knowledgeable system perspective on these challenges and opportunities.



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