

# FRIENDS OF BCCAT

\* LESLEY ANDRES \*



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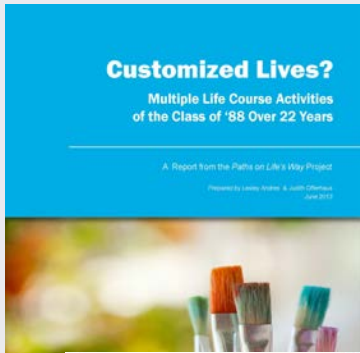
## Meet Lesley Andres

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Professor of Higher Education, University of British Columbia  
and long-time contributor to BCCAT research.  
Lesley also served on the BCCAT-Council (2006-2012)  
and the Research Committee (2013-2018).

[Check out Lesley's story...](#)

# Lesley's Story



My relationship with BCCAT and my academic career at UBC have gone hand-in-hand. BCCAT has been instrumental in supporting my *Paths on Life's Way Project*, through direct grant support for data collection and through the publication of numerous documents emerging from this study.



The *Paths* project began in 1989 with the purpose of collecting baseline data on a sample of British Columbia graduating Class of 1988 cohort to learn about the post-secondary attendance patterns of respondents within one year of high school graduation. With funding support from BCCAT, in 1993 I conducted the first follow-up study of *Paths* respondents. Subsequent follow-ups were conducted in 1998, 2003, 2010, and 2016, again with funding support from BCCAT.



The *Paths* dataset, which spans 28 years, is unique in Canada and highlights the importance of taking the "long view" when considering issues of post-secondary access, participation, transfer, and completion. Results from this study demonstrate how the articulated, seamless BC post-secondary system - a system that is fostered through the many activities of BCCAT - encourages and enhances post-secondary participation and completion.

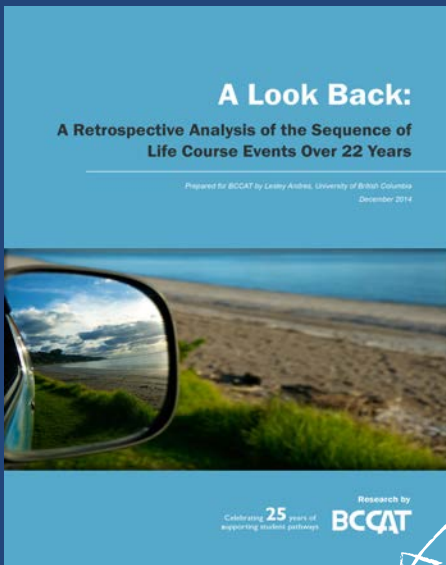
*"The Paths project began in 1989 with the purpose of learning about post-secondary attendance patterns of respondents within one year of high school graduation."*

I have conducted other research projects for BCCAT which have had implications for policy and practice. For example, the handbook *BC Transfer TIPS: Transfer Information for Post-secondary Success* (BCCAT, 1999) was informed partly by the findings offered in my BCCAT-funded *Investigating Transfer* study. Those findings, in the form of students' voices, were cited throughout the handbook. Beginning in 1999, *Transfer TIPS* was widely distributed throughout the BC post-secondary system. (Transfer information is now available in the "Help" section on [BCTransferGuide.ca](http://BCTransferGuide.ca).)

I have served as member of the Council (2006-2012) and as a member of BCCAT's Research Committee (2013-2018). These experiences have helped me orient my research to the real life problems facing students and to ensure that I remained current regarding developments in the BC post-secondary system and beyond. It has been a privilege to work with the many talented and knowledgeable staff over the years.



## Looking Back...



[bccat.ca/pubs/ALookBack\\_report\\_Jan2015.pdf](http://bccat.ca/pubs/ALookBack_report_Jan2015.pdf)  
For further information about the "Paths on Life's Way" project, see [blogs.ubc.ca/paths/](http://blogs.ubc.ca/paths/)

"The 'Paths on Life's Way' study, which spans 28 years, is unique in Canada and highlights the importance of taking the 'long view' when considering issues of post-secondary access, participation, transfer, and completion."

*"The adult lives lived by British Columbians are complex. Acknowledging, celebrating, and problematizing this complexity may serve to improve both the lives of BC individuals and families. Complexity is not necessarily negative as periods of full-time study or study while working, as evidenced in the analyses, suggest that individuals are engaged in lifelong learning, reskilling, and earning graduate degrees."*



*"These experiences have helped me orient my research to the real life problems facing students and to ensure that I remained current regarding developments in the BC post-secondary system and beyond."*

Lesley is pictured (right) with Finola Finlay, BCCAT Associate Director of Transfer and Articulation (1996-2010) at the launch of their book "Student affairs: Experiencing higher education" (2004).

Dr. Andres' work resonates with other BCCAT research findings. Mobile students are often successful in following planned pathways to their desired educational outcome, but many others revise or refocus that destination, or find their path is extended or delayed by external factors like employment, health or family. BC's mature credit transfer system supports BC students over the many changes we all experience in life.