Speaker Biography

Emily Brown – The Growing Numeracy Gap

Emily Brown completed a Bachelor of Education and a Master of Education, with a specific focus on Mathematics for Teaching, from the University of Calgary. This led to Emily's keen interest in preparing educators to teach mathematics.

Emily's work with the College Student Achievement Project, a 10-year research and development project comprised of 24 Colleges across Ontario, afforded Emily a rich view of the Ontario landscape in mathematics education and a growing numeracy gap, and the opportunity to work collaboratively with all the various post-secondary institutions and school boards in the province. Emily has spent considerable time and effort in implementing technology into mathematics assessment and learning.

Emily is currently a full-time professor in the Pilon School of Business at Sheridan College, and stays very much involved in mathematics education, and assessment.

Previous to working in education, Emily was employed in the petrochemical industry where she applied her background in Chemical Engineering Technology.

In her presentation, Emily will discuss the growing numeracy gap and why a numerate population is so important.

Danial Rooyani, P.Eng. – The Power of Leadership in Project Management

Danial Rooyani is a licensed Professional Engineer, a certified Project Management Professional (PMP), and a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt with a distinguished academic background, including a PhD in Engineering Systems and Computing, an MSc and a BSc in Industrial Engineering.

With over 20 years of experience spanning Project Management, Quality Management, and Process Improvement across diverse industries, Danial has a proven track record of driving operational excellence and fostering innovation. Currently serving as the Vice President at AVL Manufacturing, he leverages his expertise to optimize processes, improve productivity, and lead strategic growth initiatives.

Danial will explore the critical role of leadership in successfully managing projects, emphasizing how effective leadership, combined with structured project management, leads to successful outcomes. His discussion will provide a brief introduction to key project management standards and also examine fundamental leadership and project management principles, including strategic leadership, motivation, communication, and team management. Special focus is given to fostering engagement, leading diverse teams, and aligning leadership with project success.

Mitchell Rohrer, P.Eng. – Decarbonizing Building Thermal Systems and Electrification of Heating

Mitchell Rohrer is an Account Executive for HVAC Equipment at Johnson Controls. He primarily covers the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) but also supports regions across Canada. Mitchell has been with Johnson Controls for over 10 years, bringing extensive experience in applications involving commercial and industrial HVAC equipment including YORK air handling units, chillers, heat pumps and commercial packaged equipment.

He is a licensed Professional Engineer in Ontario and an active volunteer with the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Hamilton chapter, where he has also served as a past chapter president. Mitchell holds a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering & Management degree from McMaster University.

In this presentation, Mitchell will explore the importance of decarbonizing building thermal systems through the electrification of heating, focusing on the application of heat pump technologies, small and large. The goal is to provide an overview of emissions due to building operation in Ontario, the decarbonization landscape, and explain why building designs are opting for heat pump technology instead of fuel-burning technologies for their heating needs. By better understanding and applying heat pump technology, buildings can significantly reduce their carbon footprint and contribute to a more sustainable future.