



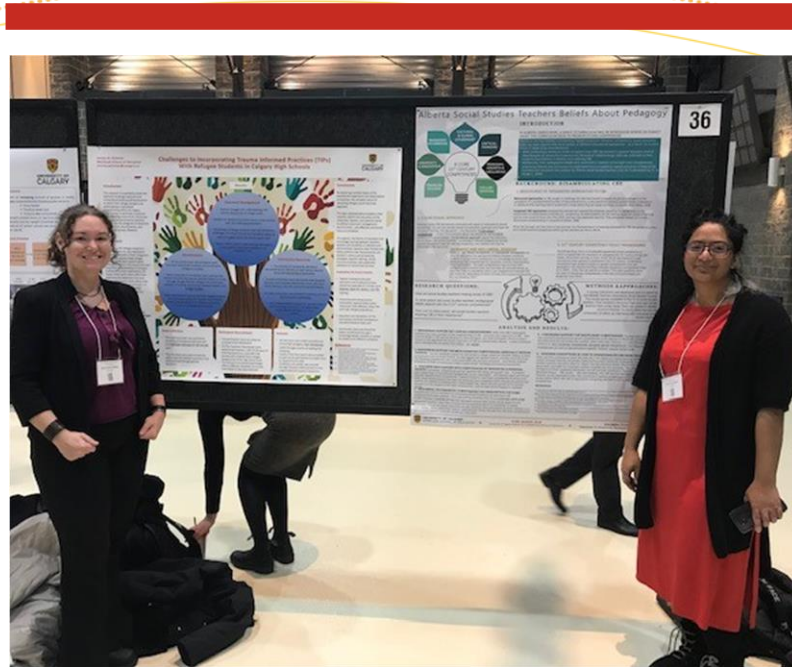
# The Werklund Wire

## Student Union Undergraduate Research Symposium Winners

### Janine Natasha Pelletier

For the Undergraduate Research Symposium, I presented research that I worked on over the summer through the Program of Undergraduate Research (PURE) Award. My project, "Supporting Refugee Youth with Trauma Informed Practices" looked at how refugee students can be supported through trauma informed practices, and the barriers as to why these practices aren't always implemented in schools. I discovered that barriers come from a combination of factors: lack of knowledge amongst teachers in the classroom and administration, a confusing tangle of community resources, and a certain amount of prejudice in schools at both the teacher and administrative level. The good thing about these conclusions is that each of them can be addressed, and a lot of it starts at the preservice teacher level - with us. Education is key.

The Undergraduate Research Symposium was a perfect way to explore something I was passionate about. I got to delve more deeply into my project, and figure out what people really needed to know about it. This allowed me to get my research out there, and share it with people who were really interested to learn about it. I also got the chance to learn about many other fascinating undergraduate projects, including within the Werklund School of Education.



### Parneet Kaur Kahlon

For my project, "Competency Based Education: Alberta Social Studies Pedagogical Beliefs", I explored how competency based education (CBE – but not that one!) has evolved in general education. I worked to disambiguate its various formulations and theoretical underpinnings. I also engaged with Alberta Social Studies teachers to better understand how they understand the programming intent of CBE, and how they are enacting or are likely to enact CBE. Finally, I examined teachers' pedagogical beliefs in relation to the eight core competencies, to better understand how they relate to each competency.

Insight gained may inform efforts to supply teachers with the resources, supports and professional development opportunities they need to move the reform effort from policy and pedagogy to classroom practice.

### Up and Coming At Werklund....

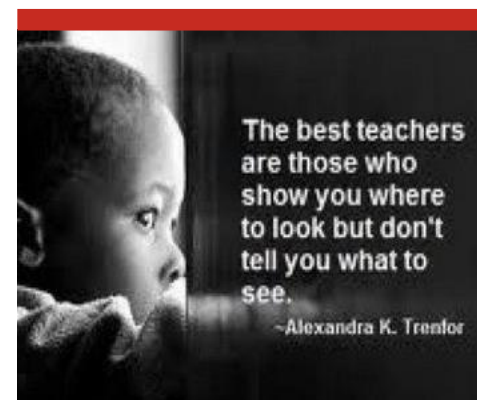
- 1. Graduating Students Career Workshops:** Are you completing your 500-level EDUC courses this semester? If so, you are probably thinking about submitting applications for certification, and hopefully to the various school boards to receive job offers! Come to the Career Workshops starting on Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> (more dates and times on our [website](#)!)
- 2. Education Career Fair:** Speaking of careers, the Career Fair is on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 10:30am-2:30pm in MacEwan Hall A&B.
- 3. PURE and WSE Undergraduate Research Awards:** The deadline to apply for the Undergraduate Research Awards (PURE Awards and Werklund School of Education Undergraduate Research Awards) is February 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm.
- 4. Mid-Term Break (Except For EDUC Field IV students):** Students will have the Winter semester mid-term break from February 17<sup>th</sup> - February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please note that if you are in your final semester of Education 500 courses, you will NOT have reading break, but will likely have a week during your placement school's 'Spring Break'.
- 5. WestCAST:** The registration for [WestCAST 2019](#) is well underway! Make sure that you register soon!

### We want to hear from YOU:

The Werklund Wire is an Undergraduate Programs in Education newsletter, and that means it pertains to all things YOU! Student submissions are not only welcomed, but encouraged! **This month's student shout out goes to Simran Sallan, a first year Concurrent BEd student, for her help with layout and presentation!** Send us ideas for upcoming stories, or write one yourself! Memes, comics, and articles are also all considered!

[WestCAST](#) is an exciting professional development opportunity to **engage with other educators from across western Canada on important classroom topics**. Presentations and workshops will feature teachers, faculty members, and student teachers sharing useful tips and raising thoughtful questions about teaching and learning.

There will also be a **student social hosted by the ESA** on Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. Only people who are registered for the conference can attend this social, but it is a great opportunity to connect with other education students in Western Canada!





### President's Corner

Hi Everyone!

I hope you all had a restful holiday, a happy New Year, and are feeling rejuvenated for the semester ahead! We are happy to announce we hosted our 5<sup>th</sup> school board information session, and had our first ever "First Year Advice Panel". Our **Professional Development (PD) sign up for January is open**, so make sure you sign up soon to get a spot at the sessions you want! Don't forget that you need your ESA membership to attend any of our events! We are also hosting a giveaway in which we will be picking one random winner that attended a PD this semester! The more PDs you attend, the better your chances are to win!

If you are **interested in being on the ESA team for next year**, nominations are now open for the annual election happening in February! **Teacher's Convention cards** can be picked up in our office for **graduating students**. You will need to show your student ID card and your ESA membership. These cards are unable to be replaced, so make sure you don't lose them!

If you are ever unsure of what is going on you can head to our [website](#) for all our information!

As always, make sure that you keep up to date with us on our social media pages: Facebook: [/esaucalgary](#); Instagram: [@ESAUCalgary](#). And of course, stop by our office during office hours to pick up your membership!

Until next month!

Sam

### WSE Students attend National Youth Gathering on Indigenous Education

On November 2018, 5 pre-service teachers attended [Canadian Roots Exchange's](#) National Youth Gathering, an opportunity for Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth to come together, listen and learn from one another, challenge negative stereotypes, and advance reconciliation goals across the country. One speaker described the Gathering as bringing together "young people who all believe that better is possible" – drawing on youth's energy and capacity for change.

For the Werklund delegation, the Gathering was an opportunity to learn how leaders across Canada are taking up the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's [Calls to Action](#). Since then, the students have taken what they've learned back into their own classrooms. As one student described, "Activism doesn't stop at 4:00pm and begin again at 9:00am the next day. It's a constant thing."

If you're interested in hearing more about these students' experiences, stay tuned for their session at this year's [WestCAST conference](#). We're looking forward to learning more about how students are taking up this important work!

-Michael Holden



### STEM Showcase Highlights

Werklund's STEM Education Showcase highlighted 450 first semester pre-service teachers' understanding of designing STEM learning environments. Over 100 robotics challenges were designed and prototyped. Posters highlighted and illustrated STEM design processes and concepts that were intrinsic to the problem. As a bonus, local schools were invited to attend and participate in the challenges. There were so many fantastic robot challenges, including robots for protecting wild animals from traffic, detecting cancer, solving the Bridges of Konisberg, planting trees, clearing snow, pollinating flowers, and more!

The Showcase highlights the tremendous work that the pre-service teachers engaged in to learn how to find and model mathematics and science concepts found in good tasks, build and program robots, and design STEM learning environments. What a great start to becoming future innovative teachers!

One of the highlights from the STEM Showcase this year, was having one of our Werklund School of Education (WSE) 2018 graduates, Sylvia Sinclair, join us with her Grade 1-2 class from Connaught Elementary.

Connaught is located in downtown Calgary, and more than 40 languages are spoken by the school's multicultural students. Sylvia has been applying her WSE learning to best educate her 20 students, make connections with their parents/guardians, and become a successful member of her school community.

To create a unique learning experience for their students, Sylvia collaborated with her previous WSE instructor, Christi Harter, to arrange for Sylvia's students to interact with Christi's EDUC 427 Elementary STEM class on December 6, 2018. Sylvia recruited five parent volunteers and her school's robotics club teacher, who brought five Grade 3-6 students to take their first bus trip to the U of C campus.

The Connaught students engaged in 11 different robot challenges designed and hosted by Christi's 40 WSE students. Afterward, the Connaught students enjoyed playing outside on the U of C campus, had lunch in the WSE STEM classroom, and then participated in Patricia Bolger's Early Elementary STEM Education class where they learned about eight other robot challenges.

The elementary and university students and teachers greatly enjoyed this interactive learning experience. A big thank you to Sylvia Sinclair for the effort, time, and coordination it took during her first semester as a teacher to create a connection between the Connaught community and our WSE students.

-Krista Francis