

Navigating Your Identity in Career Development and Entrepreneurship: Event Program

March 12th, 2024

- 4:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Arrival, refreshments
- 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Workshop (Job Searching and Networking)
- 6:00 p.m. – 6:10 p.m. – Break, refreshments
- 6:10 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. – Panel discussion and Q&A
- 7:20 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Iftar and networking

Workshop Leader:



Jessica Wurster (She/They) PhD

Jessica Wurster (she/they) is currently the Graduate Career Educator at Career Exploration & Education. She has worked within post-secondary education supporting students through career development and experiential learning for over 10 years. This path began during Jess' PhD studies at McGill University during a conversation with a career advisor; their career journey has made them a big proponent of career education and its tangible impacts on people's lives. They have developed a focused expertise on the career needs of graduate students through their work experience in roles within Engineering and the Student Wellness Hub at McGill and previous roles supporting co-op students at U of T. Throughout their career at both U of T and McGill, Jessica has prioritized a student-centered and EDIA lens in their collaborative approach to program design. Jessica has a BA in Art History from Scripps College in California and holds an MA and a PhD in Communications Studies from McGill University.

Panelists:



Alexandra Panousis (She/Her)

Alex Panousis is an executive leader with over 2 decades of expertise in media, digital technology, commerce and communications. She is known for driving growth by leading organizations through complex changes and helping brands and companies transform their businesses. Alex has led teams at Publicis Media, Havas, Dentsu Media, the CBC, the National Post, and several start-ups. Alex serves as a board director and advisor to several digital companies. She is an active member of several not for profit boards, including Aftermetoo the National Advertising Benevolent Society, and has previously contributed to The City of Toronto Moss Park and the Jorgen Ballet. Since 2017, she has been the volunteer community director and host of TechTO Marketing, supporting entrepreneurs and innovators in the Canadian martech and adtech community.

Panelists (cont.):



Jeanette Southwood (She/Her/Elle) **FCAE, FEC, LL.D. (honoris causa), P.Eng., IntPE**

Award-winning engineer and leader, Jeanette Southwood is Vice President, Corporate Affairs and Strategic Partnerships at Engineers Canada, the national organization of the 12 regulators that license Canada's more than 300,000 members of the engineering profession. Before joining Engineers Canada, she led the Canadian Urban Development & Infrastructure Sector and the Global Sustainable Cities teams at an international consulting firm where she was the first Black woman to be appointed to the senior leadership position of Principal globally. Jeanette is a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering, which recognizes engineers

contributing in exemplary ways towards their disciplinary fields and the wider community. She has received an Honorary Doctorate as well as the Ontario Professional Engineers Awards' Engineering Excellence Medal. She was also honoured as one of Canada's Clean50 for her work and dedication to sustainable development, leading change, championing innovation, and changing our world for the better. A dedicated volunteer, Jeanette is a Fellow of Engineers Canada, a recipient of the Province of Ontario's "Leading Women Building Communities Award," an inductee into Professional Engineers Ontario's Order of Honour, and a recipient of Canada's Governor General's Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers. Jeanette has been inducted into the University of Toronto's Engineering Hall of Distinction and was twice named one of WXN Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women, as well as being recognized as one of the Women of Innovation. She was appointed as an Honorary Captain of the Royal Canadian Navy; she is the first Honorary Captain to be affiliated with the Naval Engineering Community. She was featured in the Royal Canadian Mint's campaign for the new coin honouring Canada's first practising woman engineer, Elsie MacGill. In December 2023, Jeanette began her term on the Board of the Electrical Safety Authority. She is a member of the TD Insurance Advisory Board on Climate Change. Jeanette has authored or contributed to many articles, book chapters, technical papers, and presentations that detail engineering research, the practice of engineering, and contributions to the bank of knowledge around urban resilience, human health and ecological risk assessment, and infrastructure vulnerability to climate change including co-authoring a chapter in a book published by the Zofnass Institute at Harvard University. She has been an Adjunct Lecturer, creating graduate courses for the Master of Engineering Program at the University of Toronto.

Panelists (cont.):



Kritika Tyagi (She/Her)

Kritika is the Co-Founder and Head of Product at erthos, where she seamlessly blends her expertise in Plant Biology from the University of Toronto with her leadership in product development and sustainability. Guiding highly skilled teams in data science, compliance, sustainability, and machine learning, she pioneers tech-driven regenerative solutions in the materials science space. Kritika's global impact extends through collaborations with industry leaders like the Biodegradable Plastics Institute and the Biodegradable Industries Association (BBIA). Additionally, she contributes as a board member to the Lambton Manufacturing Innovation Centre, furthering her commitment to innovative, scalable solutions.



Tiffany Joseph (She/Her)

Tiffany Joseph (she/her) is a Partner Technology Strategist and engineer-by-training. She studied Space Engineering then worked in material handling as a Project Engineer for 3 years, where she developed a love for client-first work, project management and interdisciplinary STEM projects. She is a passionate ally committed to learning about people and their needs, and advocating for fellow humans in the corporate world and her personal life. Tiffany is a passionate hobbyist who aims to combine her favourite activities with her work to brighten and enrich her professional life.