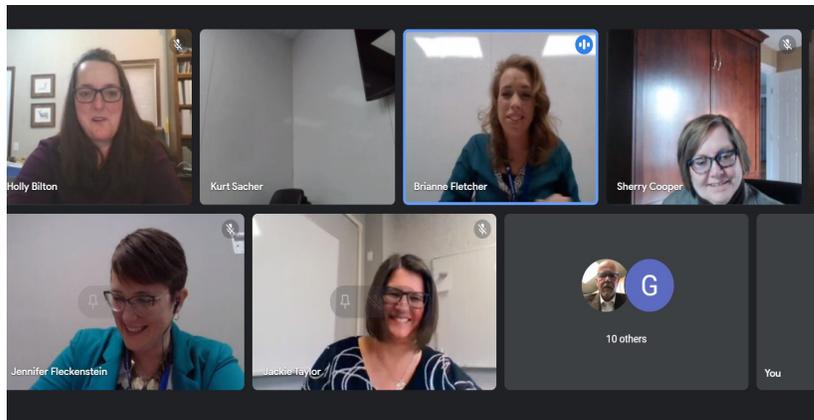


Career Connections... making great things happen for students in school and in life!



Surprise! Brianne Fletcher and Jennifer Fleckenstein shared a laugh when Superintendent Kurt Sacher left the virtual Board of Trustees meeting to surprise them in person with a small welcome gift.

For over a decade, Chinook's Edge has had a robust approach to connecting students with a career path long before they complete high school.

Through the Community Learning Campus (CLC), the division's joint venture with Olds College, the Chinook's Edge Learning Services Team has dug into powerful research and high leverage strategies to place students on a positive pathway and to ensure a seamless transition to post-secondary or the world of work.

The Learning Services Career Connections team has two new people this year - and they are igniting a whole new level of engagement across Chinook's Edge communities as they support schools and students:

Brianne Fletcher is the Career Connections Coordinator, arriving to the Learning Services Team from Innisfail High School where she spent 12 years teaching Grades 8-12 Social Studies and a large variety of CTS courses. As Career Counselor, she also successfully developed the school's Career Connections work over the past four years. Key in Brianne's role is overseeing the significant amount of dual credit programming that our students from all high schools are involved in.

Jennifer Fleckenstein is uniquely placed as the Career Connections Practitioner with both Chinook's Edge and CAREERS: The Next Generation. This partnership with CAREERS created a unique role in the province and provides support to accomplish the division's goals, in particular connecting students with internships and supporting their successful transition beyond high school. Jennifer brings 13 years of post-secondary career experience to the role, including the last four years as the Associate Registrar of Admissions & Recruitment at Olds College.

"Transitioning successfully to post-secondary has been a fierce focus in this division for over 10 years, with a particularly strong plan for Grades 9 to 12. Our next steps are to work with all of our schools on a division plan, to start right at the youngest grades. We are aiming to have school teams at every level who are focused on essential school experiences for all students. We want students to better understand the variety of career pathways as options for future training, while building career ready skills as they proceed through the grades. Our experience shows that students are better engaged in their learning when they can see where it leads and why it is important to know who they want to be in their future career. I've never experienced work as powerful as what's happening right now across our division with the Career Connections school teams and the added value of the new team members. We have highly skilled people in powerful roles and the work is having an immediate impact on our students!"

- Jackie Taylor, CLC Director

Career Connections involves multiple programming threads: MyBluePrint mapping, Work Experience, Green Certificate, Registered Apprenticeship, Dual Credit and more.

The data is clear – when a student participates in Career Connections experiences and Dual Credit programming, their high school graduation rate is upwards of 97-100 %.

Last year there were over 10 different learning streams through Dual Credit offerings - which provides students with credits at both high school and post-secondary levels. In the 2020-2021 school year, over 1,000 credits were earned by 200 students in Grades 10-12.

Every high school in Chinook's Edge had students participating – many of whom are approaching standards of excellence in provincial testing.

Division goals: Academic Excellence, Career Connections, Social Emotional Well-being