



114 Peter Lougheed Hall
11011 Saskatchewan Drive
Edmonton, AB T6G 2B4

2019-20 Graduate Leadership Development: Speaker Biographies

Shana Dion

Courageous Conversations, October 17, 2019

Shana Dion is from Kehewin Cree Nation. Shana has been in her role as assistant dean, First Nation, Métis and Inuit students for a year, however, she held the role of director of First Peoples' House for 9 years. In her both roles she remains grounded and guided by her Cree teachings in providing wholistic supports for First Nation, Métis and Inuit learners to achieve their own personal and academic growth.

Salima Ebrahim

Essential Skills for Strategic Leadership, February 10, 2020

Salima Ebrahim is the Head of External and Intergovernmental Relations with the City of Edmonton. Prior to joining the City of Edmonton she was the Executive Director of the Banff Forum, a national public policy organization whose mission is to reinvigorate public debate in Canada and strengthen the country through engaging leaders from diverse backgrounds and industry sectors, and came to that role after spending a number of years as a management consultant with Deloitte in Toronto. She is also a former fellow with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Salima currently sits on the board of Pier21, Canada's Immigration Museum and is vice-chair of the Inspirit Foundation. She has received several awards for her public service leadership including being a Top 40 under 40, and a National Women Who Inspire recipient awarded by the Canadian Council of Muslim Women. Salima is bilingual and has her undergraduate degree from the University of Alberta and a master's degree from the London School of Economics.

Marni Panas

The Power of Storytelling, March 17, 2020

Marni Panas leads the diversity and inclusion team with one of Canada's largest employers where she is dedicated to creating safer, more welcoming and inclusive environments in health care. She holds a degree in Health Administration and a Canadian Certified Inclusion Professional designation. Marni has been invited to share her experiences and expertise inclusion and cultural safety for LGBTQ2S+ people locally, nationally and internationally. She was part of the work that led to gender identity and gender expression being added as protected grounds to Alberta and Canada's Human Rights Acts. She was a member of the Advisory Committee that helped draft the apology that Prime Minister Justine Trudeau delivered to LGBTQ2S+ people in Canada in the House of Commons in November, 2017. You can hear Marni in local and national media and has made appearances on CNN and the BBC. Marni embraces storytelling as a means to inspire change. In her honest and inspiring TED talk, Marni shares, through her personal stories, her sometimes heartbreaking, other times funny, but always real journey as a transgender woman finding the courage to overcome fear.

Cristina Stasia

Leading with Purpose, April 24, 2020

Dr. Cristina Stasia is an award-winning university lecturer and the Director of Instruction at the Peter Lougheed Leadership College. She is currently completing an executive certificate in Public Leadership, with a focus on adaptive leadership, at the Kennedy School of Government. In recognition of her teaching excellence and innovative pedagogy in the Faculty of Arts, she received the William Hardy Award for Excellence in University Teaching and, via the Last Lecture competition, was voted by students as one of the top three most inspiring instructors at the University of Alberta. Her commitment to experiential learning and putting theory into practice via community engagement led to being recognized as one of Edmonton's "Top 40 Under 40" by Avenue magazine. Cristina is the founder of Level Consulting; as a consultant and leadership trainer, she has worked with clients including the City of Edmonton, government ministries, schools, and private businesses. She has served on numerous boards including SAVE (Sexual Assault Voices of Edmonton), ETSAB (Edmonton Transit Service Advisory Board), and was a founding member of WAVE (Women's Advocacy Voice of Edmonton, chair of policy subcommittee).