



## INDUSTRY NETWORKING MIXER

Academic knowledge is only part of the equation when preparing students for the workforce. Therefore, we commit to helping our students develop communication skills and professional networks.

In February 2023, the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the School of Mining and Petroleum hosted a networking mixer for our Master of Engineering students. The mixer was part of an ongoing program to support grad students by providing communications training and professional development opportunities.

The mixer, held at the prestigious Royal Glenora Club in Edmonton's River Valley, brought together about 100 grad students and more than a dozen industry representatives for three hours of speakers, professional networking, and delicious food.

Structural engineer at DIALOG and UofA graduate Cam Franchuk gave an inspirational talk reflecting on what he's learned over his 21 years as an engineer. He gave practical advice about lifelong learning and getting your boots muddy, but a recurrent and appropriate overarching theme was the importance of communication. After his presentation, each industry representative came to the podium to introduce themselves, their company, and their work. The last part of the evening was dedicated to mingling and conversation between industry professionals and students.

Our students prepared for the event with a mock mixer training workshop earlier in the week. Dr. Robyn Braun, the Department's Instructor of Communications, and consultants from WorkSpark covered professional dress, conversation starters, handshakes, introducing yourself, and following up after the event.

The mixer and preparation workshop are just part of the support we provide graduate students to help them develop as professional engineers in Canada.



Our department supports students with opportunities to develop professional communication skills and access to career resources.

We support our students in developing effective communication, teamwork, and adaptability through industry networking events, experiential learning opportunities, and professional development.

Through our professional development and communications support team, we help students develop their resumes, practice interviewing skills, and connect with potential employers. We also provide students with access to job fairs, networking events, and other professional development opportunities to help them build relationships and make valuable industry connections.

**INSTRUCTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS**  
Dr. Robyn Braun – 7-240 Donadeo ICE  
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**WORKSPARK CONSULTING**  
Professional development workshops in resume writing and networking  
Web: [workspark.ca](http://workspark.ca)

**BENEFITS OF NETWORKING**

**Career opportunities** Networking allows students to connect with potential employers, learn about job opportunities, and gain insights into the engineering profession.

**Industry insights** By connecting with professionals in their field, students can stay up-to-date with industry news and developments, helping them make informed career decisions.

**Mentorship** Networking provides students with the opportunity to connect with experienced professionals who can offer guidance and support as they navigate their career path.

**Collaboration** Working with others can help graduate students develop new skills, gain experience, and expand their engineering knowledge.

**Personal development** Networking helps students develop essential skills such as communication, teamwork, and interpersonal competence. By attending events, meeting new people, and building relationships, students develop confidence and expand their professional network.