

**Session 55: *The Anatomy of the Empowered Educator***

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**Chair:** **SANDY HOWE**, Associate Director, Experiential Education, Brock University

**Room:** Wren

**Description:** We believe that equipping educators for success in today's learning environments takes more than deep subject knowledge. We are engaged in a design-based research (DBR) initiative to examine the efficacy of a self-directed professional learning framework that weaves together six attributes of empowered educators proposed by Bates (2016).

Ontario Extend is a capacity-building initiative that is grounded in the belief that the impact of learning should be the primary motivator for creating technology-enabled and online learning experiences. The program aims to empower educators to explore a range of emerging technologies and pedagogical practices for effective face-to-face, online and technology-enabled teaching and learning.

Extend explores the skills, knowledge, and attributes required to extend and transform our teaching and learning practices and to enrich our professional development. Grounded in experiential learning, the resources provide the basis for more deliberate course design and digital pedagogical practices. Each Extend module is activity-oriented and outcomes-based. Successful completion of the activities that demonstrate achievement of the outcomes of each of the modules are recognized with digital badges.

Approximately 100 Ontario educators have participated in three iterations of the program across the province. We will present preliminary research findings from the first iteration of the project and design specifications for the 2018-19 iteration.