

Culture in the engineering workplace: Ways in which our culture can shape our working style

Manitoba's workforce is already culturally diverse and is expected to become even more so in the future.

Within culture, we share specific preferences, ways of thinking, and ways of doing with a group of people, but not with all people. We all operate out of a cultural style, but often our own culture is invisible to us until we bump up against another cultural style.

Cultural differences can then lead to misunderstandings, misinterpretations, and outright conflict in the workplace with direct consequence on morale, team cohesion, and productivity.

This session will identify how different cultural styles and backgrounds often show up in day to work processes, will help uncover the deeper inherent cultural values, and will offer strategies to both employees and managers who work in culturally diverse engineering settings.

Speaker: Marcia Friesen, P.Eng.



Marcia is the Director of the Internationally-Educated Engineers Qualification program (IEEQ) at the University of Manitoba, and Associate Professor.

She leads the team that develops and delivers the IEEQ program, which is a qualifications recognition pathway for recent newcomers to Manitoba to have their foreign engineering credentials recognized for registration with Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba.

Prior to joining the University of Manitoba, Marcia worked as a design engineer in environmental and agricultural engineering consulting services with several local firms.

Marcia is also past-president of Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba, is on the board of the Canadian Engineering Memorial Foundation, and is a member of ACEC-Manitoba's TWICE committee.