

Instructor Biographies – 2026 Spring Professional Development

Blair Cook CPA, CA, CPA (III), MBA is a many-time corporate director, CFO, author, speaker, educator, innovator, and thought leader for the Office of the CFO. He is currently the CFO at Mara Renewables Corporation, a biotechnology company and is a corporate director of Terravest Industries and Clarke Inc., both of which have substantial operations in Alberta in the oil & gas equipment supply and hospitality sectors. He is the author of *The Illiterate Executive: An Executive's Handbook for Mastering Financial Acumen*.

Chris Wyman is the President of Pathfinder Business Consulting. Prior to starting his own company, Chris had over 25 years of experience within the finance industry and was most recently the Vice President of Learning and Development for a Canadian-based training firm.

Throughout his career in finance, Chris has experienced a variety of roles, from Internal Audit Director to Commercial Banking Account Manager. He draws on his extensive range of experience when delivering seminars related to management principles, financial statement analysis, process management and corporate GRC (governance, risk management and compliance).

Chris holds his CPA designation, the Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) designation, and the IIA's Certification in Risk Management Assurance (CRMA). He is also certified to perform internal audit quality assessments and is accredited by the Institute of Internal Auditors to facilitate IIA Courses.

Ken Lewchuk is a Chartered Professional Accountant (British Columbia) and a Certified Public Accountant (Texas). He graduated with a MBA from the Edinburgh Business School and with a MA in Applied and Professional Ethics from the University of Leeds (Distinction) where his dissertation focused on Enron and corporate responsibility. His career in the energy sector has spanned technical accounting, corporate finance, and assurance for corporations in the United States and Canada. He has taught technical accounting and finance classes to corporate employees in several countries, been a conference speaker, and a guest lecturer at Texas A&M University, Mays Business School, on the topic of business ethics.

Michael Lewis is Managing Director of Michael Lewis Training, Motivation and Development, a London, Ontario-based training, and development firm that was founded in 1994 and specializes in developing and delivering personal and professional development presentations, seminars, webinars, workshops, and teambuilding facilitation to a wide range of clients. Born in 1961, He graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a B.A. in 1983, began a career in training in the corporate world, and eventually started his own training and development firm.

Michael is a very experienced and popular speaker and trainer. As of July 2023, he has spoken and/or presented workshops, seminars, webinars, and team-building sessions almost 6300 times in 404 different communities across Ontario. He has been honoured to have been of service to a wide range of clients in private, non-profit, and public sectors. Additionally, he has spoken and presented seminars and workshops on a wide variety of emerging and important topics to over the past 20 years to the accounting profession across Ontario primarily to the members of the CPA Ontario and ATAP - Association of tax and Accounting Professionals.

Monica Bhardwaj, CPA, CA is a Certified Life Coach who helps people feel less stressed and anxious and more ease and confidence in all areas of their life. After over 20 years of working in the corporate world, she started to feel the mental and physical effects of stress and imbalance, which led her to life coaching. Monica uses practical, evidence-based tools that are rooted in cognitive science and neuroscience and are guaranteed to give you the mental and emotional well-being you long for.

Morgan Hamel is President of MH Partners Inc., a boutique consulting firm dedicated to helping firms navigate moral nuance to build long-term stakeholder value. Having earned a Master's in Applied Ethics from Utrecht University in 2010, worked in the ethics office of a large corporation for 11 years, and built a successful ESG-centric fashion marketing company, Morgan brings together the academic, corporate, and entrepreneurial elements of ethics and business in a unique and accessible way.

Paul Mascarenhas is President and founder of Avancer Learning Inc. He is a specialist in strategic communication initiatives and an experienced facilitator in IT and communication skills. He has facilitated workshops for leading corporations, professional institutions, and government bodies, in Canada and internationally. Beginning his career in roles of Marketing and Economic Research, Business planning, and Communications, he built his career around data-driven advertising and marketing strategy. His fascination for spreadsheets led him to develop routines for bringing objectivity into business decision making and fine-tune a flair for spotting trends in data and their impact on business strategy. He brings his twin specialisations of Communications and Strategic Analysis, to training, and has developed & conducted workshops for some of the world's leading organizations over the last 10 years.

Scott Orth is a mindfulness coach and trainer, who gives CPAs the tools they need to delete the overwhelm, focus on what matters most and create the life they want. He helps them understand and better manage their reactive brain, training them to be more focused, resilient, and happier - even when stressed. Scott has delivered webinars, PD training and keynote presentations to many

of the CPA associations across the country and his presentations are always highly engaging, practical, and highly rated. He uses these tools every day in his own life and brings a practical, no-nonsense approach to it all.

Stephen P. Franklin specializes in corporate staff and leadership development, and in individual professional and career development. Steve has taught programs for more than 30 years, and currently in his own practice featuring a number of training programs which he has created. He is a trusted provider of training and coaching for many clients across Canada.

Susan Portelance is a lead facilitator for Eclectic Communications. After many years in the corporate world, Susan has turned her love of language into a career as a writer, editor and trainer. As an editor, Susan works with her clients to craft effective communications - from newsletters and blogs to eBooks and proposals. Susan brings to the classroom over 20 years of training experience and four years of Toastmasters participation where she has honed her public speaking and leadership skills. Susan joined Eclectic in January 2013 and has proven to be an exceptional facilitator and educator.