

**Plenary Speaker, May 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**Sarah Pelletier**  
(Campus St-Jean, UAlberta)



**49<sup>th</sup> College Chemistry Canada Conference**  
**May 26 – 28, 2023**



## **BIOGRAPHY**

Dr. Sarah Pelletier obtained a B.Sc. in chemistry (2000) at the *Université du Québec à Rimouski* (UQAR) and a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry (2006) at the University of Alberta. She is the Director of the Science Teaching Laboratories and Chemistry professor at Campus Saint-Jean, the Francophone Faculty of the University of Alberta in Edmonton. She has years of experience running University level science laboratories as well as teaching introductory to advanced university chemistry classes. Throughout her career, she has been organizing outreach activities for K-12 students as well as, more recently, implementing green chemistry and sustainability in her laboratories and courses. She is also involved with the revision and redesign of Campus Saint-Jean's Science Programs.

## **PLENARY CONFERENCE ABSTRACT** (English conference, bilingual workshop)

### **Outreach Programs for Elementary and High schools, and First year students experience in Post-secondary: a talk and conversation in two parts.**

**Part 1.** Science outreach programs and activities intended for K-12 students are organized regularly by several Colleges and Universities across the country and vary greatly in their format, goals and results. These activities spark students' interest for science and are often a recruiting tool for the colleges and universities. We have led and organized several such activities and often wondered if the latter actually meet their intended goals. Are the activities at the proper level to challenge students but not discourage them? What do the K-12 teachers want for their students? What is best for the students? What is best for us? I will present the outreach activities that we organise at Campus Saint-Jean and then will lead a discussion to explore the challenges and outcomes for the K-12 students and teachers, and for the organizing Colleges and Universities.

**Part 2.** Those K-12 students (whether or not they have experienced outreach activities) may eventually land into our College and University classrooms. Then, the *Professors' Lament* begins: "They're not ready! They're not mature! They don't know anything! What have they done in high school? They were better before!" I will present some of our strategies and programs in place to ensure and improve first-year student experience, success and mental health. We will follow with an exchange on how to connect the two worlds: what does post-secondary want, what does high school do to prepare the students and how to welcome and integrate students in our Colleges and Universities based on our desired outcomes.