
Prof. Dr. Allan Cahoon

President and Vice Chancellor, Royal Roads University, Victoria,
British Columbia, Canada

Allan Cahoon, PhD, became President and Vice-Chancellor of Royal Roads University in 2007. He is the University's third President and was re-appointed as President in 2012 and in 2017.

Academic Background

Cahoon started his undergraduate education at the University of Calgary before transferring to the United States to complete his BA in history and political science, an MSc in International Administration, and eventually completed his PhD at Syracuse University. As president, Cahoon has attended executive education programs at Harvard University and Oxford.

Experience

Cahoon started his career at the University of Saskatchewan teaching Commerce and Political Science and after completing his PhD joined the University of Calgary and in 1985 was promoted to a full professor. He served in various administrative positions within the Faculty and University including: Assistant Dean, Chair, Management of Organizations and Human Resources, Director of International Business, Director of the OLADE Project and President of the Faculty Association.

As a professor, he specialized in executive development, human resources, team building and international education. His research has focused on high performance teams, international and cross cultural understanding and conducted a longitudinal research project on the experience of women and men in organizations. In addition he has consulted and published on that topic as well as in areas of organizational stress and burnout, and cross cultural negotiations. He has consulted with a number of major Canadian organizations including the Red Cross, the YMCA, the Governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan, Trans Canada Pipeline, Trans Alta and the Calgary Board of Education. He currently serves on the Board of the International Chair Academy.

International

He has had a strong interest in internationalization since he started as an undergraduate and while at the University of Calgary, participated as the Canadian director of the European Summer School for Advanced Management and established the North American Summer School of Advanced Management and the and the Canadian/Mexican and Canadian/Chilean Consortium of Schools of Administration and Business.

From 1996 to 1998, as director of the International Business Division at the University of Calgary, Cahoon was successful in developing a number of

international business initiatives on behalf of the university and until 2001, led an \$8-million cross-disciplinary MSc program in energy and the environment offered at the Latin American Energy Organization's headquarters in Quito, Ecuador.

In 2002, Cahoon moved to the University of Regina, where he held the position of Vice-President, Research and International. In 2006, Cahoon was appointed Acting President and served in that role until 2007, when he moved to Royal Roads University.

At Royal Roads University, Cahoon has served on the Campaign Cabinet of the United Way Victoria, the Advisory Council of the Order of BC, and as President of University Public Sector Employers' Association (UPSEA) and as a member of the judge's panel for the Premier's Innovation and Excellence Awards for BC Public Services 2015 to present. He is currently a member of the Research Universities Council of BC (RUCBC); LGBTQ President's in Higher Ed; and a member of Universities Canada and serves as a member of its the international Relations Committee. He has been an advocate for establishing and supporting the Vancouver Island Presidents Post-Secondary Alliance and in establishing and supporting the South Island Prosperity Project (SIPP).

Cahoon served as VP (Canada) for the Inter-American Organization for Higher Education (IOHE) and was elected President in 2014 through 2107.

Cahoon – whose second language is Spanish – has been a visiting professor at the National Autonomous University of Mexico UNAM, Monash University (Mount Eliza Management School) in Australia, Yamaguchi University in Japan and the International Management Center (Central Europe University) in Hungary. As well, Cahoon has held teaching appointments at the University of Saskatchewan, Simon Fraser University and Syracuse University. He is adjunct professor at the Tianjin Open, Hunan University and Nankai Universities in China and emeritus professor at the University of Calgary.

Publications and Awards

Cahoon has served on the editorial boards of four journals, authored or co-authored more than 40 articles and edited or contributed chapters to numerous books on organizational development. He has presented more than 85 adjudicated conference papers throughout his academic career. He was named an outstanding academic by the Inter-American Organization of Higher Education in and is a successful federal research grant recipient. In May 2015, Maple Leaf Educational Systems awarded him its highest recognition, the Medal of Excellence and Honour.

Cahoon is an expert on international and cross cultural negotiations, leadership and post-secondary education. He recently provided the key note presentation to the China Education Association for International Education

(CEAIE) on international education and student mobility, and Chaired the Institute on the Future of Leadership in the Post-Secondary Sector.

Cahoon has recently published the following Op-Eds and Editorial Opinions:

Times Columnist

- "The Future of Post-secondary Education in Canada"
- "University and the Federal Government – Sunny Days?"
- "Hallowed Halls Changing with the Times"
- "Changing Focus on an Evolving Workforce and Regenerative Culture: An antidote to Change and Uncertainty"

Globe and Mail

- "Pride Events Remind us that Intolerance of the LGBTQ2 Community is not Acceptable"

Vancouver Business

- "Doctoral Education = Oxygen for Productivity and Innovation"

International Talent, published by SAFEA (China)

- "Working with China for over 30 Years"
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LEADERSHIP IN HIGHER EDUCATION: THE CHALLENGES WE FACE

Keynote Speaker:
Prof. Dr. Allan Cahoon

ABSTRACT

This presentation will focus on the challenges and opportunities post-secondary institutions face globally. Reference will be made to the specific challenges universities and colleges face in Canada particularly with respect to globalization. Emerging trends and disruptive innovation will be identified with Royal Roads University used as an example of how its innovative practices respond to the global challenges faced by post-secondary institutions. Finally some observations on university leadership resulting from nearly 12 years as a university president of Canada's most innovative, public, special purpose university will be made by this presenter.
