**Connecting the Data**

**Defining Value at an Applied Education Institution**

**Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)**
- Est. 1916 and built its reputation on trades and technical education
- Primarily a 2-year institution, with 4 degree programs created since 2011
- Majority of teaching faculty come from industry without advanced degrees; yet, some are now required to engage in “scholarly activity”
- Strong ties to industry (primarily, oil & gas), both in terms of curriculum development and financial support

**Goals:**
- Develop cohesive value statements that balance our understanding of library value with institutional priorities, practices, and culture
- Shout it from rooftops until everyone gets it

**Methods:**
1. Compile Library data inventory and draw connections with institutional data
2. Audit official and unofficial institutional communication to better understand stakeholder perceptions of the library (or lack thereof)
3. At every opportunity, insert the Library into the conversation using evidence to unequivocally demonstrate what we’re doing and why it matters

**Challenges:**
- Serve programs that lack conventional relationships with libraries and research
- Traditional and nostalgic perceptions of “The Library” do not exist
- Disconnect between what we know the library does and what faculty understands the library to do

**External Requirements** (a.k.a. unexpected opportunities!)

July 2016: SAIT was required to submit a Comprehensive Evaluation to Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC), the government agency responsible for recommending new degree programs

Ongoing: SAIT established a Program Quality Assessment department to oversee program self-studies and external reviews

**Ebony Magnus | Assessment & User Experience Librarian**
Southern Alberta Institute of Technology
ebony.magnus@sait.ca