

LAUREN MARK

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CERTIFICATION

(ANTICIPATED) CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION, TEACHER REGULATION BRANCH

Applied in March 2026, certification anticipated after B.Ed. program completion in Summer 2026.

EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION, THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

2025 – PRESENT

High School Math and Science Practica, School District #73 (Kamloops) and School District #23 (Kelowna), BC

- > Taught in Math 9, Science 9, Science 10, Physics 11, and Pre-AP Physics 11 classrooms.
- > Designed and implemented labs and activities for junior and senior level sciences.
- > Built respectful relationships with students while applying consistent classroom management strategies that promoted a safe, supportive, and productive learning environment.

BACHELOR OF ENGINEERING (BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING), UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

2019 – 2024

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM LEADER

2024 – 2025

School District #73, Kamloops, BC

- > Led after-school sports and arts programming for elementary students through the After School Sports and Arts Initiative (ASSAI), facilitating engaging activities that supported physical literacy, creativity, and teamwork.

MENTOR

2024 – 2025

Kamloops Immigrant Services, Kamloops, BC

- > Mentored and tutored immigrant/refugee children to achieve their learning outcomes to help with the transition to their new school and community.

YOUTH STEM INSTRUCTOR

2024

Science Venture, Victoria, BC

- > Created and facilitated a computer science club for girls and gender-nonconforming youth.
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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FROM GRAM STAINS TO GRAPHIC NOVELS: RESEARCHING A NEW WAY TO TEACH MICROBIOLOGY

2025 – PRESENT

Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, BC

- > Designed and conducted an education research study evaluating whether graphic novel-based instruction improves microbiology literacy, engagement, and attitudes toward microorganisms among Grade 5 and Grade 9 students in School District 73 and School District 23.
- > Illustrated and co-authored the microbiology graphic novel, *Microbe Mysteries*, for use in this research project.

PUBLICATIONS

- **Mark, L.** When Things Break and Bloom. In C. Ives & N. Cheeptham (Eds.), *Humanizing Science Education: A Collection of Reflective Essays and Creative Works from Science Educators and Learners*. Accepted for publication by University of Toronto Press (expected 2026).
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PRESENTATIONS

- Poster: Gorman, K. **Mark, L.** Cheeptham, N. *From Gram stains to graphic novels: Researching a new way to teach microbiology*. Poster presentation at the TRU Teaching Practices Colloquium, March 17, 2026.
 - Poster: **Mark, L.** Gorman, K. Cheeptham, N. *Microbe Mysteries: Where Science Meets Storytelling in Community Microbiology Education*. Poster presentation at the TRU Science Undergraduate Research Conference, April 9, 2026.
 - Poster: **Mark, L.** Gorman, K. Cheeptham, N. *Microbe Mysteries: Where Science Meets Storytelling in Community Microbiology Education*. Poster presentation at the TRU Science Undergraduate Poster Exhibition of Research (SUPER), April 14, 2026.
 - Art Exhibition: **Mark, L.** Gorman, K. Cheeptham, N. *Microbe Mysteries: Where Science Meets Storytelling in Community Microbiology Education*. Presented graphic novel (*Microbe Mysteries*) at the Art in Science public art exhibition hosted by the UBC Okanagan Biology Graduate Student Society, May 2, 2026.
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VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

PRESIDENT

2020 – 2024

UVIC Biomedical Engineering Design Team, Victoria, BC

- > Assisted with administration responsibilities, project management, and club events while coordinating and participating in design projects.

MENTOR

2023

Fostering Science Mentorship Program, Vancouver, BC

- > Worked with equity-seeking youth to inspire an interest in science and engineering.

CLASSROOM VOLUNTEER

2023

Claremont Secondary, Victoria, BC

- > Answered student questions and helped with lab experiments in Physics 11 and Robotics 11/12 classrooms.

VOLUNTEER

2023

Kids Physio, Victoria, BC

- > Assisted physiotherapists during sessions with children with diverse needs.

VOLUNTEER

2022

Willerth Lab, Victoria, BC

- > Assisted with lab procedures including autoclaving and maintenance of lab stock in a BSL2 lab.
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AWARDS

- > TRU Undergraduate Research Experience Award Program (2026): A scholarship for exceptional undergraduate research initiatives.
 - > Dr. Sherman Jen Scholarship for Education (2026): Awarded in recognition of outstanding extracurricular activities, community service, and work ethic.
 - > UVIC Women in Engineering and Computer Science Entrance Scholarship (2021): Awarded to academically outstanding women students entering the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science.
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REFERENCES

- > John Simonson, Faculty Mentor, SD23
 - john.simonson@ubc.ca, 250-212-0661
 - > Shane Driscoll, Teacher Mentor, Mount Boucherie Secondary School
 - Shane.driscoll@sd23.bc.ca, 778-215-0434
 - > Dr. Naowarat (Ann) Cheeptham, Employer/Research Supervisor, Thompson Rivers University
 - Ncheeptham@tru.ca, 778-257-6447
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