



Dr. Alex Zahavich

Dr. Zahavich is the Chief Academic Officer (CAO) for the Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT), the UAE's leading applied education institution, and founder of the Global Applied Education Network (GAEN). He is responsible for implementing HCT 4.0, including the delivery of all of HCT's academic programs, and applied research and entrepreneurship activities across the UAE.

Previously he was the Vice President of Corporate Development, Applied Research and International at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT), Calgary, Alberta where he was responsible for all of SAIT's international activity, including international projects, international students and SAIT's first Global Strategy. He was the founding director of SAIT's Applied Research and Innovation Services, focused on meeting industry's needs, which resulted in SAIT becoming the number one ranked college in Canada for applied research in 2013. Alex was also the Vice President of Production and Product Development at Uniplast Films Canada, a global leader in packaging. He has a PhD in Mechanical Engineering (Plastics Recycling) from McMaster University. Alex is a member of the Board of Directors for Bobsleigh Canada Skeleton (BCS) and the Materials Commission of the International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation (IBSF). He has presented numerous papers on a variety of topics including materials and sports engineering, innovation, designed experiments, entrepreneurship and was the lead investigator in the design, construction and safety study of the Whistler Olympic sliding track.