

Professor Alex Ferworn CD, PhD

Dr. Ferworn is a Professor of Computer Science at Ryerson University. He is the Graduate Program Director of Ryerson's multidisciplinary Master of Digital Media (MDM) graduate program embedded within Ryerson's DMZ incubator. He serves as the Faculty Liaison between Ryerson's G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education and the Faculties of Science, and Engineering and Architectural Science. Alex is the Academic Co-coordinator for a number of Ryerson's Certificate Programs including, "Disaster and Emergency Management", "Robotics and Embedded Systems", "Data Analytics, Big Data, and Predictive Analytics", and "Computer Security and Digital Forensics". In addition, he serves as Vice-Chair of Ryerson's Senate.

Alex has a broad range of professional experience (telecommunications) and is a veteran of 14 years of service in the Canadian Forces (infantry). His research interests are related to Computational Public Safety which inevitably have something to do with sensing, modeling and decision support using dogs and robots working in disaster environments. He has extensive experience working with disaster and emergency response organizations in Canada and the United States, including the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP UCRT), Toronto Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR) and various Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Task Forces. He collaborates widely and has been an invited visiting scholar in New Zealand and Australia. He seeks to address the needs of emergency Managers and First Responders working in challenging environments by improving their processes through the use of computational thinking and technology where his intent is to assist in saving lives.

Alex's award-winning work has been widely publicized in the media and he is a popular speaker. In 2013 he was named the EURAXESS Canadian "Science Slam" champion for his ability to communicate complex ideas to a general audience in compelling ways. "Partners In Research" named him the Canadian "Technology Ambassador" for 2014 for his body of work and his outreach activities. In 2015 he was an invited speaker at the Colorado Innovation Network (COIN) summit sponsored by the Governor's office.