

## Alumni Career Talks

The graduate program invited program alumni with diverse careers to share their professional development journey and how their graduate degree prepared them for their particular career.

### **Student Feedback**

Students felt attending the events provided them with new information or advice as they considered their own career trajectories. They liked having a balance between academic and industry focused speakers and they would attend similar events again. The events provided a broader view of career options and helped students think about where to focus their career goals.

Students indicated they would like to see events on the following topics in the future: entrepreneurship skills, grant writing, CV writing, and faculty networking. They felt the events will improve once offered in-person and would like more interaction or activities amongst participants.

### **Summary**

As more and more graduate students go into diverse careers, graduate programs can utilize their alumni as a resource for current students on career options and pathways. Faculty no longer need to serve as the sole source for career guidance during graduate school, especially if a graduate student is interested in pursuing a career outside of academia. Graduate Studies can provide graduate programs with alumni data that can assist in identifying alumni and their current careers. Diverse career talks with alumni not only offer graduate students exposure to different career options, but also promote greater alumni engagement for the program. This can provide future opportunities to engage with alumni through more formal mentorship programs, events, career networking, or internships.