Charlene completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Victoria with a BSc in Biology. After several years working in Environmental Protection and Forestry fields as a Registered Professional Biologist, Charlene returned to the University of Victoria to complete the Post Degree Professional Program (Secondary Internship Program). Shortly after achieving her teaching credentials, Charlene joined the staff at VIU’s Malaspina International High School (now The High School), teaching math and science to both international and domestic students. She currently teaches in the Faculty of Academic Career and Preparation and brings her real world experiences as a biologist working in BC’s interior to her teaching practice.

Her journey to complete her master’s degree in Leadership highlighted her passion for helping students ‘learn how to learn’. This includes helping students explore what strategies work for them as well as how to access and use information outside the walls of the classroom. These concepts form an integral part of her teaching approach. Finding your place in a community of learners is also critical to student success, and many of her daily classroom or online activities require students to learn together. To complete her master’s degree, Charlene developed a university course on learning strategies for success in health sciences. She is in the process of creating a research proposal to evaluate the success of student use of learning strategies after completion of the course.

Charlene sees herself as part of a team at VIU. As with any team, success comes from active participation by all team members. She recognizes the need to share – her time, ideas and resources – with others. She also appreciates the role the VIU team plays in helping to create a learning environment that helps learners feel emotionally safe, allowing them to participate in the learning experience. She believes that by working together, we can foster the critical thinking, problem solving and flexibility in ways of learning and knowing that are necessary for our graduates’ success beyond post-secondary.