



**President's Report to
the Board of Governors**

**June
2021**





Office of the President

Convocation 2021

This year's convocation ceremonies will be unlike any before. In light of the ongoing pandemic, we have chosen to host several virtual ceremonies to celebrate our graduates and honour numerous dignitaries. Approximately 2,600 students will graduate during individual faculties' convocation ceremonies being held from June 7 to 11. We will also host two main ceremonies — one for Lakehead Thunder Bay and another for Lakehead Orillia. Graduates from the class of 2020, whose convocation ceremonies were postponed, last year, due to COVID-19, have also been invited to attend this year's ceremonies.

Lakehead Thunder Bay's main ceremony was held on May 29 and we have recognized these five exceptional people:

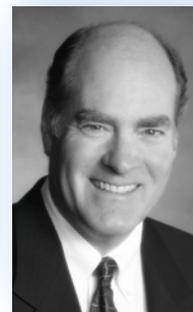
HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS



The Honourable Murray Sinclair



Rosalind Lockyer



Donald Paterson

FELLOWS OF THE UNIVERSITY



Seppo
Paivalainen



Vince
Mirabelli

[Click here to view Lakehead Thunder Bay's Convocation media release...](#)

[Click here to view Lakehead Orillia's Convocation media release...](#)

For the complete schedule of Lakehead University's 2021 Convocation ceremonies, visit lakeheadu.ca/convocation.



Hockey legend and local Elder will be honoured at Lakehead Orillia Convocation ceremony

Hockey Hall of Famer Darryl Sittler will receive a Doctor of Humane Letters and **Elder Trish Monague** will be honoured with the 2021 Civitas Award during Lakehead University's Orillia campus virtual convocation ceremonies on Saturday, June 5.

Although he may be best known for his career on the ice, it is the meaningful impact Darryl makes on the world outside of hockey that Lakehead University is pleased to recognize. A dedicated volunteer with a number of charitable causes, including Special Olympics Canada and Colon Cancer Canada, Darryl has been an avid supporter of postsecondary education and our University since 2009.”



For the last three years, Trish has shared her time, wisdom, and teachings with Lakehead Orillia students, faculty and staff as a visiting Elder and traditional healer. Her guidance has led to the spiritual growth of various departments resulting in improved supports and accessibility for Indigenous students and community members who visit.

Orillia Residence Students Celebrate the Year that was

On Thursday April 15th, Orillia Residence Students enjoyed a Covid-friendly "End-of-the-Year BBQ". Thirty-two residence students celebrated their academic and social achievements of this past year. These students formed a tight bond with each other during highly unusual times where social interactions were often only possible through virtual events. Despite the frequent and ever-changing challenges throughout the past eight months, the Orillia Residence Life Team held many activities this past year such as Virtual Bingo & Escape Rooms, DIY Stuffed Animals, Outdoor Easter Egg Hunt and Virtual Pizza Parties and Board Games. The End-of-Year BBQ was generously sponsored by the Office of the Principal as a small gesture to reward and thank our residence students for their perseverance during the pandemic. Congratulations to our Residence Students!



Academic Excellence

Lakehead University School of Nursing Receives Seven-Year CASN Accreditation

Since 1965, Lakehead University has been known for excellence in nursing education. In September 2002, Lakehead University School of Nursing and Confederation College Nursing Program began a collaborative partnership to deliver the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) four-year program.

In 2004, both the Collaborative BScN and the Compressed BScN programs were granted candidacy status for the accreditation process by the Canadian Association Schools of Nursing (CASN) Accreditation Bureau. Since then, both programs and their associated educational units have successfully achieved accreditation status in 2009, 2018, and just recently in 2021.

Achieving a triple-header, especially undergoing an extensive review in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, is a tremendous feat worth celebrating!

The long-term and successful retention of accreditation status speaks to the outstanding commitments of individuals and their respective educational units, as well as ongoing shared efforts toward excellence in nursing education.

This accomplishment represents an important milestone for Lakehead University BScN alumni, current students, faculty, staff, clinical instructors, and valued community/clinical partners to all be proud of.

Director of the School of Nursing, Dr. Karen McQueen states that, "It is through perseverance and hard work that the School has been able to accomplish so much. This accreditation is a living example of the university's motto: *ad augusta per angusta* (achievement through effort)."



Dr. Lana Ray receives Emerging Voices in Indigenous Scholarship/Researcher Award

Congratulations to **Dr. Lana Ray**, Assistant Professor, Indigenous Learning, who received the Emerging Voices in Indigenous Scholarship/Researcher Award, presented by the Indigenous Inquiries Circle (IIC) Awards Committee at the 17th International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry.

This international award recognizes outstanding Indigenous scholarship being done by Indigenous scholars and researchers around the world.

Dr. Ray has led a number of research projects in the areas of health and education. She was the principal investigator on the CIHR funded project, Investigating Food Sovereignty as a Best Practice Framework for Health Interventions in Rural and Urban Hubs in Northern Ontario and is the co-principal investigator on the five-year CIHR funded project, Educating for Equity: Building Culturally Safe Care through Indigenous Narratives.

She has spearheaded a number of province-wide projects to support the meaningful indigenization of post-secondary education focused on Indigenous student mobility and Indigenous quality assurance. Most recently she has endeavored to decolonize Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) and expand its use within the university.

The adjudication committee acknowledged Dr. Ray's clearly outstanding Indigenous scholarship that recognizes the importance and value of consultation, relationality, and collaboration in research with community and beyond.

The award was presented at the online Indigenous Inquiries Circle pre-conference day on Wednesday, May 18.





2021 Robert Poulin Award

Nicole Costanzo is the recipient of this year's Robert Poulin Award, presented to a full-time Lakehead University student for their outstanding citizenship.

Nicole, who will graduate this year with an Honours Bachelor of Science, made many contributions during her time at Lakehead – to the university and to Thunder Bay. During much of her time at Lakehead University, Nicole was an instructor with Superior Science.

Superior Science encourages campers to pursue science as a career, and makes them more interested in education and learning in general, Nicole said.

Superior Science lessons and activities not only focus on important concepts of science, but also on creativity and innovation that allows campers to do their own exploring.

She has also served as the coordinator of Girls Club, for those in grades 2 to 7. Offered through Superior Science, Girls Club meets monthly through Zoom due to the global pandemic.

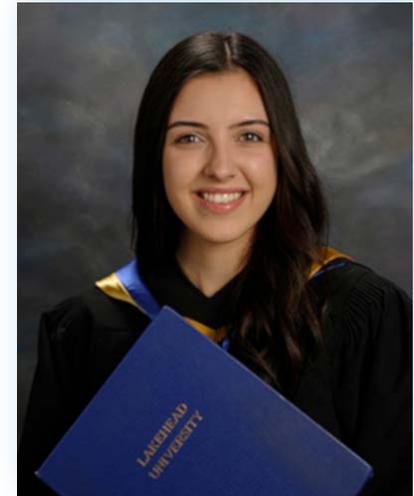
The girls made bath bombs with personalized scents and colours, juice crystal lip balm, and hand sanitizer – while learning the science behind why bath bombs fizz, how mixtures are made, and how hand sanitizer kills bacteria. The girls also learn about science by dissecting animals.

Because Girls Club recognizes how important it is for girls to have female role models, they also discussed Margaret Hamilton, a computer scientist whose written code helped humanity take its first steps on the moon.

As an instructor she travelled to Terrace Bay to deliver Superior Science programming at an elementary school.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Superior Science has used an online outreach platform to connect with schools in Thunder Bay, Dryden, Atikokan, and Nipigon.

[Click here to view media release...](#)





Software Engineering is Recognizing the Work of Second-year Technical Project Students

The Department of Software Engineering is proud to present the work of its second-year Technical Project students from this semester.

In particular, the department is recognizing the talent of three students: **Pearce Curle, Paul Stoppel, and Mason Tommasini**, who shared their unique engineering design solution to a real-world problem facing society.

A *Vision-Based Occupancy Tracker System for Public Safety* has been designed and prototyped, that uses computer vision to detect and record events triggered by motion of objects. This enables public places to control the number of people in an area, aiming to reduce the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus.

The student team aims to advance the prototype with additional features, such as facial recognition, and implement the system in a resource-limited hardware platform.



Local and Global Partnerships

Interdisciplinary Studies

This year, the Interdisciplinary Studies Department course, MDST 2030 WDE 'Intermediate Media Production', was taught by Coco Guzman, a well-known visual artist based in Toronto. They required students to do archival and media research on Huronia Regional Centre and produce a piece in which they investigated how to approach complex histories from a media perspective. Student Melanie Leon's final project about the Huronia Regional Centre site, was reviewed by Orillia Matters.

[Click here to read complete story...](#)



CELL

The Humanities 101 program graduation took place on Zoom on May 17th. As a result of a partnership with Anishnabek Employment and Training Services, this year's class included seven students from Simcoe County and ten students from indigenous communities in Northwestern Ontario. They have taken classes together online in a variety of disciplines with professors from both campuses, including Geology, Nursing, Art, and Education. Graduates received a "celebration in a box". Attached is a picture of the graduating class, some of whom are sporting their new Lakehead sunglasses. The 'future is bright' for this dynamic group of new Humanities 101 alumni!

Third Age Learning Lakehead (TALL) began its latest series on May 12th: Moving On: Migration and Immigration through the Ages. This series features Dr. Barrington Walker, the U.N.'s Rema Jamous Imseis, Kelly Toughill, Dr. Chandran Kukathas, and Dr. Augie Fleras. Dr. Kukathas, former head of the Department of Government at the London School of Economics, will be zooming in from Singapore to discuss his brand-new book, *Immigration and Freedom* (Princeton UP, 2021). Over 100 people are participating in this series, with many of those joining from both of Lakehead's communities, Orillia and Thunder Bay.

The Ontario Youth Naturalist Program has expanded again! Since piloting the program in February, there have been 118 high school students participate in various elements of programming, with students first joining from the classroom and - with the most recent pivot - from their own homes throughout Simcoe County. Working with Lakehead's partners at Parks Canada and Bass Lake Farms, the programming will continue to expand in the fall.





Lakehead University Juried Art Exhibition

The Lakehead University Student Juried show is one of the Thunder Bay Art Gallery's most anticipated exhibitions of the year. This year featured over 50 works from students across Northern Ontario, Southern Ontario, and China.

Individual works spanned a variety of media including painting, drawings, textile, collage, sculpture, and ceramics. The representations of landscape, everyday objects, loved ones, the body, identity, and nature that each reflect back to us our experiences and the stories we tell about who we are and the world we live in.

[Click here to view all the submissions...](#)



Chris Rantala
Carpio Diem, 2020
This is a kinetic sculpture - click on link [here](#) to see a video of it in action
President of Lakehead University Award
Definitely Superior Artist Run Centre Award



Alyssa Angus
Water Warrior Autumn Peletier, 2021
Year 1, Major
David Bruzzese Award



CELL, Humanities 101, and Ontario Youth Naturalist Program Updates

The next Third Age Learning Lakehead (TALL) series began on May 12 with *Moving On: Migration and Immigration through the Ages*. This series features Dr. Barrington Walker, the U.N.'s Rema Jamous Imseis, Kelly Toughill, Dr. Chandran Kukathas, and Dr. Augie Fleras. Dr. Kukathas, former head of the Department of Government at the London School of Economics, Zooming in from Singapore to discuss his brand-new book, *Immigration and Freedom* (Princeton UP, 2021).

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The Ontario Youth Naturalist Program has expanded its pilot program with our partners at Parks Canada and the Simcoe County District School Board, with 40 students at Elmvale Secondary School completing their four modules in May (Turtle Conservation stream). CELL secured grants with the Invasive Species Centre (\$1000) and TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (\$8300) to support this programming.

CELL is currently working on expanding programming with the Catholic board this September.

Lakehead Orillia Student Alumni Activities

Over this past academic year in spite of restrictions placed on us as a result of the pandemic, the alumni chapters based out of the Orillia campus have done a magnificent job connecting with both students and alumni in the area.

The Lakehead University Student Alumni Association (LUSAA), a group of 9 student volunteers, hosted 12 virtual events this year reaching students at both campuses. The events were fun and engaging and included creative ideas such as a hot chocolate bomb making workshop and a zombie apocalypse event.

The Simcoe County Chapter, a group of 8 alumni volunteers, hosted 10 events that included a virtual tour of two areas of the Toronto Zoo and a coffee roasting workshop. In addition to those 10 events, they also developed and implemented 4 virtual events for our homecoming that included a beer and cheese tasting and an 80's Music Bingo event. The chapter opened up their events to all alumni and was able to meet alumni from across the country.



First Cohort of *Ingenuity's* Ascend Accelerator Program

Ingenuity held open applications to all current Lakehead students and alumni (3 years) for their accelerator program, Ascend. The program is 12 weeks long and provides participants with up to \$7,500 per team to help develop their business idea. The program also provides mentorship and learning-based activities. *Ingenuity* had 10 people apply and eight participated in an interview. The interview panel selected four business ideas to move forward and begin the 12-week program which started on May 3, 2021.

The following is the first cohort of Ascend:

Mary Wokomah, Sunkissed Universe - Custom hand bags, loungewear. Mary is receiving \$3,700. Mary is a student in the Faculty of Business.

Marko Javorac, Titan - Marko and his team of 2 other Engineering students have an idea for data mining and providing business solutions to smaller local businesses. The Titan team will receive \$7,500.

Patrick Igbinijesu, Manilla - Money exchange app using blockchain and cryptocurrency. Manilla will receive \$7500.

Ajey Meekis, Tristan St. Aubin, Business Name TBD - The team presented an idea for creating an Esports/Gaming platform to host competitions. Total of 3 Faculty of Business students on this team. They will receive \$3,700.

Promoting Internationalization with the Brazilian Association for International Education

Lakehead University's Research & Innovation team continues to virtually tour the world. Following the recent symposium with Colombia Challenge Your Knowledge (CCYK), the Research & Innovation team participated in the FAUBAI (Brazilian Association for International Education) virtual conference with Brazilian funding agencies and universities. Lakehead University and our partners in the Canada and Latin America Research Exchange Opportunities (CALAREO) consortium presented to FAUBAI on our research priorities and participated in three days of B2B events with potential partner universities.





Lakehead University Receives Record Number of Mitacs Globalink Interns

Lakehead University is receiving a record number of Mitacs Globalink Interns this summer. Fourteen interns will be working with 11 Lakehead faculty members on both campuses, with all internships being conducted virtually. The first two interns started their positions on May 3. Internships last 12 weeks, and students are directly funded by Mitacs. Interns receive a CAD \$6,000 award from Mitacs.



Two Lakehead Engineering undergraduate students have been offered a DAAD RISE internship in Germany. These internships are offered as in-person experiences in the summer or fall semester.

Lakehead's Meal Exchange Chapter and LUSU Food Resource Centre Receive Food Banks Canada Grant

The Lakehead University Meal Exchange Chapter (LUMXC) is very excited to announce that we were successful applicants for the 2020 Rural and Northern Capacity Fund. With the funds received we have been able to purchase \$12,000 in gift certificates from local businesses (Maltese Grocery, The Cheese Encounter, Thunder Bay Country Market, Superior Seasons) that support local food producers. These gift cards are currently being distributed to Lakehead University Thunder Bay students who are facing food insecurity and are in need of assistance.

This is why LUMXC is so grateful to be able to do this work. Knowing what we do has helped even one student and knowing that students are able to purchase healthy food that can sustain them makes the work worthwhile. We're so thankful that we've been able to make even a small difference in these students' lives. At LUMXC we anticipate that we will be increasing the number of grant applications that we will be making in the coming year. In doing so, we hope to be able to support more students dealing with food insecurity. We will also continue our work with our parent charity, Meal Exchange, to increase awareness and to address systemic issues which create inequities that lead to post-secondary student food insecurity. Only when food insecurity is eliminated for all and food literacy is enhanced for all will our work truly be done.

[Click here to view media release...](#)

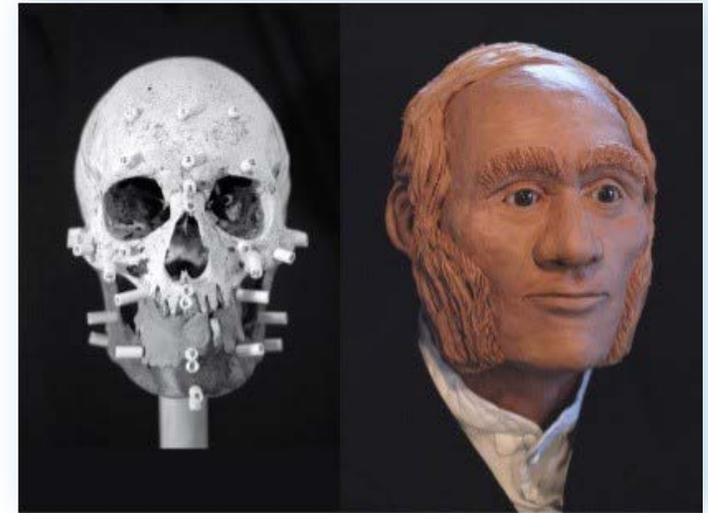


First member of ill-fated 1845 Franklin expedition is identified by DNA analysis

The identity of the skeletal remains of a member of the 1845 Franklin expedition has been confirmed using DNA and genealogical analyses by a team of researchers from the University of Waterloo, Lakehead University, and Trent University. This is the first member of the ill-fated expedition to be positively identified through DNA.

DNA extracted from tooth and bone samples recovered in 2013 were confirmed to be the remains of Warrant Officer John Gregory, engineer aboard HMS Erebus. The results matched a DNA sample obtained from a direct descendant of Gregory.

The remains of the officer were found on King William Island, Nunavut. “We now know that John Gregory was one of three expedition personnel who died at this particular site, located at Erebus Bay on the southwest shore of King William Island,” says Douglas Stenton, adjunct professor of anthropology at Waterloo and co-author of a new paper about the discovery.



Facial reconstruction of the individual identified through DNA analysis as John Gregory, HMS Erebus. (Photo by Diana Trepkov).

Sir John Franklin’s 1845 Northwest Passage expedition, with 129 sailors on two ships, Erebus and Terror, entered the Arctic in 1845. In April 1848, 105 survivors abandoned their ice-trapped ships in a desperate escape attempt. None would survive. Since the mid-19th century, skeletal remains of dozens of crew members have been found on King William Island, but none had been positively identified.

To date, the DNA of 26 other members of the Franklin expedition have been extracted from remains found in nine archaeological sites situated along the line of the 1848 retreat. “Analysis of these remains has also yielded other important information on these individuals, including their estimated age at death, stature, and health,” says Anne Keenleyside, Trent anthropology professor and co-author of the paper.

[Click here to view media release...](#)



Lake Superior Climate Action Field School Launched

Researchers at Lakehead University, Algoma University, the University of Minnesota Duluth, the Michigan Technical University, and community partners of the Lake Superior Labs Network have received more than \$135,000 from Environment and Climate Change Canada to create the Lake Superior Climate Action Field School.

This August, the Field School will train a diverse group of young Canadians – poised to become regional and national climate leaders – through an experiential program of virtual workshops, community site visits, and events in coastal communities around the Lake Superior Watershed.

The Field School will be implemented using a hybrid virtual and on-site design that will include hubs in Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Houghton, and Duluth. Participants in each hub will meet in person daily, conduct independent site visits, digitally document the experiences, and connect to share across hubs virtually for workshops.

The Field School will use hands-on, experiential learning to implement 14 knowledge and skill-building workshops and nine site visits focused on climate action across the Lake Superior watershed.

It will connect students with 24 climate leaders from the project's leadership team at the forefront of community-based climate action initiatives across the Lake Superior watershed.

Researchers will host a series of public events and webinars following the Field School (September 2021 - March 2022), to raise awareness about climate change and climate action in the Lake Superior watershed.

The team will also develop and disseminate a series of tools to catalyze and enable community-based climate action including a video series documenting knowledge and activities from the Lake Superior Climate Action Field School, a digital Lake Superior climate action storyboard, and 14 workshop modules that will be shared with community groups.

[Click here to view media release...](#)





Lakehead University awarded \$751,000 to reduce barriers to access and equity for students

Lakehead University has been awarded \$751,000 by eCampusOntario as part of the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities Virtual Learning Strategy (VLS).

Announced in December, 2020, the VLS is a historic, \$50-million investment by the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities (MCU) intended to drive growth and advancement in virtual learning across the province's post-secondary institutions.

The VLS will expand the possibilities of traditional and life-long learning through the accelerated use of both online and hybrid learning.

Lakehead's Teaching Commons has received \$330,000 as part of the Digital Capacity stream, which provides institutions that have low current capacity with targeted supports in instructional design, educational media development, and learning technology rovers (paid students).

Lakehead will use these funds to hire two Instructional Designers, a Media Designer/Developer, and Learner Technology Support positions on both campuses to provide training and support to faculty in the design, development, and delivery of quality online programming.

As part of the Digital Fluency stream, two projects have been awarded funding to create and adopt professional development resources and supports for faculty and students to improve virtual teaching and learning.

Using the Seven Grandfather Teachings as a pedagogical framework, Lakehead's Indigenous Curriculum Specialist, Jerri-Lynn Orr, has been awarded \$200,000 to lead members of the Indigenous Curriculum Specialists Network in the development of an online, embodied learning experience exploring diverse Indigenous pedagogical approaches to online education.

Lakehead University also received \$171,000 under this stream for the creation of a four-module, 32-hour faculty development course, focused on the design/delivery of quality, digital learner experiences.

Two projects have been awarded \$25,000 each as part of the Digital Content stream. This stream provides funds for the development and adoption of a portfolio of high-quality online, high-quality virtual simulations and/or lab content to reduce the strain on campus space and infrastructure, and enable more flexible delivery to attract new markets for online learning in Ontario.

Lakehead University is also a partner on an additional \$530,360 of successfully funded projects being led by Ryerson University, Sault College, Nipissing University, and Queen's University.

[Click here to view media release...](#)



Lakehead Researchers studying COVID-19 mental health impacts thanks to Bell Let's Talk funding

Dr. Ian Newhouse and **Dr. Erin Pearson** will lead the research project.

Lakehead University is receiving \$25,000 from Bell Let's Talk, allowing researchers to study how COVID-19 has impacted physical activity behaviour and mental health in university students.

Two researchers from Lakehead University's School of Kinesiology, **Dr. Ian Newhouse**, Director/Professor, and **Dr. Erin Pearson**, Associate Professor, will lead the research project, which is being funded through the Bell Let's Talk Post-Secondary Fund.

Bell Let's Talk recently awarded more than \$3 million in funding to 123 post-secondary institutions across Canada to support activities aligned with the voluntary National Standard of Canada for Mental and Well-Being for Post-Secondary Students.

The research aims to identify health promoting strategies that can be used to develop future programming at Lakehead University.

[Click here to view media release...](#)



Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Ingenuity Hosts 12-week Ascend Accelerator Program

Ingenuity is into the fifth week of their 12-week [Ascend Accelerator Program](#). To date, the program has hosted six workshops surrounding business development, and all teams have now engaged with at least one mentor. Ingenuity's community partner, the Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre, has joined several workshops, and three members of the Ingenuity Advisory Board have been engaged to deliver workshops, direct mentorship, or provide resources to the teams. Graduation date is July 23rd, and workshops are planned for each week until then.



Innovation and Economic Prosperity Designation

Lakehead University is a member of the University Economic Development Association (UEDA), which offers an accreditation program to be designated as an Innovation and Economic Prosperity (IEP) University. The IEP designation recognizes institutions for their contributions to regional economic development.

The Office of Innovation, Partnerships and Economic Development (IPED) is leading the designation process for Lakehead University. IPED will be engaging internal and external communities in the fall to gather feedback on our current state of economic development engagement and opportunities for enhancement in Thunder Bay and Simcoe County. If Lakehead obtains the IEP designation, we will be one of only two Canadian universities to achieve this recognition.

Information has been shared in the Communications Bulletin, and a survey to gather input will be released in the Fall.

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY HAS MADE THE COMMITMENT TO PURSUE THE INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY (IEP) DESIGNATION.

The IEP Designation is an accreditation program offered through the University Economic Development Association (UEDA)

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
 Lakehead University will complete a rigorous self-assessment study, engaging on-campus and off-campus stakeholders, to identify the strengths within our community economic engagement and, primarily, areas for growth and enhancement.

WHY DO THIS?
 We believe this will provide valuable information from our stakeholders and community, in order for us to gain a better understanding of both the strengths of our economic engagement, as well as identify the challenges we face. This institutional priority aligns with many objectives in our Strategic Plan, and we hope to strategize solutions that can advance our Economic Milestones for Success.

HOW CAN I HELP?
WE WANT YOUR INPUT!
 The Engagement Survey is forthcoming (Fall 2021), for both internal and external stakeholders. The more input we receive, the better we will be able to assess our areas of strength and areas for growth.

UEDA **Lakehead UNIVERSITY** Office of Innovation, Partnerships and Economic Development