



Provost's Report to Senate

January 2020

Academic Plan Framework

Lakehead University's 2019-2024 Academic Plan is built around four interconnected Academic Priorities, which represent key opportunities for transformational change at Lakehead over the next five years: **high-quality programs; innovative and impactful research, scholarship, and creative activities; commitment to social responsibility; and Anishnaabe Miikana Gichi Kendaasiwin.**

A number of Academic Strategies have been developed to support these Academic Priorities with the goal of aligning with Lakehead's Academic Statement and advancing the implementation of the University's 2018-2023 Strategic Plan. Each Academic Strategy includes a number of actions to be completed over the course of the 2019-2024 Academic Plan.

In Fall 2019, the Provost's Report to Senate was redesigned to align to the 2019-2024 Academic Plan.

Delivering High-quality Programs

[Bora Laskin Faculty of Law](#)

Faculty council approved important changes to course descriptions to specify mandatory elements of the Integrated Practice Curriculum (IPC). This effort will both streamline the IPC and ensure that regulatory requirements are met.

[Faculty of Education](#)

The Faculty of Education has received notification that its undergraduate Professional Program and Indigenous Language Teacher's Diploma program have been re-accredited, without conditions, by the Ontario College of Teachers until the end of 2026. The accreditation decision recognizes the quality of the teacher education programs that the Faculty offers, and is a testament to the dedication and expertise of all involved, both across the faculty and in our partner school boards.

Fatima Ahmed (BEd teacher candidate, Orillia), has been recognized by the Ontario College of Teachers 2019 Scholarship Program for her excellence in teacher education.

[Faculty of Graduate Studies](#)

In response to the mandate of the SMA3, which includes Skill Development and Job Readiness, the Faculty of Graduate Studies has had preliminary discussions with the Faculty of Engineering around the development of a course-based program in the area of applied Artificial Intelligence. It is the intent to have the endorsement of the Vector Institute for this potential new program.

Faculty of Health & Behavioural Sciences

Following final Senate approval, members of the Department of Health Sciences will be working on the admission process for a new PhD in Health Sciences.

The Master of Nursing proposal is now going through Senate committees. The Faculty is expecting to be able to proceed with the external review in coming months.

Important changes were proposed for the Psychology undergraduate programs. The proposed changes are now being reviewed through the relevant Senate committees.

Members of the Department of Health Sciences have proposed a new minor in “Aging and Health”.

Faculty of Natural Resources Management (NRM)

This semester NRM is initiating re-designs (major modifications) for two (2) degrees – an Honours Bachelor of Environmental Management (name change and better focus on streams) and a course-based Master of Science in Forestry (name change and improved course content/selections as well as enhanced preparation for professional employment).

Enhancing Lakehead’s Culture of Teaching and Learning Excellence

Bora Laskin Faculty of Law

All of the mooted teams have been selected for Winter 2020, with several teams sent to different competitions, including the Arnup Cup to defend their Championship!

Teaching Commons

Recognizing shared contexts, interests and constituents served, the five northern universities (Algoma, Laurentian, Nipissing, Trent and Lakehead) have formed a consortium of teaching and learning centres. Monthly meetings are planned for the winter term, with a focus on strategic planning, professional development and training, with an eye to future collaborations.

Advancing Access to Education

Aboriginal Initiatives

Aboriginal Cultural and Support Services (ACSS) has continued to meet with Andrew Heppner in support of the development of an MOU to support Indigenous transitions across institutions. ACSS organized a meeting with First Nation post-secondary education counsellors, who have students at three (3) institutions; meeting with them was a crucial step in shaping many facets of the MOU.

Bora Laskin Faculty of Law

The Faculty has begun exploratory work to bring a law summer program to the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law for Indigenous learners. This would provide a local option for Indigenous students similar to the program now offered by the Native Law Centre (NLC) at the University of Saskatchewan.

Faculty of Natural Resources Management (NRM)

Western Canada college programs with a focus on natural resources management (three in BC and two in Alberta) have developed programming that aligns well with the NRM technologist transfer system. NRM will conduct site visits in January and February to explore program development options.

Supporting Student Potential

Aboriginal Initiatives

The Aboriginal Student Counsellor and Transitions worker facilitated “The Five Factor Model of Resilience” Workshop to both the Native Access Program (NAP) and the Native Nurses Entry Program (NNEP) as well as other wellness programming throughout this time period with weekly visits to NNEP to work on Soft Skills and Wellness strategies.

Bora Laskin Faculty of Law

Student Services provided a “Students in Distress Guide” to all Faculty members and staff to support students through the stressful exam period.

Faculty of Graduate Studies

The Faculty of Graduate Studies hosted a Winter Welcome Orientation for students beginning their studies in Winter 2020. A pancake breakfast was served to approximately 30 new graduate students.

Student Affairs

A grand opening for the Career Zone (Thunder Bay) will take place on January 29 at 11:00 a.m. The Career Zone is located in the tunnels in UC 0020B. Faculty, staff and students are invited to join us for this exciting event.

Lakehead University provided over \$915,000 to help over 1,000 students through the Lakehead University Fall/Winter Bursary. An additional 760 students were awarded over \$905,000 in donor funded scholarships, bursaries and awards. During the month of December, over 1,700 students were notified about awards totaling over \$1.8 million. This continues to demonstrate the financial support Lakehead provides to support our students financially.

International

“Let’s Talk”, an English conversation club, is a new initiative that premiered in Fall 2019 where 65 students meet twice a month in the International Student Lounge for guided conversations on various cultural, personal, and academic topics. Winter 2020 conversation topics include health and wellness, and removing mental health stigmas.

More than one hundred peer international students and their mentors participated in an end-of-year celebration of the [Peer Mentor program](#), which helps international students with academic and social transitioning into Lakehead University.

Lakehead International has partnered with the International Student Connect (COSTI Immigrant Services) for a January session held by the Thunder Bay Multicultural Association and has expanded this service to the Orillia campus as well. These workshops and services assist our international students with settlement and pathways to permanent residency in Canada.

Generating and Supporting Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities

Bora Laskin Faculty of Law

The Faculty has instituted a more formal research assistant application process to promote faculty research engagement.

Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences

Dr. Chris Mushquash (Psychology), CRC in Indigenous Mental Health and Addictions, has been renewed for another 5 years, effective January 2020.

With the addition of the PhD program in Health Sciences we increasing research capacity in the Health Sciences.

Engaging with Communities

Aboriginal Initiatives

Aboriginal Initiatives Orillia attended the Rama First Nation Annual Addictions Fair and hosted an information table alongside multiple community partners including Georgian College, Feather Carriers Life Promotion, Mamaway Wiidokdaadwin, and Orillia Native Women's Group. This was an excellent opportunity to talk to potential students and network with Rama First Nation counsellors, educators and local school board educators.

Aboriginal Initiatives staff attended holiday events at the invitation of the First Nation post-secondary education counsellors and organizations. Invitations were received from Northern Nishnawbe Education Council (NNEC), Matawa Post-Secondary Education, 7 Generations Education Institute, and OSHKI-Wenjack Education Institute. These are wonderful opportunities to strengthen our partnerships with these First Nation organizations.

Bora Laskin Faculty of Law

The Faculty has reinvigorated the work of the Anishinawbe Omaa- Minawaywin Committee (AOM) under the leadership of Celina Reitberger.

Faculty of Education

The Department of Aboriginal Education is embarking on the development of a strategic plan which aims to review and revise programs that the Department offers through a respectful, collaborative, and consultative process with Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge holders; the promotion of multiple partnerships among educational and Indigenous communities; and valuing the diversity of Indigenous knowledges and ways of knowing and learning.

Advancing Truth and Reconciliation

Bora Laskin Faculty of Law

The Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Jula Hughes, participated in part of the Nokiiwin Restorative Justice Conference in early December.

Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences

The first cohort of the All Nations Nurses Entry Program (ANNEP), offered in Fort Frances, Kenora, and Sioux Lookout in collaboration with Seven Generations Education Institute (SGEI), is underway.

There is also a new cohort of the Regional BScN underway. In addition, the Faculty is working with SGEI to develop a new Regional BScN program with a particular focus on training Indigenous students.

Championing Inclusion

Bora Laskin Faculty of Law

Professor Joanne St. Lewis from the University of Ottawa will be the speaker for Black History month. She will give a public talk on February 27.

Developing and Sustaining Global Perspectives

Aboriginal Initiatives

Aboriginal Cultural and Support Services (ACSS) shared a presentation and discussion with thirteen Mexican students in Gakina Nindinawemaaganag Lounge on December 4, followed by a leather pouch making session. This was an opportunity for students to learn about Indigenous history and culture and to practice their English language skills.

Faculty of Natural Resources Management (NRM)

The Faculty is currently organizing their annual off-campus fall field schools for both undergraduate and MScF programs. The international component will be focused on Germany and the Czech Republic.

NRM has developed four new MOUs with Ghana, two of which are ready for implementation through a site visit in March, initially focusing on research collaboration and professional modular training in geomatics and advanced wood technology. At a later date NRM will seek collaborations for joint degrees.

NRM is in the final stages for implementing an altered arrangement with Anhui Agricultural University in Hefei, China. The Faculty will move from a 2+2 format to 3+1 format with a much larger cohort and shared teaching of twelve courses during the first three years in China.

International

Study Abroad welcomes 36 new inbound exchange students from Brazil, China, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Mexico, South Korea, and the UK, while 18 Lakehead students are heading out to Australia, France, Germany, Norway, Singapore, Sweden, and the UK.

National Student Exchange (NSE) visited Lakehead Thunder Bay to finalize our membership requirements, which will provide students with exchange opportunities at over 160 universities in the United States.

Lakehead International has purchased and implemented the MoveOn software package to help manage international partnership agreements and interactions, as well as the study abroad application process, ensuring we meet our internationalization goals
Erasmus+ Funding opportunities have been offered to promote student, staff and faculty mobility.

The International Enrolment Office has launched a new Global Ambassador Program that engages current international students in sharing their Lakehead story, connects them with prospective students in their home country, and encourages participation to support key enrolment events and activities. For more information and to encourage international students to join, please visit: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/international/current/gap>

Advancing Life-long Learning

[Bora Laskin Faculty of Law](#)

A panel discussion is being planned to update students on important developments in administrative law that occurred during the holiday break.

[Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences](#)

The Faculty is working with York University to develop a partnership to offer continuing professional development opportunities for health-related professionals in Northwestern Ontario.

The development of the Master of Nursing will fill an important education gap for nurses by providing them the opportunity to further their education at a distance.

Developing People, Places and Systems

[Aboriginal Initiatives](#)

Aboriginal Initiatives Orillia kept the campus tipi canvas up this winter in an effort to extend the use of the space for Indigenous ceremonies, gatherings and classes. In December, the tipi was used by a class for a discussion related to Indigenous curriculum. Students volunteered as fire keepers, shared food, and held a circle for themselves with the support of their faculty and Aboriginal Initiatives.

[Bora Laskin Faculty of Law](#)

Clinic staff participated in Professional Development (webinar) on the new Bill c-75 and its sweeping changes to the Criminal Code.

[Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences](#)

Following the release of the University's Strategic Plan, Academic Plan, and Research Plan, we have now embarked on the process of developing a new Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences Strategic Plan.

[Institutional Planning & Analysis](#)

Strategic Enrolment Management

In December the Office of Institutional Planning & Analysis finalized multi-year enrolment projections, based on input from Deans throughout the autumn. This multi-year enrolment planning will inform Lakehead's integrated planning and budgeting efforts, including SMA 3.

These projections, along with updated data related to historic student demographics, indicators of undergraduate experience, retention and graduation rates, were provided to Deans in December.

The Office of Institutional Planning and Analysis also provided multi-year analysis of Graduate Student Satisfaction at both the institution and the faculty level to Deans.

[Library](#)

The Collaborative Futures project successfully launched December 12. The new system, Omni, can be accessible through the library's website.

Louise Wuorinen, Collections Development Librarian, will retire in February. Louise joined the Library on June 1, 1989, as the Northern and Regional Studies Librarian. She participated in many key areas of the Library including collections development, reference, and archives. Since 2002, she has been the Head of Collections Development and has dedicated much of her time to build our library collection for supporting teaching, learning and research. Louise has also served as a member on many committees (e.g. Old Fort William Library Committee, LUFA, NOAA, OCUL-IR, and CRKN) at various levels. She has also had critical roles in the implementation of Voyager and Omni. Louise's experience, knowledge, and insights with staff and faculty have helped us to build a solid foundation in the library.

Technology Services Centre (TSC)

Technology Services Centre (TSC) has recently implemented a new software management suite called System Centre Configuration Manager (SCCM). This new software deployment tool enables TSC to better assist faculty and staff through the deployment of University licensed software and program packages. SCCM and the associated Software Centre provide a more strategic approach to delivering software to computer labs, offices and other University assets with Windows 10. New features supported through the System Centre Configuration Manager (SCCM) and Active Directory such as patch management, operating system deployment and network security aid in the delivery of effective learning tools in the classroom environment.