

Provost's Report to Senate

December 2019

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

Aboriginal Initiatives

ACSS hosted its first Graduate Student Speaker Series on November 11th featuring Ivory Tuesday, MSJ.

On November 20th the Aboriginal Student Counsellor participated in 'The Inquiring Mind Post- Secondary (TIMS PS)' Webinar, designed to address and promote mental health and reduce the stigma of mental illness in the Post-Secondary setting.

On November 21st, the Aboriginal Student Counsellor facilitated the "The Five Factor Model of Resilience" with students in the Nindinawemaaganag Lounge. The Five Factor Model was developed by Dr. Diana Brecher, from research in the field of Positive Psychology.

Faculty of Graduate Studies

Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) is developing partnerships between some of our graduate programs and other universities where graduate programs do not exist that meet the needs of their students graduating from the undergraduate programs. One such example is the Masters of Computer Science program partnering with the Undergraduate Computer Science program at Brandon University, Manitoba. Discussions around MA (Social Justice) and MBA programs at Orillia campus, and MSc (Chemical Engineering) course-based program at Thunder Bay campus are being held.

Faculty of Natural Resources Management (NRM)

NRM is redesigning some aspects of the course-based Master's degree to better adapt to changing circumstances – improved employability, more electives and practical exposure.

Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies

ECO-Canada Accreditation for the four-degree programs offered by the Division of Environmental Studies on Thunder Bay campus was recently renewed for another five (5) years. This includes HBESc and HBES degrees collaboratively offered by Departments of Biology, Geology and Geography and the Environment. This same accreditation is also in place for the Environmental Sustainability degrees offered on the Orillia campus.

Student Affairs

The number of alleged breaches of the Academic Integrity Code has spiked at this point in the term, likely due to increased academic pressures experienced by students. To address this, extra efforts have been made to ensure both faculty and students receive support and consultation as they navigate the investigation procedure. Efforts have also been made to supply faculty members with resources to use as a preventative strategy in their courses in order to educate students and clearly outline the academic behaviour that is expected of them.

Enhancing Lakehead's Culture of Teaching and Learning Excellence

Aboriginal Initiatives

During the week of November 4-8, the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives worked in collaboration with various other faculties and departments to host interactive learning opportunities centred on treaty relationships at both the Thunder Bay and Orillia campuses. Local elders, knowledge keepers, storytellers, and academic experts hosted talks, community events, and workshops.

Faculty of Business Administration

Distinguished Instructor Presentation - Dr. Camillo Lento, recipient of Lakehead University's 2019 Distinguished Instructor Award gave a talk entitled "Soft Skills, Hard Skills, and Challenges to the Professoriate" on November 13, 2019 as part of the Teaching Award Reception. Dr. Lento described how he has used different pedagogical interventions and experiential learning activities to integrate technical knowledge and soft skills in his teaching.

Student Affairs

During the 2019 Teaching & Learning Symposium, Student Accessibility Services (SAS) hosted "Let's Get Accessible- Creating Accessible PowerPoints" to interested faculty and staff. This hands-on session was led by SAS staff who walked staff and faculty through the creation of a PowerPoint using accessibility best practices.

Teaching Commons

The 2019 Teaching and Learning Symposium was held November 11-15 along with several workshops and events, including the Teaching Awards reception recognizing the winners of the Contribution to Teaching and Teaching Innovation awards that culminated with the Distinguished Instructor Award keynote given by Dr. Camillo Lento.

The Teaching Commons continues their work in supporting instructors through faculty consultations, in-class peer teaching evaluations for instructors (conducted for Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Tourism, Kinesiology, and Law), provision of course-specific review tools/games for faculty, workshops on mycourselink (D2L), Video Assignments, Kahoot, and PeerScholar (visit [events calendar](#) for details), and through Virtual Technology Support Drop-Ins through Zoom (assisting instructors to set-up course tools, resolve issues, discuss best practices, or explore other educational technologies supported by the Teaching Commons).

Modules are being revised for the Teaching and Learning in Higher Education certificate, including the inclusion of online tools to help students explore relevant “alternative to academic” careers before they graduate. Currently there are 24 graduate students enrolled for the 2019-2020 cohort.

The Teaching Commons is beginning to develop the units needed for a workshop series intended to address the academic writing challenges facing graduate students.

Advancing Access to Education

Aboriginal Initiatives

A campus visit by 15 high school students and 3 chaperones from Baibombeh Anishinabe School in Naotkamegwanning First Nation took place on November 19th.

ACSS met with Oshki-Pimache-O-Win: The Wenjack Education Institute’s Business Program students on November 21st. These students are in a position to enter a summer bridging program at Lakehead University.

ACSS and Aboriginal Initiatives in Orillia have been meeting with Andrew Heppner in support of the development of a MOU to support Indigenous transitions across institutions. In addition to these meetings, our team organized two student focus groups on November 7th in Orillia and November 21st in Thunder Bay to inform enhancement of transitional supports for students transferring into Lakehead University from other institutions (colleges/Aboriginal Institutes/universities).

Faculty of Business Administration

CPA Martin Mentorship Initiative - The Faculty of Business Administration in collaboration with the Aboriginal Mentorship Program, Westgate Collegiate, and the Paul Martin Initiatives began the Martin Mentorship Program for Indigenous high school students at Westgate who may be interested in careers in accounting. High school students participated in a kick-off event at a Thunderwolves basketball game and participated in a job-shadowing day at MNP, a local accounting firm. Lisa Harris (AMP) and Camillo Lento (FOBA) are leading the project for Lakehead University.

Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies

The Department of Geology and CESME (Centre for Excellence in Sustainable Mining and Exploration) is continuing its work on the planned Indigenous Certificate in Geological Studies. A team of disciplinary experts and Indigenous knowledge keepers from Lakehead and several Indigenous Educational Institutions are conceptualizing an alternative delivery strategy for the first science courses which will include both remote delivery and modular on-campus delivery for lab content. While the certificate will be a stand-alone credential, it could also enable students to enter a Geology and/or Earth Science degree program at the University.

Student Affairs

Student Awards and Financial Aid has outreached to over 80 Grade 8 and Grade 10 students throughout the month of November to help promote and build our local and regional youth’s financial literacy skills and understanding of the value of a post-secondary education.

Lakehead University (Thunder Bay) prepares to open its doors to future students on December 3 for Open House 2019. Campus Tour Bursaries are available to Grade 12 students demonstrating financial need who travel more than 150 km to visit the campus.

Undergraduate Recruitment hosted ‘Parents & Family Night’ for the Thunder Bay campus in the Grad Studies Lounge in the CASES building on November 19th. Approximately 80 guests spent an evening learning about

the Lakehead Experience, focusing on academic excellence and outcomes, scholarships and bursaries, admissions, student experience and student supports.

Lakehead University (Orillia) welcomed close to 400 visitors during Open House, held November 9th. Future students and influencers took part in interactive academic program sessions, learning about academic programs, ways to finance their education, admissions, student supports, residence life and more.

Grade 11 Preview Day will be hosted at the Orillia campus on December 3rd. Students from high schools across Simcoe County will take part in a campus tour and attend mock lectures, and understand more about the programs and opportunities at Lakehead University, Orillia campus.

Supporting Student Potential

Aboriginal Initiatives

ACSS has hired peer tutors, including designated tutors within NAP (Native Access Program) and NNEP (Native Nurses Entry Program). Additionally, a writing tutor is available for all students on Mondays this semester in Gakina Nindinawemaaganag Lounge.

The NAP coordinator meets monthly, and more often as needed to support success in the program. NAP students have been assigned one instructor who teaches in the program as a mentor. This is to help build relationships with their instructors so they feel more connected to the university, and also helps to support them as they move on to their undergraduate program next year.

Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS)

Working closely with the Associate Vice-Provost (Students), the FGS is participating in the restructuring of Student Orientation and Transition with the aim of creating an inclusive and holistic experience for our students.

The FGS developed several innovative funding packages in collaboration with the Deans of the Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies and Engineering to support high ranking thesis-based graduate students. These competitive funding packages have been established for both international and domestic graduate students, and at both masters and doctoral levels.

As part of the 2019 Teaching and Learning Symposium, the FGS hosted a panel discussion on “Best Practices in Thesis Supervision”. The Panel, which consisted of Faculty and Graduate Students, involved a full room of Graduate Students and Faculty in an insightful discussion around the topic.

International

The international advising team has been working hard to help international students navigate rental agreements, landlord and tenant rights, and assist in securing safe accommodation options.

Volunteers in the Peer Mentor program meet regularly to provide support to new international students. Nearly 70 students attended a Thunderwolves hockey game on October 25th.

Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies

A team of students from the Department of Economics took part in the fifth annual Bank of Canada Governor's Challenge again this fall. Universities across Canada take part in this annual competition, which is designed to promote the understanding of the role that monetary policy plays in Canada's Economy (<https://www.bankofcanada.ca/research/governors-challenge/>). The Department is ecstatic to announce that the Lakehead team will be moving on to the final round in Ottawa in February 2020.

Student Affairs

Student Health and Wellness (Thunder Bay) as well as the Wellness Centre (Orillia) will remain open throughout the exam season. Meditation and yoga sessions on the Thunder Bay campus will run until early to mid-December and will resume in January 2020.

"Don't Stress the Test Workshops" will be offered on the Thunder Bay Campus to assist students in preparing for their winter exams. Peer Wellness Educators on both campuses will be providing Stress Busters in the Library and other common areas.

On January 14th, the Career Zone will formally open, providing career exploration, job search and resume review services, as well as a series of workshops and special events to support students in achieving their career goals.

Generating and Supporting Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities

Aboriginal Initiatives

Indigenous students were in attendance in Gakina Nindinawemaaganag for the IPHONE APP Research Study engagement session. The APP is designed to promote resilience by enhancing emotion regulation and cognitive organization skills. Students from the Department of Psychology facilitated this session.

Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies

The Department of Economics successfully hosted the Canadian Network of Economics Historians conference Sept 27-29. Acknowledgements to Drs. Karl Skogstad and Livio di Matteo for co-organizing this conference. Dr. Ann Carlos (an Economic Historian from University of Colorado, Boulder) also delivered a public lecture to the Thunder Bay community as part of the SES Science Speaker Series entitled "Consumer Satisfaction in the 18th Century Hudson's Bay Company Trade"

The Biotechnology PhD group within FSES hosted its second annual research symposium from Oct 25-27: HITBASS (Health Information Technology, Biotechnology & Allied Sciences Symposium). Lakehead University welcomed keynote speakers Dr. Arshia Khan and Dr. Morris Levy, both from University of Minnesota (Duluth) and Dr. Valerie Grdisa from the Clinical and Health Research at TBRHSC. Dr. Khan's research group brought their robot "Pepper" as part of the conference (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZWdV7qnoPE>), who can assist patients suffering from certain forms of dementia.

The Summer Research Assistant (SRA) program is being renewed for summer 2020. Based on the success of last year's pilot initiative (in which faculty hired 16 additional students on research projects in summer 2019).

Engaging with Communities

Aboriginal Initiatives

The Aboriginal Affairs Coordinator attended the Orillia Native Women's Group AGM and was re-elected to the Board of Directors, and will continue to volunteer to provide guidance and support to the Ambe Tigadaw Program which runs the Three Sisters Garden and facilitates Orillia Good Food Box distribution and related programming at the Orillia Campus and across Simcoe County. ONWG also opens its doors to LU students for cultural programming, ceremonies, and elder support.

Faculty of Business Administration

Oshki-Pimach-O-Win Collaboration - As part of the pathway development process with the Indigenous Education Institute, the Dean of the Faculty of Business Administration will join representatives from the School of Social Work, Oshki-Pimache-O-Win, and participating colleges to travel to Sandy Lake to consult with community members about the pathway and learning priorities for the community on December 11.

Business Confidence Survey - Dr. Camillo Lento and Dr. Claudio Pousa were lead investigators in the Thunder Bay Ventures' 2019 Business Confidence Index survey. This survey of 183 businesses is a snapshot of the community's perception of the economic outlook for Thunder Bay. The study replicated the survey first done in 2017 and overall perceptions that the economy will be stable or better than previous year.

Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies

Superior Science successfully completed their 20th summer of STEM-themed summer programming for elementary-aged children. Recently, Superior Science has received additional two-year of funding from Actua to extend the CanCode initiative to further enhance coding skill acquisition for kids.

The 10th Annual Science Olympics ran November 22. Science Olympics Northwestern Ontario is a joint venture of the Faculties of Science and Environmental Studies, Education, and Engineering. A total of approximately 100 science-minded students attended from six Thunder Bay high schools as well as two schools from away, including Keewaytinook Internet High School and Pelican Falls First Nations High School (in Sioux Lookout).

Faculty of Natural Resources Management (NRM)

NRM is currently developing new modular teaching modules for geomatics with the Forest Industry, First Nations Northern Farming and the Mining community. This includes lidar, conventional remote sensing and sonar.

Advancing Truth and Reconciliation

Aboriginal Initiatives

ACSS held a Louis Riel Celebration on November 15th, facilitated by Métis PhD Candidate Bryanna Scott, who spoke about the life of Louis Riel and the history of the Métis people and shared a Métis dot-art exercise with those in attendance.

The Aboriginal Affairs Coordinator represented Lakehead University at the Truth and Reconciliation Round Table Discussion with Senator Gwen Boniface in Orillia on November 20th and will return for the next gathering in December.

The Aboriginal Mentorship Program and the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives hosted 170 high school youth on November 14th. Youth attended the Legacy of Hope's 60's Scoop Exhibit and participated activities, attended

keynote speaker Colleen Cardinal's discussion, and were provided with a copy of Ms. Cardinal's book, "Raised Somewhere Else", a memoir of her own 60's scoop story.

The Office of Aboriginal Initiatives hosted 2 weeks of events Treaty Week and the Legacy of Hope's Bi-Giwen Exhibit. Indigenous speaker events engaged attendees and advanced Lakehead's commitment to the process of truth and reconciliation. Partnering with the Department of Indigenous Learning and the Teaching Commons, numerous talks were coordinated for community and faculty with Dr. Kimberly Anderson and Elder Rene Meshake for Treaty Week.

Championing Inclusion

Student Affairs

In an effort to enhance current practices related to accessing academic accommodations for students with visible and non-visible disabilities, Student Accessibility Services is excited to announce the implementation of software upgrades to Clockwork, which will facilitate a more accessible process for students to register for academic accommodations. Students will be able to use an online platform to set up their accommodation and distribute their accommodation forms. During the month of December, SAS will be rolling out the new features of Clockwork to both students and faculty.

Developing and Sustaining Global Perspectives

Aboriginal Initiatives

In partnership with the Research Office in both Thunder Bay and Orillia, the Vice Provost Aboriginal Initiatives, co-facilitated a workshop "Doing Research in A Good Way Workshop" on November 8 which focused on developing relationships and connected to SSHRC grants.

International

English Language Program - In 2019, the ELC hosted a total of 946 students on both campuses combined, up from 744 students in 2018. These numbers include the Academic English program as well as all short-term groups.

Along with 600 Mexican students under sponsorship from PROYECTA, International hosted the following groups at different times of the year: 20 students from South Korea (Thunder Bay, Summer), 20 students from Costa Rica (Orillia, Spring), 40 students from EDUCAFIN (Guanajuato scholarship) from Mexico, 10 Indigenous women from Mexico (Orillia, Winter).

The English Innovation Program (EIP) Indigenous stream has strengthened the English Language Centre's (ELC) relationship with other departments on campus and with local community organizations. Most of the student activities have been led by members of the local Indigenous community and Lakehead University's Indigenous Learning Department.

International Student Services - November 22, International hosted Mexico Culture Day Celebration, in which ELC students from Mexico prepared food and shared their culture through games, music and dance.

Around 50 students attended Diwali Celebrations. The International Student completed her six (6) hours of professional development compliance to maintain her RISIA certification, and networked for best practices regarding IS.

Faculty of Natural Resources Management (NRM)

NRM is near completion for 4 (four) collaborative MOU's with 4 (four) institutions in Ghana to be followed up with a new site visit in February. Our MOU's with Chinese institutions for shared degrees are currently being modified to better suit changing Chinese regulations. Earlier this fall we started discussions with various Swedish institutions visiting Thunder Bay (organized by CRIBE) – in the month of December a second round of discussions will take place to lay out logistics for the next steps – the focus is on the bio-economy and land-use inventory.

Advancing Life-long Learning

Over the course of the fall, a number of Continuing Education Life-long Learning events have taken place in Orillia, including:

- Three Third Age Learning Lectures (Keeping the Peace: NATO and Global (dis)Order in August, Is Democracy Dying? in September and Our Climate, Our World in October/November)
- An International Certificate Program – The Nature of Canadian Culture
- Five Ontario Master Naturalist programs
- A Humanities 201 event - "The Theories and Practices of Mindfulness
- 24 Hours event in partnership with Sustainable Orillia

Developing People, Places and Systems

Deputy Provost

Quality Assurance

Templates for the cyclical review of programs have been updated to assist units in the preparation of their Self Study, and in responding to reviewers. A new Curriculum Vitae template has also been prepared, and is intended for use by all faculty for both the cyclical review process and PTR, available on both the Provost's website and that of HR.

Library

The Collaborative Futures project is moving forward. The new system has been branded as Omni. Information has been posted on library website and social media. Library is currently preparing for the launch on December 10.

Library has been issuing photo-ids and badges to students, faculty, and staff. Since 2017, we have started to use a new type of card that is used for printing and other purposes. The library is currently reviewing the procedures and the processing of these cards. New changes will be in place in 2020.

Faculty of Natural Resources Management (NRM)

NRM is continuing with active participation in Provincial advisory panels for forest management, forest inventory and forest policy – this includes student participation as well as the Dean.

Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies

Teaching-focused faculty members, including Dr. Gabriel Oba from Chemistry, participated in professional development opportunities with the support from the Provost's Office and the Dean's Office. This include the TESS 2019 ([eCampusOntario](#) Technology and Education Seminar and Showcase) in Toronto in mid-November (Nov 18&19) and workshops on Thunder Bay campus (Nov 15).

Teaching Commons

Dr. Christina Hendricks, Professor of Teaching and the Director of the Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology at the University of British Columbia met with the Research Office staff and presented at the Senate Research Committee, to provide information on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning and Educational Leadership in support of our Teaching Focused Tenure Track faculty, and provided a workshop for the Promotion, Tenure and Renewal committees in understanding teaching focused positions.

As part of the Teaching & Learning Spaces sub-committee of the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee we are researching models to evaluate and assess classroom spaces, as part of planning for teaching spaces renewal.

Technology Services Centre (TSC)

Technology Services Centre has recently completed a 14-month multi-stage project, resulting in a considerable increase to the University's available internet speed. This increase in capacity is elemental in supporting Lakehead University's local and regional outreach goals. It will provide fast and stable transit on which to support Lakehead University's diversified teaching, learning, research and community partnerships.

With the expanded capability, comes the potential for greater connectivity in developing stronger regional education ecosystems, while facilitating the expansion of new partnerships both locally and abroad.

Announcements - Student Affairs

Exams are scheduled December 5 – 15 with a Contingency date of December 16. Due to the construction at the C. J. Saunders Field House, exams will be held in the Hangar. Parking at the Hangar will be very limited. Everyone attending an exam in the Hangar are encouraged to plan ahead and park on campus and walk to the Hangar. It is also recommended that flat shoes be worn in the Hangar.