

PROVOST'S REPORT TO SENATE

September 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.** The overarching goal of the plan is to support the realization of the University's Academic Statement of providing exceptional and unconventional student learning experience where students from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to explore and understand the interconnections between their fields of study and the broader world through research, scholarship and experiential learning.

Eleven Academic Strategies have been developed to support the Academic Priorities with the goal of aligning with the 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. During the summer, the Provost's Council collaborated to create a framework to identify leads and collaborators who are accountable to action the implementation of the Academic Plan. Commencing this fall, the Provost's Report to Senate will include a section to share the activities and accomplishments of the University community in each of the eleven strategies. This month, there are two strategies to highlight.

Delivering High-quality Programs

Throughout 2018/19 Academic Year, the Office of Institutional Planning and Analysis conducted a "course-tagging" exercise to identify various types of experiential learning offered at the undergraduate course level. This work is nearing completion, with final validations being completed throughout September. This work will be used to inform Deans.

Developing People, Places and Systems

Strategic Enrolment Management: Throughout August, September and October, the Interim Provost, Vice-Provost (Students) and Vice-Provost (Institutional Planning and Analysis) will be meeting with Deans to discuss long term enrolment plans within each faculty to help inform multi-year enrolment planning. Faculties engaged to date include the Faculty of Business and the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Science.

Dean, Faculty of Law

I am very pleased to report that Dr. Julia Hughes has been appointed Dean of the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law effective October 1, 2019. I look forward to working with Dr. Hughes and the faculty and staff to continue to build on the successes of the Faculty of Law.

Faculty of Natural Resources Management (NRM)

The NRM Faculty had a productive summer with a special focus on outreach. As a recognized Transport Canada training centre, NRM conducted professional training for drone advance-flight-certification, in May in Kenora for industry and consultancy groups and condensed upgrade training (2-days) for drone certification for MNR (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry) and MOE (Ministry of Environment) in June in Thunder Bay.

The Ontario Professional Foresters Annual General Meeting was held in May in Thunder Bay and the NRM Faculty was part of the organizing committee including meeting-hosts, participation in vendor displays and field tours with precision forestry and lidar as a focus.

The 7th season of the Amazing Race Canada asked the NRM Faculty to create a challenge for the event for filming in May – the challenge with their students acting as clue givers, focused on drone and virtual reality interaction. The episode was aired in August with a well-attended viewing event at Wacky's (another challenge provider).

The traditional show-and-tell participation with the Lakehead Region Conservation Family Days was held on two occasions – one at Hazelwood Lake and the other at Silver Harbour. Parks Canada conducted lake surveys in August with the aid of our submersible rovers and dedicated graduate students.

In August, NRM showcased submersible technology (rovers) to the Lakehead University's Aboriginal Mentorship Program.

The NRM Faculty concluded the summer with their tradition of 10 - day field schools for all undergraduate students. First year students focused on local skill developments with forest measurements and plant identification. Second year students ventured further out in the district for hands-on lessons with ecology, soils and use of airborne tools for inventory and submersible rovers for fish habitat surveys. A portion of our third-year class went to Mexico for new insights to vegetation management, Indigenous participation and community forestry. The rest of the students ventured on an expedition to Quetico, Atikokan and Fort Frances where they experienced a variety of activities linked both to industry and First Nations as well as Ontario Parks approaches to fisheries and wildlife. The final fourth year class was split in two destinations – one group went to Scotland to experience a completely different approach to land management. The other group ventured to the southern and north-east portion of Ontario for exposure to a wide variety of activities linked to both crown-land management, conservation and private lands.

Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies

The Vector Institute (VI) was launched as an independent, not-for-profit corporation in March 2017 with support from the Federal and Ontario Government and private industries. VI is dedicated to researching the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI). In Fall 2018, VI has initiated merit based Vector Scholarships in Artificial Intelligence (VSAI) to support the recruitment of top students to AI-related master's programs that prepare graduates for the workforce. In 2019-2020, the Lakehead Computer Science Department submitted five (5) applications and in April 2019 it was announced that three (3) of their students had received awards of \$17,500 each for the first year of their master's studies. The successful students and their faculty advisors are:

1. Mahzabeen Emu (International). Supervisor: Dr. Salimur Choudhury.
2. Farjana Kamal (International). Supervisors: Dr. Vijay Mago and Dr. Salimur Choudhury.
3. Tim Heydrich (Domestic). Supervisors: Dr. Shan Du.

Superior Science

The student-run Superior Science program received a \$60K grant from Actua (a national agency which helps support STEM outreach programs across Canada) to continue developing and enhancing the CanCode program. With funds from a grant received in 2017, various new pieces of technology were purchased to give you youth access to technology-based education. This grant will continue to develop and enhance the program.

The Superior Science program reached an important milestone this year, celebrating its 20th summer since the program was initiated by Dr. Mary Louise Hill (Department of Geology). Superior Science has become a key outreach program connecting local kids to STEM and to their local university; credit is due to Dr. Hill’s longstanding commitment to mentoring a series of undergraduate students who have led and directed this program since 1999.

Aboriginal Initiatives

On July 8, the Vice Provost Aboriginal Initiatives joined Interim Provost and Vice-President Academic Dr. Barnett in Kenora to observe the official robing of Justice Evelyn J. Baxter to the Provincial Court of Kenora. Justice Baxter graduated from Lakehead University in 1988 and served as a member of the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law Dean’s Advisory Council (Anishinawbe Omaa- Minawaywin Committee) prior to her appointment.



From left to Right: Elysia Petrone '11, '16 , Justice Evelyn J. Baxter '88, Dr. David Barnett, Celina Reitberger '72

Summer Indigenous Institute

Lakehead participated in the Summer Indigenous Institute with Nipissing University, Laurentian University, and Algoma University which was held in North Bay for a month over the summer. Three incoming Lakehead University students participated in the program where they earned two half credits in Indigenous Learning. The transition program had an academic focus within a cultural framework.

Engaging Strengths and Culture to Promote Resiliency

The Office of Aboriginal Initiatives is pleased to be working with Dr. Edward Rawana, C. Psych, Director, Professor, [Centre of Education & Research on Positive Youth Development](#), Northern Ontario School of Medicine and Psychology for the 2019-2020 academic year. Through a collaborative process, all staff within the AI department (Thunder Bay and Orillia), will be working with Dr. Rawana to deepen our understanding of a strengths-based approach in our continued implementation of supports and initiatives with Indigenous students.

Orillia Campus Aboriginal Initiatives

Aboriginal Initiatives hosted the Biindigen Welcome Gathering to greet students with dinner alongside local community organizations on Thursday, September 5th, 2019. The event was opened with medicines and a circle of introductions, and students met with the Feather Carriers Life Promotion director, Lakehead Alumni, and founding member of TISC (Turtle Island Student Circle) Meghan Young. Students were also registered with the Good Food Box program and learned about local services and cultural activities through the Orillia Native Women's Group.

Aboriginal Cultural & Support Services (ACSS)

ACSS and Gakina Nindinawemaaganag Grand Opening Celebration

On September 4th the campus-wide community was invited to join in celebration of the new ACSS offices and Gakina Nindinawemaaganag (All My Relations in Ojibwe) Aboriginal Student Lounge. The celebration included a blessing smudge and prayer shared by Elder Gene Nowegjick, welcoming remarks shared by President Dr. Moira McPherson and Councillor Tannis Kastern on behalf of Chief Peter Collins, Fort William First Nation, and Shailyn Loyie, LUNSA (Lakehead University Native Students Association) President.

Maadaadizi 2019

Aboriginal Cultural & Support Services (ACSS), in conjunction with Confederation College, Eabametoong First Nation, Matawa Post-Secondary Education, Northern Nishnawbe Education Council, Oshki-Pimache-O-Win; the Wenjack Education Institute, and 7 Generations Education Institute planned, organized and hosted Maadaadizi 2019 which means “starts a journey” in the Ojibwe language. This joint post-secondary Aboriginal Student Orientation was held at Marina Park on Saturday, September 7, 2019. Jordin Tootoo was the Keynote Speaker and the day included a musical performance by Nick Sherman. Information booths by various Lakehead departments and various organizations were set-up, as well as children's activities.

Aboriginal Mentorship Program (AMP) - Experiential Summer Learning

The Aboriginal Mentorship Program worked directly with three Indigenous youth groups over the summer. A week was spent (July 29th to August 2nd) with 50 Indigenous youth from both Mink Lake and Sandbar Camps in the Outland Youth Employment Program (OYEP). First and second year youth spent the week learning about Lakehead's science, Indigenous learning and history programming, exploring labs, learning how to apply to university, and the transitional programs offered by the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives. Students also learned about Canada's Indigenous history and the importance of post-secondary education with Elder Gerry Martin.

During the last two weeks of August the AMP Program played an important partnership role in supporting 75 youth participating in two for-credit transition camps offered by the Lakehead Public School Board. Two GLS (General Learning Skills) Transitional Land camps, of grade eight youth going into grade nine, ran simultaneously on either side of the city. The Camp was developed to build essential transition skills for use in a secondary setting with the long-term goal of greater student success rates and ultimately better high school graduation rates. Youth acquired their first high school credit while gaining important life skills, brushing up on academic competencies and learning to transition from one level of education to another.

The AMP program provided hands on programming within the schools and hosted all 75 youth on campus on Wednesday, August 28th. While on campus, youth assessed the overall health of the McIntyre River system; learned about the Natural Resource Management Faculty and

explored how underwater drones can be used in research; toured the new Aboriginal Cultural and Support Services lounge; and participated in discussions with Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux, Elder Gerry Martin and Ms. Denise Baxter on the importance of post-secondary education.

Native Access Program - Native Access Program (NAP) & Native Nurses Entry Program (NNEP) Joint Orientation

NAP and NNEP held an orientation event that included introductions of staff, faculty and peers geared to give students an overview of supports, services and what to expect as Lakehead University students. Orientation began with an opening prayer, smudge and teaching from Elder Beatrice Twance-Hynes. A teaching on land and governance with Ms. Helen Pelletier took place in the ACSS lounge. Sheryl O'Riley, Aboriginal Counselor and Transitions worker, presented on Medicine Wheel teachings and life balance. Various departments across the University presented to students: Student Success Centre, Aboriginal Cultural & Support Services, Northern Studies Library, LUSU, Student Central, TSC, Teaching Commons.

Lakehead International

Study Abroad and Mobility:

The study abroad program has doubled the number of participants since the 2016 and continues to promote new and varied opportunities for students. The third annual Study Abroad Fair will be held in the Agora on October 23.

In 2019, Lakehead Orillia students are studying abroad in seven (7) different countries (Singapore, Greece, France, South Korea, United Kingdom, Sweden, and Australia) and have or will host international exchange students from seven (7) countries (Sweden, Finland, France, Japan, Germany, Singapore and South Korea).

In Summer 2019, Orillia hosted our first two MITACS research students from Brazil who worked alongside Dr. Sandra Jeppesen from Interdisciplinary Studies.

A Lakehead Electrical Engineering student is our first international Work Integrated Learning participant, currently doing a one-year position in Germany at electrical equipment maker Bosch, through our partnership with Furtwangen University of Applied Sciences.

English Language Program:

The English Language Program currently has 126 students registered in the Academic English Program, up from 75 in Fall 2018. Between June and October 2019, there have been 600 Mexican students (260 in Orillia and 340 in Thunder Bay), up from 450 in 2019.

International Student Services:

International Orientation, held in August, saw nearly 500 new international students on campus. The International Peer Mentor program, operating in Thunder Bay for a few years, was successfully launched in Orillia in August 2019.

International Enrolment:

The Lakehead team of in-country recruitment officers from five (5) overseas markets (China, India, Malaysia, Mexico and Vietnam) were on both campuses for two (2) weeks of orientation, training and networking, culminating in their participation in the international orientation on the Thunder Bay campus.

Library**The Collaborative Futures project**

The Library is participating in the Collaborative Futures project with 13 other Ontario University Libraries. The Collaborative Futures project focuses on resources sharing and aims to deliver seamless and efficient services. The new system (Alma) will be live on December 10. Staff training has started and Information sessions have been planned for faculty and students.

Archive-It

Lakehead University has been a partner with Archive-It since 2017. We are getting ready to do a web archive collection for Northwestern Ontario candidates for the 2019 federal election.

Teaching Commons

August was a busy and productive month for the Teaching Commons. We had numerous online, phone, and drop-in consultations with faculty/instructors readying their Fall/Winter courses as well as with Spring/Summer instructors who needed assistance wrapping up their courses, creating final exams in D2L, entering grades in Marks Management, etc. The Teaching Commons staff also participated in the New Faculty Orientation session and continued to guide participating graduate students through the end of the 2018-2019 Teaching and Learning Higher Education (TLHE) certificate.

We also offered the second annual Summer Institute for 26 interested instructors. This year's topic focused on "Teaching Thinking (Or, Giving Your Students Tools to Develop the Life of the Mind)." With the help of Denise Baxter and Betsy Birmingham, we covered tips, tools, templates, and techniques for a wide range of university-level, thinking-related challenges and course applications. Most helpfully, perhaps, we added an extensive, curated, themed collection of immediately useful tools and resources to the instructors' "teaching tool kit" through the related D2L site -- material available to all instructors at Lakehead upon request.

The transformation of Regional Centre 1001 to an active-learning classroom was completed in late August. This classroom now includes moveable student tables and seating as well as seven white boards around the room to facilitate group work, in-class activities, etc. Searchable resources on active-learning strategies and ideas are posted on the Teaching Commons website. Additional work will occur throughout the Fall with the intention of changing the orientation of the space and reducing the distances to the display technology. Multiple displays will be enabled and can be used through wired or wireless technologies. This project was made possible through the support of the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), members of the Learning Spaces and Technologies Sub-Committee, and the valued contributions provided by our teaching and learning community.

Student Affairs

Student Affairs has launched an awareness campaign to bring greater visibility to the academic and non-academic supports and services available to students. As part of this, promotional materials will be activated throughout the campuses for the start of the academic year, as well as throughout the year, especially during critical periods.

A Student Referral Guide has been launched and distributed to various departments for students and/or faculty and staff reference. The Guides can also be accessed online: [Thunder Bay](#) and [Orillia](#). If you would like to request printed copies, please contact admin.vpsa@lakeheadu.ca.

First year class visits will also be underway over the coming weeks to further connect students to supports. To request a visit from a Student Affairs representative, contact Victoria Shields at vshields@lakeheadu.ca.

Important Reminders:

- Curriculum Navigator Support: Ashley Beda, Academic Curriculum Development Coordinator is available to provide training and/or support for new and current users. Email: navigator@lakeheadu.ca
- Fall Graduation: Students must submit their Intent to Graduate to be considered for Fall graduation by September 30 through myInfo.

Student Recruitment

The Ontario Universities' Fair (OUF) is an opportunity for Lakehead University to connect with future Thunderwolves at the largest provincial recruitment fair in Ontario. This three (3) day event will take place September 27 – 29 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre in downtown Toronto. For OUF 2019, visitation is projected to exceed 130,000 students, parents and guidance counsellors. Lakehead University's recruitment team, faculty and staff look forward to engaging a significant number of prospects to drive interest in both Thunder Bay and Orillia campuses and the Lakehead Georgian Partnership for Fall 2020.

Ms. Lynn Hurrell, Director, Undergraduate Recruitment has joined the Undergraduate Recruitment team. Lynn would be pleased to meet with any academic units interested in discussing recruitment opportunities. Email: director.recruit@lakeheadu.ca.

The Recruitment Team has begun their fall recruitment visits to 700+ schools across the Ontario and parts of the country over the next three months.

Academic Support:

Academic preparation sessions are available to students throughout this transition period. Topics include academic writing, academic integrity, time management, study skills, and exam preparation. Free group tutoring and writing support is also available for graduate and undergraduate students through the Academic Support Zone.

Lakehead University awards over \$11 million annually to our students through university and donor-funded awards. The current undergraduate award applications are now open for students to apply through <https://myawards.lakeheadu.ca/>. The deadline to apply is October 15. Please encourage students to apply!

The Lakehead University Work Study Program provides 150 jobs for students to gain on-campus work experience. Some jobs are still available, please encourage students to review remaining opportunities by visiting mysuccess.lakeheadu.ca.

Career Support:

A Career & Job Fair will be held on September 25 (Thunder Bay) and October 30 (Orillia). An Engineering Fair will be held on September 26 (Thunder Bay). Please encourage your students to attend to meet with future employers.

Upcoming dates for Co-operative Education

- Applications for the Winter 2020 co-op work term are open until September 30.
- Applications for the Summer 2020 co-op work term open October 1 and close October 31. Students apply on mysuccess.lakeheadu.ca.
- Co-op Information Sessions - September 11 and 12, 12:00 - 1:00 pm, FB 2023

Student Life:

A warm thank you to faculty and staff who supported New Student Orientation including the President's Welcome Procession and Ceremony, as well as leading faculty sessions for undergraduate students.

Student Code of Conduct:

The new Student Code of Conduct launched May 1. To learn more about the Code and faculty member/instructor roles in relation to academic integrity, please contact Joel Symonds, Manager, Student Conduct & Case Management at studentconduct@lakeheadu.ca.

Student Health & Wellness

Student Affairs is pleased to be rolling out a newly developed resource, "Supporting Students in Distress". This is a campus-specific guide that provides information and guidelines for supporting students who may be in distress, including strategies for talking with students and available on and off campus resources. Workshops for faculty and staff will be hosted in the Teaching Commons (Thunder Bay) and OA 2005 (Orillia) on the following dates:

- September 24 from 10:00 - 11:00 am
- September 25 from 10:00 - 11:00 am
- September 26 from 2:30 - 3:30 pm

Student Health & Wellness staff are available to attend faculty/department meetings to discuss the Supporting Students in Distress guide and provide additional resources. Contact Irene Pugliese, Manager of Wellness Services (Thunder Bay) or Sarah Batley, Wellness and Athletics Coordinator (Orillia) to arrange.

Technology Services Centre

Significant infrastructure upgrades in many spaces across the University occurred over the summer of 2019. This report highlights some of the projects that Technology Services Centre was engaged in. These upgrades are the result of broad stakeholder input including the Registrar's Office, Technology Services Centre, the Student Technology Fund, Senate Teaching and Learning and the subcommittee on Learning Spaces and Technology.

Ryan Building Network and WiFi

This was a significant project and WiFi coverage is now available on all floors of the Ryan Building. Work will continue throughout the Fall as they finish upgrades to wired network ports supporting computers, printers, phones and other devices throughout the building.

ATAC 2003, 2004 and 2005

These smaller classrooms in ATAC received new display technology, computers, document cameras and control systems. Display technology was chosen to maximize longevity and improve brightness in all rooms. Later this Fall, new projection screens will be installed in AT2004 and AT2005 to increase the viewing dimensions.

ATAC 3006

A new collaborative conferencing room was designed in early spring. This new space includes tiered seating, large displays, high-quality audio/video and multiple methods for annotative capture and communication. At present this room is under construction and completion is anticipated September 12.

University Centre 0050

Improvements to this space include the replacement of the display technology with a much larger rear-view projection screen in mid-August. Additional technology upgrades included a new computer and control system.

Orillia OA 1033 and 1022

Replacement of older projector technology continues throughout the Orillia campus. Two of the largest lecture theatres in Simcoe Hall received new projection technologies. This project was completed early August.

Orillia Residence OR 2018 - Graduate Studies

This huddle space was completed in late spring. The space has received two displays and high-quality audio/video conferencing for collaboration. This room is ideal for graduate studies.

If you have any questions or comments please contact Andrew Brigham at director.tsc@lakeheadu.ca.

Respectively submitted,

David Barnett
Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic)