

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

President's Report to the Board

March 2013



submitted by: Dr. Brian Stevenson

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & VICE-CHANCELLOR

Welcome to the new President's Report to the Board.

Beginning with this Report, my updates will be structured around our recently approved Strategic Plan (2013-2018).

While generic news items will be featured at the beginning of each of my Reports, most stories will be presented under one of the five priorities of the Plan:

- ***Nurturing Scholarship***
- ***Growth & Capacity Development***
- ***Economic Development***
- ***Leaner-Centred Experience***
- ***Community Engagement***

In accordance with the communications strategy of the Strategic Plan, my Reports will provide a window through which we may observe how our University is performing with respect to the Plan, and offer us the opportunity to measure our successes against the Plan.

Dr. Brian J.R. Stevenson

President & Vice-Chancellor, Lakehead University

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

COU PRESIDENT & CEO, BONNIE PATTERSON, VISITS LAKEHEAD



Council of Ontario Universities' (COU) president & CEO, Bonnie Patterson, spent a few days touring our Thunder Bay campus at the start of the month.

During her tours of buildings, offices and labs, Patterson offered her wisdom and guidance on a wealth of issues while spending time with each of our vice-presidents. She was even gracious enough to speak with the Chronicle Journal—who wanted her view on the future of post-secondary education in Ontario—during which she lauded Lakehead for its strategic direction.

AN EVENING WITH THE THUNDER BAY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

On January 24, our University, once again, sponsored an evening of classical music and voices as our Lakehead Vocal Ensemble joined the Thunder Bay Symphony Chorus on stage to wow a large audience at the Community Auditorium.

The successful soirée symbolized our partnership with the TBSO to promote the arts in our community. Following the concert, musicians, singers and special guests were invited to a reception at our campus's main cafeteria.



BOARD OF GOVERNORS RETREAT

On February 2nd, our Board of Governors held its annual retreat featuring two guest speakers: Council of Ontario Universities' (COU) president & CEO, Bonnie Patterson and Lakehead University Vice-President (External Relations), Deb Comuzzi.

Patterson's presentation provided Board members with her unique perspective on the future of post-secondary education, including the new realities of governance, branding and economics. Comuzzi's led a discussion with the Board about Lakehead's 50th anniversary, while soliciting their thoughts and input into our University's 2015 celebrations.

PREPARING FOR ABORIGINAL DAY CONFERENCE (JUNE 21, 2013)

University of Lethbridge's president and vice-chancellor, Mike Mahon, and I met with with representatives from the new Aboriginal University in Chiapas, Mexico, to discuss the agenda for a June 2013 conference on Canada's National Aboriginal Day (June 21). During our visit, we toured the University's indigenous rural medical school that presently works with NOSM on several initiatives.



NEW VICE-PROVOST, ABORIGINAL INITIATIVES

On February 26, the University announced the appointment of **Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux** as our Vice- Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives).

Dr. Wesley-Esquimaux has held the Nexen Chair in Aboriginal Leadership at Alberta's Banff Centre for the past four years. She is a Status Only Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto and an Adjunct Professor at Carleton University.

She is a former Advisory Member of the Mental Health Commission of Canada, a member of the Lake Simcoe Science Advisory Committee, a Lady of the Lake, and an active and engaging media representative.

In October of 2011, Dr. Wesley-Esquimaux served as Lakehead Thunder Bay's Aboriginal Scholar in Residence. During that time she visited many high schools within Lakehead Public Schools and the Thunder Bay Catholic School Board to do presentations about protecting the environment, celebrating Aboriginal arts, and positive youth engagement.

Dr. Wesley-Esquimaux's teaching and academic writing has focused on historic and intergenerational trauma within the Aboriginal community, and she is a member of the Chippewa of Georgina Island First Nation in Lake Simcoe, Ontario. She is interested in environmental and humanitarian causes, is actively engaged in a variety of initiatives across Canada, and co-founded and chairs the Canadian Roots Exchange (www.canadianroots.ca) out of the University of Toronto.

She will assume her new responsibilities, which will be based at the University's Thunder Bay campus, effective July 1, 2013.



[Click here](http://communications.lakeheadu.ca/news/?display=news&nid=941&unitid=1) for the original media release of the announcement, or visit <http://communications.lakeheadu.ca/news/?display=news&nid=941&unitid=1>



NURTURING SCHOLARSHIP

NSERC GRANT AWARDED TO BIOMASS RESEARCHER

Dr. Han Chen, Lakehead Professor in Natural Resources Management, and his co- applicants have received a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada strategic project grant worth \$620,761 over three years.

Working with Lakehead researchers, Dr. Jian Wang and Dr. Chander Shahi, Dr. Chen will examine ways to minimize the environmental impact of biomass harvesting and maximize economic opportunities.

Biomass harvesting uses the tops and limbs of trees, as well as small diameter trees, felled by regular tree harvesting to produce bioenergy and biochemical products.

DONATION CREATES NORTHERN LAKE SUPERIOR RESEARCH AWARDS

A generous donation to Lakehead University's Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies has allowed the creation of the Northern Lake Superior Research Awards.

With various University departments matching the contribution, the Faculty has received almost \$400,000 to provide research stipends and awards to undergraduate and graduate students' research projects pertaining to Northern Lake Superior. Research topics can range from fish conservation, the effects of climate change, invasive species, or the economic and social impacts of resource development.



Up to 10 undergraduate students will receive research stipends of \$600 to help with the costs associated with their respective honours theses. Additionally, every year up to five \$12,000 awards will go to graduate students in the Faculty who are in their Masters or Doctoral programs.

The awards will allow several students to do exciting projects that will have outcomes relevant to the region scientifically, socially and economically. The recent accreditation of the Environmental Science and Environmental Studies degrees by ECO-Canada and the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Parks Canada will be further enhanced by the Northern Lake Superior Awards.

Recipients will be chosen by a three-member panel of senior Science and Environmental Studies faculty members. The awards will be offered for the next six years starting in March.

GROWTH & CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

FTE GROWTH IN 2012-2013

Lakehead is close to its objective of a 1% increase in overall number of FTE's.

Our number of FTE students has increased by 60 (8329 to 8389), or 0.7%. While all initiatives achieved their goals, the overall total was offset by a larger than expected decline in Education students; particularly in Thunder Bay. Details will be provided in presentations at March meeting.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CESME OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED AT PDAC 2013

Lakehead University's Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Mining & Exploration (CESME)—launched at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada's annual convention in Toronto, March 4—will play a lead role in economic development by bringing together Northern communities and the mining industry to build better relationships.

The Centre, with Lakehead Geology professor, **Dr. Pete Hollings**, as its founding director, will lead the way to support and nurture the growing mining sector through mineral deposit research. CESME will recognize and address the sociological challenges and economic potential of the industry in this region; develop solutions for the environmental impacts of mineral exploration and northern infrastructure development; and create new mining technology and approaches that consider all of these concerns.



CESME is the evolution of our efforts to lead the region by helping prepare mining companies, communities and citizens for the boom that will occur when the Ring of Fire and other mines start producing.

The Centre's three pillars are:

- Mining and Exploration
- Environmental Impact
- Collaborate with First Nation, Metis and local communities

Visit <http://cesme.lakeheadu.ca/index.php> for more about CESME.



LEARNER-CENTRED STUDENT EXPERIENCE

NEW WEBSITE UP AND RUNNING

Designed and built by our very own Web Development Services team, Lakehead's new website was put online to enhance the learner-centred experience for students, both existing and prospective.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LAKEHEAD'S 8TH ANNUAL RESEARCH & INNOVATION WEEK

Our Thunder Bay and Orillia campuses celebrated the stars that are our University's researchers, this past February, during our annual Research & Innovation Week.

Research and Innovation Week's highlights included exhibitions and workshops at the Intercity Mall (Saturday, Feb. 9), which allowed scholars and scientists of all ages to see and interact with the amazing research and innovation projects happening at Lakehead University. Other highlights included a presentation by science broadcaster and writer, Jay Ingram; a discussion with Robert King, an innocent man who served more than 30 years in prison before being exonerated; and IBM's John Longbottom, who discussed Smarter Cities.



The week, which was kicked off with a pair of media conferences—one in our Agora and another at the InterCity Mall—featured politicians, provincial academics and, of course, our researchers. Numerous events and announcements recognized the scientific and economic impact Lakehead research has on the city and region. Below are a just some of the highlights.

2012'S TOP 10 RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ACHIEVEMENTS:

1) Ranked #1 in Canada for publishing in area of Aboriginal Studies

A study of 71 universities across Canada (Making Research Count: Analyzing Canadian Academic Publishing Cultures. Toronto: Higher Education Strategy Associates) was released in 2012 to determine which universities were the top publishers in a particular field or discipline. The measurement used was known as the H-index which measures both productivity and impact of academic publications. Within the H-indexes in the Social Sciences, Lakehead University was ranked Number 1 for publishing in the area of Aboriginal Studies.

2) Ranked among Top 10 Most Inventive Universities in Canada

Lakehead University was named one of the Top 10 Most Inventive Universities in Canada (The Impact Group's report, August, 2012) for its success in invention disclosures per research income. Invention disclosures are disclosures made by researchers to their institution about research outcomes that may have commercial potential. The full report is available at www.impactg.com/pdf/identifyingcanadasmostinventiveuniversities.pdf

3) Dr. Aicheng Chen Wins 2012 Keith Laidler National Chemistry Award

Dr. Aicheng Chen was awarded the 2012 Keith Laidler Award of the Canadian Society for Chemistry in recognition of his distinguished contributions to electrochemistry and catalysis. The Keith Laidler Award, established in 1963, recognizes outstanding contributions to the field of physical chemistry.

4) Dr. Mary Lou Kelley Receives Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and Is Named Citizen of Exceptional Achievement

Dr. Mary Lou Kelley received Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for her outstanding commitment to the advancement of hospice palliative care in Canada. This award was presented to Dr. Kelley by the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA) on Oct. 11, 2012. Dr. Kelley also received a Citizen of Exceptional Achievement Award from the City of Thunder Bay for her work.

5) Food Security Research Network Receives National Community-Service Learning Award

Lakehead University's Food Security Research Network (FSRN) received the 2012 Community Service-Learning (CSL) Award from the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation for its dedication to community-service learning through research. Lakehead's FSRN is a collective of students, community members, and University faculty and staff committed to creating sustainable food systems in Northwestern Ontario.

6) Research Capacity Building at Lakehead University

Lakehead built research capacity by appointing two additional Canada Research Chairs (CRC) in 2012. Dr. Pauline Sameshima is a CRC in Arts Integrated Studies and Dr. Sudip Rakshit is a CRC in Biorefining and Bioenergy.

7) Major SSHRC MCRI Grant Awarded to Dr. Chris Southcott

Dr. Chris Southcott, together with a team of Lakehead researchers, was granted \$2.5 million in 2012 to investigate the social, environmental and economic challenges facing Arctic communities in Canada and the rest of the circumpolar world. Contributions from other sources increase the total funding for the project to more than \$6 million. This international project is known as Resources and Sustainable Development in the Arctic. Its mandate is to develop ways to ensure that a larger share of the resource development benefits stay in the region for the people of the North with fewer costs to communities.

8) Major NSERC CREATE Grant Awarded to Dr. Alla Reznik

Dr. Alla Reznik was awarded a \$1.6 million grant by NSERC's Collaborative Research and Training Experience Program (CREATE). The CREATE funding will allow Lakehead University, in partnership with the Thunder Bay Regional Research Institute, the Universities of Saskatchewan and Waterloo and other organizations, to offer collaborative training of highly qualified personnel that consolidates medical imaging-related science and engineering research into a unified program covering medical imaging techniques and technologies.

9) Major NSERC CRD Grant Awarded to Dr. Ellie Prepas

In February 2012, Dr. Ellie Prepas received NSERC's prestigious Collaborative Research Development grant of nearly \$1.4 million for the FORWARD III project. Together with partner contributions, the FORWARD III project has received a total of \$2.8 million in funding. Dr. Prepas' work focuses on the development of best practices for the resource industries to ensure intensive resource extraction activities do not negatively impact the environment.

10) New SEM Installed in Lakehead University Instrumentation Laboratory

A field emission scanning electron microscope (SEM) with an x-ray elemental analyzer was installed in Lakehead's central analytical laboratory. The SEM is new to Lakehead and fundamental to many research projects in the fields of Natural Resource Management, Science, Environmental Studies, and Engineering. In its first year, the microscope has contributed to new discoveries in plant science, nanostructures, the development of new products, and mineral deposits. The facility will be used for years to come to train undergraduate and graduate students in this advanced electron microscopy skill.

LAKEHEAD NAMES ITS 2012 DISTINGUISHED RESEARCHERS OF THE YEAR

Dr. Sonja Grover, Professor in the Faculty of Education, and Dr. Aicheng Chen, Chemistry Professor and Canada Research Chair in Material and Environmental Chemistry, were named Lakehead's 2012 Distinguished Researchers of the Year—the highest honor conferred by Lakehead University for research and scholarly activity.

Dr. Grover's work is making a significant contribution to the promotion of children's basic legal and other fundamental human rights internationally.

Dr. Grover's research focuses on international humanitarian, human rights and criminal law, specifically on children's fundamental human rights and child rights advocacy. She has published 11 single authored books, 85 refereed journal articles, and a number of book chapters. Dr. Grover has presented her work at various international conferences including UNESCO.

Dr. Chen is interested in electrochemistry, biosensors, green chemistry, materials science and nanotechnology.

With strong support from NSERC, CFI, FedNor, the Ontario Research Fund and industry partners, Dr. Chen established an advanced Electrochemistry Laboratory. His research team has made great progress in the development of high-performance electrochemical sensors for biomedical applications and green technologies to address the pressing environmental and energy issues.