

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
JUNE 2018

REAL. IMPACT.



Algoma
UNIVERSITY



REAL. IMPACT.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On June 9th, we had the pleasure of celebrating, with family and friends, the academic accomplishments of over 200 Algoma University graduates at our convocation ceremony. It was the absolute highlight of the year! A big thank you to the many helpers who contributed to the day and to the success of our students - what an incredible Class of 2018!

We saw tremendous support from our community this month at the 17th Annual Algoma U Classic Golf Tournament. This year, the community helped us to raise almost \$25,000 to support student scholarships. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event so successful and to all the teams and organizations who supported the tournament - your efforts have truly made a difference for many students.

Finally, words cannot express the gratitude I have for all those who came to and were involved in organizing and planning my investiture. We are sharing my [inaugural address](#) for those who were unable to attend. I have shared our vision moving forward and truly look forward to serving in this role for the next several years as we continue to drive forward the four strategic priorities jointly established by the Board, Senate, and our Administrative Leadership Team in late January. Algoma University is heading into an exciting next chapter of its history, and together, we will accomplish great things! *Meegwetch* and thank you for this opportunity - it is a true honour to serve.



STRATEGIC DIRECTIVE: Campus Culture

A dynamic hub for community and student life with spaces and activities that support inspired and engaged learning and a strong sense of pride. This strategic direction will be achieved in close collaboration with student leadership to ensure all decisions reflect students' needs.

PRIORITY #1 - Student Life / Student Experience

Strategic Plan 2016-2021 (p.8)

Under this Strategic Direction the University has been actively focused on the following objective within the Campus Culture section of the Strategic Plan:

- Algoma University is a dynamic hub for community and student life (Objective 1.1)

(May-June 2018 PROGRESS REPORT)

Objective 1.1

Action: Algoma's Leadership team is using the results of the recent Student Space/Experience Consultation to finalize and implement a new space allocation plan. As the first phase of this effort, over the next two months plans will move forward to establish a "One-stop Shop" front-line service hub for students. A newly appointed Manager, Student Success and Wellbeing will play a crucial role as we operationalize this effort.

Deliverable: "One-stop Shop" service hub will be in place by the start of fall term.

SHARING OTHER INITIATIVES & EVENTS SUPPORTING CAMPUS CULTURE

Algoma. Connects.

On May 10th, over 40 members of the Algoma University community participated in the "Algoma. Connects." prospective student calling campaign. This effort resulted in close to 40 additional students confirming their intent to come to Algoma. Thank you to the Algoma team of faculty, staff, and students who participated.

Spring Campus Clean-up

On May 18th and June 1st, the "Spring Campus Clean-up" saw a number of internal and community volunteers come together to rake, sweep, weed, and trim in order to beautify our campus in preparation for convocation and a range of summer visitors. The grounds look stunning!

"Walk a Mile in Her Shoes"

Our women's basketball players and coaches took part in the "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" event on May 26th, raising \$780 to further work being done to end violence against women and children. Thanks to Coach Ryan Vetrie and the team for supporting this very important cause.

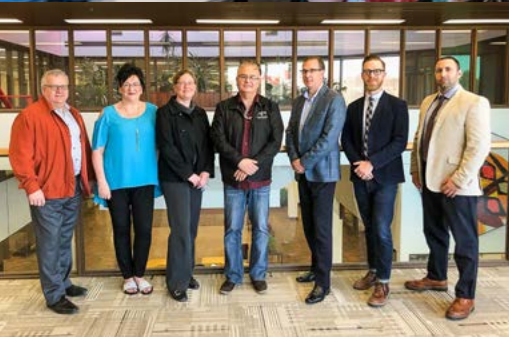
Big Bike

Approximately 30 students and staff participated in this year's Heart and Stroke Big Bike fundraiser in May. The "Algoma Wheelers" cruised around the downtown, decked out in Algoma gear, sharing their school spirit with the Sault community while raising funds and awareness for an important cause.

GLC Hits 1000 members!

The George Leach Centre (GLC) marked a new milestone in May! The recreation facility recently hit the 1,000 member mark and celebrated with a week of special activities and incentives for both current members and the broader community. The GLC serves as a key campus hub for student and community recreation, wellness, and varsity programming.





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STRATEGIC DIRECTIVE: Vibrant Programs

An integrated suite of programming that is current, relevant, attractive, and aligned with students' expectations.

PRIORITY #2 - Experiential Learning

[*Strategic Plan 2016-2021 \(p.10\)*](#)

Under this Strategic Direction the University is currently focused on achieving the following:

- Developing systems to support the use of experiential and work-integrated learning in classroom settings and in overall curricular delivery (Objective 2.1)

(May - June 2018 PROGRESS REPORT)

Objective 2.1

Action: In June, the Algoma University Senate adopted definitions and typology for the sorts of experiential learning found in the curricular experience.

Deliverable: The common definitions and typology established will be used to complete a detailed inventory of experiential learning activities that will see courses labelled in the Academic Calendar so students can more easily identify hands-on and work-integrated learning experiences.

Action: Career Ready funding provided by MAESD, in the amount of \$566,000 (over two years), will support the development of two exciting new programs; the Career Link Program and the New Graduate Transition Program. These programs will link students to experiences that develop core skills important to employment success.

Deliverable: Successful launch of both programs in fall 2018.

SHARING OTHER INITIATIVES AND EVENTS SUPPORTING VIBRANT PROGRAMMING

eLearning Centre Opening

On Monday April 30th, faculty and staff were provided a sneak peak of Algoma's new [eLearning Centre](#), located on the ground floor of the Arthur A. Wishart Library.

Thanks to the generous support of eCampus Ontario, a range of equipment and video editing software is now available to support faculty and staff in the development of high quality technology-enabled course materials for our students.

Visit from Dr. Ken Coates

On May 4th, **Dr. Ken Coates**, a Canada Research Chair in Research and Innovation, met with members of the Algoma community, including members of the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee, the Senate, and Department Chairs. Dr. Coates facilitated discussions specific to program design (in the current context within Ontario and beyond) that would lead to new program development ideas to support short- and long-term efforts to build enrolment.

Spring Institutes Offered Across the Province

In May and June, Algoma offered an array of special condensed programming in Anishinaabemowin, Community, Economic, and Social Development (CESD), and Social Work. New this year were course options in Lac Seul. Additional spring institutes were held in Sault Ste. Marie, Timmins, and Brampton.

Ziigwang Inakamigiziwin, the Lac Seul initiative offered in partnership with Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig, provided students and northerners with the opportunity to study the Ojibwe language, treaties and the treaty-making process, and the plants of the region. foundational work already underway. We are looking forward to announcing some new partnership opportunities in the near future.

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STRATEGIC DIRECTIVE: Research and Innovation

A culture of research and innovation that leverages existing strengths and produces an exceptional student experience while contributing to the sustainability of the community and region.

The new presence of an [Office of Research and Innovation](#) on campus has emerged from the University's [Strategic Plan 2016-2021 \(p. 12\)](#)

Under this Strategic Direction, the University is focused on scholarship and research to enhance student learning, support faculty growth, and contribute to local economic development (Objective 3.1).

(May - June 2018 PROGRESS REPORT)

Objective 3.1

Action: Dr. Pedro Antunes, and his team, are leading efforts to formally establish a physical presence for the Office of Research and Innovation in order to raise the profile of this important institutional initiative.

Deliverable: The Office of Research and Innovation will be in place by the start of the fall term.

SAMPLE INITIATIVES AND EVENTS SUPPORTING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Dr. Isabel Molina Named Canada Research Chair

[Dr. Isabel Molina](#), Associate Professor in the Department of Biology, was recently appointed a Tier II Canada Research Chair in Plant Lipid Metabolism having been awarded \$500,000 in funding from the Government of Canada. Molina is conducting critical research to better understand the structure and biosynthesis of waxy barriers that protect plants against environmental stressors.

The new funding will enable Molina to dedicate more time for conducting research and publishing results, leading to increased productivity. Stable funding provided through the Canada Research Chair Program will strengthen her research team and attract collaborations from within and outside the University, leading to better quality of research.

Sociology Professor Receives Research Funding

Dr. Vivian Estrada, Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology, successfully secured a \$25,000 Partnership Engage Grant from SSHRC, entitled "Gendered and Colonial Violence across the Americas". The grant will help connect Indigenous women in Mexico with Anishinaabe women from Bawating (Sault Ste. Marie). The rationale is twofold: to strengthen and institutionalize a partnership with scholars in Canada and to learn about the experiences of Anishinaabe women in Bawating, specifically those who have participated in organizing the February 14th Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Memorial March, and their work to address gendered and colonial violence.





Significant Funding for Collaborative Research

Krista McCracken, the Researcher/Curator for the Arthur A. Wishart Library and Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre, has received \$182,540 in SSHRC Insight grant funding for her collaborative research titled, “Establishing a Framework for Reconciliation Action and Awareness within the Canadian Archival System”.

Biology Department OE3C Conference Presentation

In May, Dr. Jennifer Foote and students Shannon O'Brien, Kendriah Pearse, and Tristan Clarke participated in the [OE3C conference](#). Former student Brendan Pearse and NOHFC intern Kristen Marini also participated. Clarke tied for first prize for top poster - an impressive feat for an undergraduate student as most participating in the conference were graduate students. Recent publications involving Dr. Foote include:

- Foote JR, Marini KLD, AL-Ani H. 2018. [Understanding the function of nocturnal song in ovenbirds: males do not countersing at night](#). Journal of Avian Biology 49(5):e01729. doi: 10.1111/jav.01729
- Ehnes M, Dech JP, Foote JR. 2018. [Seasonal changes in acoustic detection of forest birds](#). Journal of Ecoacoustics 2:QVDZ07.



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STRATEGIC DIRECTIVE: Anishinaabe Inendamowin

A recognized leader in Anishinaabe learning through partnerships, the incorporation of Anishinaabe language and culture throughout the institution, and fulfillment of our special mission.

PRIORITY #3 - Anishinaabe Inendamowin (enrolment, partnerships, programming)

Strategic Plan 2016-2021 (p.14)

Under this Strategic Direction the University is currently focused on achieving the following:

- Algoma University is recognized as a leader in Anishinaabe learning in Canada (Objective 4.1)
- Enhance cross-cultural competencies of faculty, staff, students, and administration (Objective 4.1)

(May - June 2018 PROGRESS REPORT)

Objective 4.1

Action: A large team has been mobilized to organize and facilitate the annual Shingwauk Indian Residential School Gathering and Conference. The event, developed in partnership with the Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association, will take place from August 3-5th on the original site of the Shingwauk Indian Residential School, the present home of Algoma University and Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig. This year's theme is "Government Apology and the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement: Then and Now". A range of activities, workshops, entertainment, and a feast are scheduled. Youth programming is also in place.

Immediately prior to the gathering, a special ceremony to unveil the "Reclaiming Shingwauk Hall" exhibition, which is currently under construction, will be held. This exhibition will raise the profile of the school as a place of national historic significance, where Canadians can learn about the experiences of residential schools Survivors in a reclaimed residential school.

Deliverable: Successful hosting of both events supports Algoma's special mission and ongoing efforts to raise the institution's profile as a national leader in Truth and Reconciliation.

Action: In order to enhance cross-cultural awareness training opportunities for key internal and external groups, two days of cultural sensitivity ([Bimickaway Training](#)) was delivered by staff from the Indigenous Justice Division of the Ministry of the Attorney General along with members of the Bimickaway Elders' Council. Members of Algoma's Leadership team, Elders' Council, Anishinaabe Initiatives Division, Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig, and the Anishinaabe Peoples' Council participated alongside members of the Sault Ste. Marie Police Services (SSMPS).

Deliverable: Learnings from Bimickaway will be used to support the development of high-calibre cultural training materials for future training activities to be scheduled during the upcoming fall-winter semesters. Information shared will also be incorporated into training materials being developed to support police services cultural-awareness training.

SHARING OTHER INITIATIVES AND EVENTS SUPPORTING ANISHINAABE INENDAMOWIN

Anishinaabe Graduation Dinner

The Anishinaabe Initiatives Division recently celebrated the academic success and personal achievements of the 24 graduating Anishinaabe students at their annual Anishinaabe Graduation Dinner held at the Grand Gardens.





“Documenting Early Residential Schools” Partnership Grant Project

Krista McCracken secured almost \$25,000 in SSHRC funding to support a class of undergraduate students from Huron College at Western University to work with the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre and the Woodland Cultural Centre to transcribe and research records relating to the history of the Shingwauk and Mohawk Residential Schools. The funding will allow approximately 30 Huron students to visit Algoma in October for an intensive learning opportunity.

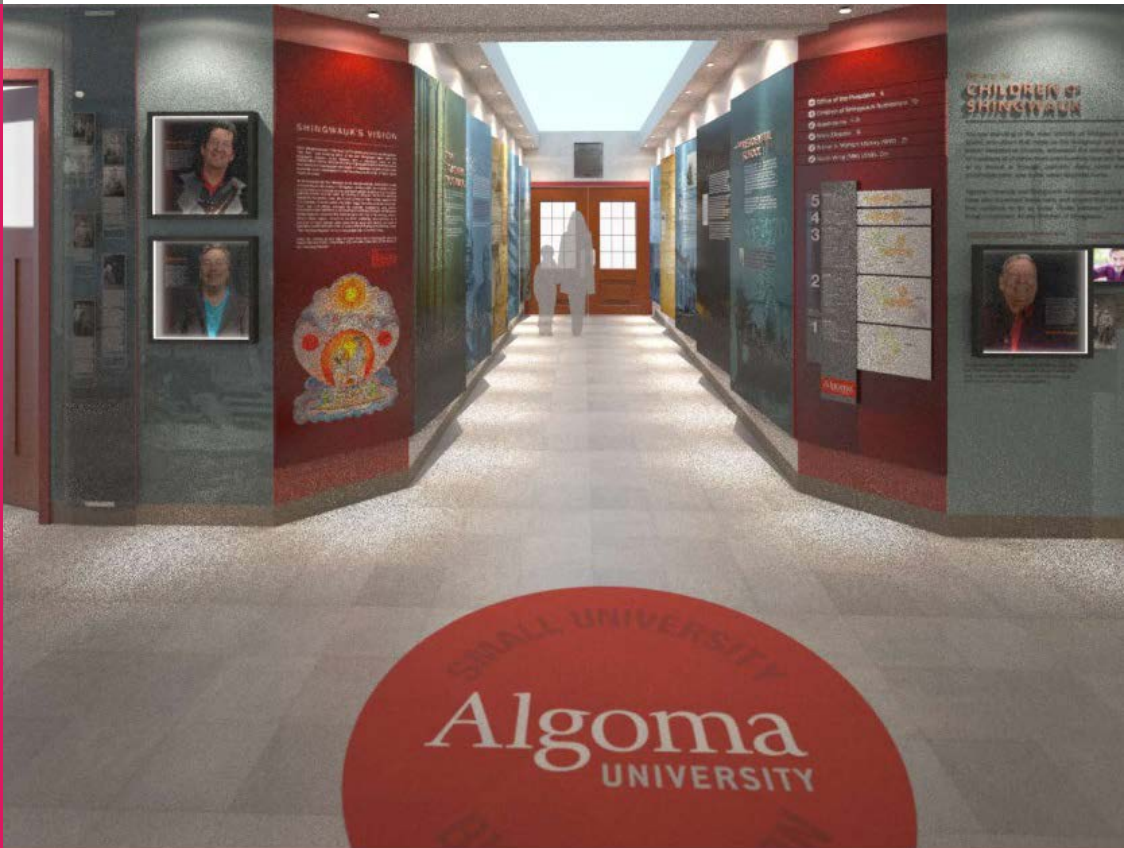
Indigenous Youth Gathering

In May, Algoma University’s Sault Ste. Marie campus hosted the Second Annual Indigenous Youth Gathering. The gathering honoured Mother Earth, and promoted healthy relationships, mental wellness, career readiness, and education, specifically science, technology, engineering, and medicine. Indigenous youth from across Ontario participated in various cultural activities and events, including residential school tours, staying overnight in the University’s residences.



National Indigenous Peoples’ Day Activities

As part of a concerted effort to increase awareness of Algoma’s special mission and leadership in Anishinaabe learning, the Anishinaabe Initiatives Division (AID) has been tasked with supporting National Indigenous Peoples’ Day events at multiple locations within targeted regions. This year, AID will be represented at the Batchewana First Nation event at Whitefish Island, Garden River First Nation event at Point Charles (Garden River), and at the City of Brampton and Peel Aboriginal Network events at Garden Square in downtown Brampton.



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STRATEGIC DIRECTIVE: Institutional Excellence

A talented community of lifelong learners in which students, faculty, staff, and administration work together to engage in planning, professional development, and the generation of revenue that supports fiscal stability and clear institutional identity.

Institutional Excellence

Strategic Plan 2016-2021 (p.16)

The University continues to make considerable progress on this particular Strategic Direction in order to support the four strategic priorities referenced throughout this report. Particular attention has been directed at the following objectives:

- 5.1 Organizational Alignment
- 5.2 Generation of Non-tuition Revenue
- 5.3 Talent Management
- 5.4 Brand Image

(May - June 2018 Progress Report)

Objective 5.1

Action: Efforts continue to redefine Algoma's organizational structure to reinforce the student-centred approach that was identified as a top priority. A range of roles have been redefined while new roles have been developed.

Deliverable: New organizational structure and related appointments will be in place prior to the start of the fall academic term.

Objective 5.3

Action: Secure new Vice-President, Finance and Operations to complete membership of renewed Senior Leadership Team. Selection process actively underway.

Deliverable: Senior Leadership Team fully in place by July 2018.

SHARING OTHER INITIATIVES AND EVENTS SUPPORTING INSTITUTIONAL EXCELLENCE

New Assistant Deans Appointed

Congratulations to Drs. Linda Burnett and István Imre on being named Assistant Academic Dean of Teaching and Learning and Assistant Academic Dean of Student Success respectively. These [two new leadership positions](#) will support the Academic Dean with both the academic and student success priorities of the University.

New Director of Human Resources

Algoma University has recently hired Dr. Teni Araba as the new Director of Human Resources. Araba brings over 12 years of experience in human resources to Algoma and has proven skills in leadership development, cultural transformation, human analytics, recruitment and selection, training and development, communications, performance management, and more. She comes to the University from the Driving Change Automotive Group, where she served as Director of Human Resources and Training at four locations in Saskatchewan and Manitoba since 2014.

Ryerson Gold For Algoma's Director of Anishinaabe Initiatives

Joe Tom Sayers, who joined Algoma's Leadership Team as the Anishinaabe Initiatives Director this past winter was recently awarded the Ryerson Gold Medal for the highest overall GPA in the Faculty of Arts and for his leadership in the community. Joe Tom completed his undergraduate degree in Public Administration and Governance with a 4.07 and is currently enrolled in the part-time Professional Master's of Public Administration program at Queen's University.





17th Annual Algoma U Classic

On June 4th, Algoma U held its 17th annual Algoma U Classic Golf Tournament. The tournament raised \$24,300 for the University's Scholarships and Bursaries Program. To date, the annual golf tournament fundraiser has raised over \$400,000.

GSuite Technical Training

InterlockIT delivered **Google Suite (GSuite)** technical training to support current efforts to better utilize this cloud-based platform intended to increase productivity and collaboration. Additional training opportunities for staff and faculty will be available throughout the year.

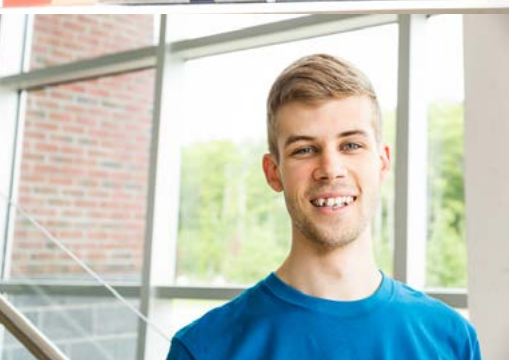


Algoma U Markets Programs on Queen Street Window Front

In a joint effort with the Downtown Association to dress up empty storefronts, Algoma University was asked to decorate the front window at 756 Queen Street (across from the old PUC building). We will use this high traffic area to focus on University programs, exciting news or special upcoming events.

Biology Grad is NOSM Bound

Honours Bachelor of Science in Biology graduate [Caleb Charlobois](#) was recently accepted into the prestigious Northern Ontario School of Medicine. He received his acceptance without having written the MCAT - a rare feat!



Reng Gum Signs Professional Basketball Contract in Portugal

Men's basketball player and recent Bachelor of Business Administration graduate [Reng Gum](#) recently signed a professional basketball contract in Portugal with the Associacao Amigos D'Angrabasket in the Português ProLiga League. Gum is the first-ever student-athlete in the history of the Algoma Thunderbirds to sign a professional contract.



UPCOMING EVENTS

July-Aug **Thunderbird Day** [Camps](#) (running throughout the summer)

Aug 3 **"Reclaiming Shingwauk Hall"** exhibition unveiling

Aug 3-5 Shingwauk Indian Residential School [Gathering and Conference](#)



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