

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
JANUARY 2019

ALL
WELCOME.

Algoma
UNIVERSITY





President's Report January 2019



Brampton Orientation, Timmins Students, SSM Student Leaders, International Student Scavenger Hunt

President's Message

As we welcome all of our new and returning students and employees to our three campus communities for the winter semester, I want to take this opportunity to provide a brief update on efforts to support our key institutional priorities since my last report from late-November. Algoma is a special place where we value diversity, relationships, and a sense of community and belonging. We have encouraged everyone within our community to take time this month to meet new people, help where needed and showcase the caring, welcoming and inclusive community that makes us unique. I personally look forward to meeting all of the new faces on each campus and have loved seeing the excitement and energy of our newest arrivals (representing over 22 countries).

As we move into this new year, we will be engaging the community in the creation of a Campus Development Plan that will provide a road map for each campus as we consider enrolment goals, program expansion opportunities, facility renovations and new construction required to meet our growth target of 3000 students. Preliminary enrolment indicators are positive and we look forward to an Ontario University Application Centre Fall application update which will be reported upon at our January meeting.

In 2019, we look forward to hosting three important national events that support efforts to raise our institutional profile: the Gathering at the Rapids Pow Wow (Mar 2-3), Taking Care of our Land Symposium (May 6-9), and the Universities Canada National Reconciliation Forum (Oct 2019).

I want to thank the Board of Governors and our Academic Senate for their continued leadership and I look forward to working collaboratively on this exciting transformational journey.

Student Experience

International Student Orientation Program & Frost Week Activities

Staff and student leaders are working hard to ensure that the students arriving from [across the globe](#) have a warm welcome and comfortable transition. “Frost Week” events were planned on all three campuses this year as we continue to focus on efforts to enhance student life/experience. Events are designed to increase participation and build a sense of belonging and community.



New Student Spaces - Responding to Student Consultation

We are in the process of opening four ‘newly renovated’ student spaces on our Sault Ste. Marie campus: the Anishinaabe Student Life Centre, the Globe (across from the International Student Support Centre), and the Experiential Learning Hubs - a joint initiative of the Office of Research and Innovation, and the Department of Experiential Learning. Expansion at our Brampton facility is also underway, with construction commencing as we renovate a new 6000 square foot space that will showcase our School of Business and Economics (opening this Spring).



Great Lakes International Summer Music Institute

Aspiring musicians from across the globe will have an exciting new opportunity to hone their craft thanks to an intensive summer music institute launched earlier this month.

The *one-of-a-kind* [Great Lakes International Summer Music Institute](#) provides a two-week residential experience within the beautiful surroundings of the Algoma region for a select group of advanced musicians at a pre-professional level; specifically for students in secondary school (grade 11-12) and/or college/university students. This initiative has been made possible thanks to the generous support of the former Algoma Music Camp, most notably Board President Vic Muenzer.



Campus Cross Country Ski Trails Now Open

The recent winter weather has allowed us to open approximately 4 kilometres of ski trail for our students, faculty, staff as well as the general public. Currently we have groomed a loop between Anna McCrea Public School, a section through the woods and a loop on the east front lawn. George Leach Centre staff can provide guidance on accessing the trail.



Strategic Enrolment Management

Enhanced strategic enrolment management practices continue to [generate positive results](#) towards reaching our long-term goal of 3000 students.

In Sault Ste. Marie, we welcomed a January cohort of over 180 new students, primarily in Computer Science, Biology and Business programs.



Growing enrolment in Brampton has resulted in the need to open two more classrooms, equipped with state-of-the-art educational technology that will support the needs of our expanded student body. I was able to tour this space with Brampton faculty and staff during the first weekend of January and was very impressed with the new learning environment.



At the end of the month we will travel North as we continue to work on program expansion opportunities with Northern College and the City of Timmins (and surrounding region) to ensure students in this part of Northern Ontario have greater access to a university education in their community. We are in the process of working through a feasibility study with NORDIK that will help guide this work.

Expanding College Pathways

Winter is the primary recruitment season for prospective college pathway students. As we prepare for Algoma's recruiters to visit community colleges across the province, we will be signing new partnership agreements with Sault College (Jan. 24th) and Northern College (Jan. 31st) to support our enrolment growth efforts.

Support for our Special Mission

Anishinaabe Student Life Centre Opens For Students

The new Anishinaabe Student Life Centre is now open for student use. The space is an important next step in ongoing efforts to support the University's special mission while enhancing the overall student experience. This project was made possible by the generous financial and/or planning support of the Anishinaabe Peoples Council, Algoma University Students' Union (AUSU), Shingwauk Anishinaabe Students' Association (SASA) and the Algoma U Anishinaabe Initiatives Division. Federal Government Strategic Infrastructure Funding (SIF) and Provincial funding also helped support this project. A "soft launch" was held during Frost Week with official grand opening ceremony details to be released shortly.



Experiential Learning

In December, the Office of Research and Innovation, alongside the Department of Experiential Learning, launched the opening of the Experiential Learning Hub; a dynamic new innovation space where students, faculty, and employers will be collaborating on a range of research and experiential learning activities.

A key priority of the Office of Research and Innovation is to align research talent with the needs of the local community by facilitating collaborative research efforts between the University, government, and the private sector. Algoma University aims to make a real and lasting impact through the creation of more hands-on experiences and related supports, particularly in the area of research and innovation.





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