

NEW. BEGINNINGS.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
SEPTEMBER 2019





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September is a special time for our University as we [welcome](#) new students, faculty and staff to our Brampton, Sault Ste. Marie and Timmins campuses. It has been wonderful to meet many new faces and from all accounts, I believe we have an incredible group of new students and employees joining our community. I want to thank the many hands responsible for getting each campus ready this Fall; a true team effort on all fronts!

I also want to take a moment to extend a word of welcome to the new members of the Senate and Board of Governors. Our University, under the leadership and direction provided by these two governing bodies is in the midst of an exciting period of planning and change. Under your leadership, we have moved forward with four key priorities from our Strategic Plan:

- Enhancing the overall student experience;
- Increasing enrolment on all three campuses through strategic enrolment management;
- Moving forward with our commitments to Truth and Reconciliation and the University's Special Mission; and
- Increased workplace readiness and experiential learning opportunities.

We are seeing record enrolment growth, new program development and expansion, increased opportunities for our students and plans underway for enhancing student experiences, student spaces and student supports. The important work we are doing in partnership specific to our Special Mission and the history of this site is increasingly garnering attention from across the country. We look forward to hosting the Universities Canada National Reconciliation Forum being held October 8-10th.

This year will be marked by some very important planning commitments that will set the stage for the next seven to ten years. We will complete a Campus Master Planning exercise with a full internal and external consultation that will guide us into a very exciting future; we will complete the Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA 3 2020-25) negotiations with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities that will outline our commitments to the province specific to the metrics they are providing and we will complete the next set of Academic and Research plans for the organization. These plans will align with the 2016-2021 Strategic Plan and will provide further clarity and vision, positioning the University to achieve its target growth of 3000 FTE students by 2024, and we are well on our way. Based on the Spring and Fall enrolment numbers, we are confident that we will surpass the 2019-2020 target of a 20 percent enrollment growth and projection of 1450 FTE.

This issue of the President's Report provides an overview of the progress we continue to make on the four strategic priorities while highlighting some of the exceptional talent we have within the organization. Thank you - Chi-Miigwech to everyone who has played and continues to play a part in this exciting chapter of our history. In particular, I want to acknowledge our external partners and in particular the City of Brampton, the City of Sault Ste. Marie and the City of Timmins. Thank you for believing in us, thank you for committing to us and thank you for spreading the word about what an exceptional place Algoma is to work, study and play. It is an absolute honour and pleasure to be the President of Algoma University during this exciting period of its history. This is going to be an incredible year!

Asima Vezina, President and Vice-Chancellor, Algoma University

STRATEGIC PRIORITY: STUDENT EXPERIENCE



O-Week

As all are aware, a number of staff, faculty and student leaders organized a range of successful [O-Week](#) activities across our campus communities. I had the distinct pleasure of participating in events in Brampton and Sault Ste. Marie and look forward to connecting directly with students and faculty from our Timmins campus in the very near future.

Campus Master Plan

Thanks to all faculty, staff and students who have provided input over the last number of months as part of our Campus Master Planning exercise for the Sault Ste. Marie campus. From online surveys to town hall sessions and various interviews, IBI Group has been gathering feedback from internal and external stakeholders in order to support our efforts.

We have the last round of consultation occurring in September and look forward to a draft plan being presented to our Board and Senate in November followed by a final document to be released in January. September 26th marks an important date for the final round of student consultation in the Shingwauk Auditorium. We will continue to work on the Brampton consultation over the fall. Phase two of our expansion plan for the Centre of Social, Cultural and Economic Innovation is almost complete with further work being done on potential housing strategies and lease space to be confirmed this fall.





STRATEGIC PRIORITY: STRATEGIC ENROLMENT MANAGEMENT

Fall Enrolment Update

Although a more detailed update will be released following the close of the fall registration period, based on preliminary data, overall enrolment is on track to exceed 2019-2020 budget projections. Growth is occurring at all three campuses and, to date, the University has registered over **800 new students**, including over 300 in Brampton. Although an increase in International students is driving growth, Algoma's first year domestic class is double the size of last year's domestic intake. India is the country of origin for the largest percentage of Algoma's International student population, however, the university's continued efforts to diversify are paying dividends with the current student body **representing 53 countries** from around the world.

As per the first phase of the SEM strategy where we focused on programs with the greatest likelihood of significant growth, the School of Business and Economics, School of Life Sciences and the Environment and Computer Science have been the biggest drivers of this growth. Having said this, many programs are currently experiencing some increase.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all members of the Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) Committee, Faculties, Recruitment and Communications teams and all others are working diligently to drive forward the changes required to reach the long-term enrolment target of 3000 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) students by 2023-24. The success of this priority has and will continue to require everyone's involvement and will position the University for a very bright and positive future.

SSM Campus Renovations

To accommodate enrollment growth a number of construction projects are being worked through the design process including but not limited to: a new space for computer science that will house four new computer labs as well as other complementary programming space and a new home for the School of Business and Economics that will

see approximately 7000 square feet of additional space added to our campus. As well, through AUSU's leadership and funding commitments, the Speak Easy will experience a full renovation to make this space much more comfortable, inviting and student friendly. Finally, Student Success Central is also being re-designed to ensure this centre can maximize its impact as the one-stop shop for student supports. While there is much more underway in the Campus Master Planning exercise, a more detailed communication will be provided in the upcoming months.

Brampton Campus Expansion

The enrolment growth experienced in Brampton during the 2018-19 academic year was primarily attributed to the development of graduate certificate programming within the School of Business and Economics. In order to accommodate growing student numbers, an initial phase of campus expansion resulted in the creation of new classrooms, collaborative meeting rooms, faculty offices and other student spaces. As the fall term commences, School BE students and faculty are being welcomed into this new space, the feedback to-date has been outstanding. An official ribbon cutting ceremony is being targeted for late fall. Two new state of the art computer science classrooms are in process of renovation as part of this expansion as well.

The long-term success of our Brampton campus is tied to the diversification of our academic programming. Algoma's expansion efforts recently received financial support in the amount of \$7.3 million from the City of Brampton. Phase Two expansion will support classroom, lab and student space enhancements to accommodate enrolment growth to 1000 students while enhancing our presence within Garden Square in the heart of downtown Brampton. By Fall 2020, in addition to programming currently offered by the School of Business & Economics, Algoma University will offer programs in Computer Science, Psychology, and Community Economic and Social Development, with additional new programs to follow by 2023. Students at Algoma University's newly established *Centre for Social, Cultural & Economic Innovation* will obtain an education that prepares them to make significant contributions to the Brampton community and beyond.





5th Annual Building Reconciliation Forum



STRATEGIC PRIORITY: SUPPORT FOR OUR SPECIAL MISSION

5th Annual Building Reconciliation Conference

Plans continue to unfold for the [5th Annual Building Reconciliation Forum](#) taking place on our campus from October 8th through 10th. This year's [pre-forum](#) and [forum](#) have been designed to engage University President's and their leadership teams in a national dialogue to consider the role of Canadian Universities during the next five years of reconciliation in this country. An impressive agenda of keynote speakers, plenary sessions, land- and culture-based learning activities and social events will ensure a truly memorable experience for all delegates. Live streaming is being investigated to enable classrooms to participate as part of their learning.

I encourage all members of the Algoma University community to reach out to Elizabeth Webkamigad, Director of the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre to find out how you can volunteer or participate in all, or a portion of, this once in a [lifetime event](#).

Thanks to all those from Universities Canada, Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig, Nipissing University, Cape Breton University, the University of Northern British Columbia and Algoma University who have partnered on this incredible event, one that that will help raise our national profile and the importance of this part of our Special Mission.



**Universities
Canada.**
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AU Faculty Member Named Canada Research Chair in Healing and Reconciliation

Dr. Paulette Steeves, Assistant Professor in the Department of History, has been appointed Tier II Canada Research Chair in Healing and Reconciliation, receiving \$500,000 in funding from the Government of Canada to support her efforts.

Being named a Tier II Canada Research Chair is one of the highest honours in our country for an emerging researcher in academia; we are honoured that she has chosen to conduct this research as part of the Algoma University community. Dr. Steeves understands our Special Mission and is committed to excellence in research and truth as it pertains to the First Peoples of Canada and their history here on Turtle Island. Her research will undoubtedly add a new dimension to the field of archeology. This is very exciting for our community, and for Indigenous Communities in the American continent. Dr. Steeves is committed to using scientific and indigenous approaches to seek the true origins of indigenous peoples in the Americas.

Algoma U currently has three faculty members working as Canada Research Chairs and will be filling a fourth position in the upcoming year.





STRATEGIC PRIORITY: EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Experiential Learning Hub

The Experiential Learning Hub, located on the 2nd level of Shingwauk Hall, is now furnished and ready for student use. The EL team looks to build on the momentum generated last year as they evaluate and improve signature EL programming, including co-operative education, Career Link, and the New Graduate Transition Program while continuing to establish and nurture partnerships with faculty and community employers to build the quality and breadth of opportunity for students. Details on corporate support for one such experiential learning initiative will be released shortly.

Summer Institutes A Success

Congratulations to all faculty and staff involved in the various summer institutes offered across our campus communities over the past number of months. As an example, the inaugural offering of the 2-week intensive Great Lakes International Summer Music Institute brought new life to our Sault Ste. Marie campus, with high calibre voice, strings and piano resonating throughout every building. Three associated concerts, including the final student concert, were awe-inspiring and I am already looking forward to next year. Thanks to everyone who had a part to play including Dr. Ed Turgeon, Frank Deresti and our partners from the former Algoma Music Camp who have planted a seed that will continue to grow. Other examples include CESD institutes at all our campus locations and intensive courses to support learners from ONWAA and NALMA.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 16-20	Anishinaabe Welcome Week
Sept 26-28	Homecoming
Oct 8-10	Building Reconciliation Forum
Oct 23	John Rhodes Scholarship Dinner
Oct 30	Campus Trick or Treat for United Way



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