



# FUTURE. FOCUSED.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT  
NOVEMBER 2019

Algoma  
UNIVERSITY



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2019 has been an incredible year for Algoma University. The success we have experienced is the direct result of a collective effort by the entire Algoma U community to support and execute on key strategies and metrics associated with four institutional priorities co-established by the university's Board of Governors, Academic Senate and Senior Administration in 2018.

The enrolment growth experienced this academic year is a key example of our progress. Increasing enrolment on the Brampton, Sault Ste. Marie and Timmins campuses through a focused Strategic Enrolment Management Plan was a key priority for the 2018-20 academic years. For a second year in a row, the University has exceeded its enrolment projection. In 2019-2020, the University set an aggressive 20 percent growth target of 1450 FTE students. After hitting this target, the team is now working toward a stretch target of 1850 FTE putting us well on our way towards achieving our goal of growing to 3000 students by 2023-24.

As a result of this growth and the generous municipal investments by the city of Brampton (\$7.3M) and SSM (\$400K), targeted investments are being made in capital projects and attracting new talent to program areas currently experiencing significant growth: Business and Economics, Computer Science and Life Sciences and the Environment.

In Brampton, construction of the \$3.4 M School of Business and Economics and a significant investment to build a new computer science wing will be complete by January. The Board has recently approved investment of approximately \$2M in space and program enhancements for expansions to the Computer Science program in SSM, and finally, approximately \$1M has been committed by the Student Union (AUSU) to redesign the Speakeasy. As we move into the new year, concepts for the School of Business and Economics in Sault Ste. Marie and additional investments in student and programming space in Brampton will be finalized in alignment with Algoma's long-term development strategy.

Over the past several months, our community has been in consultations to develop a Campus Master Plan for both Brampton and SSM. This plan will be released publicly in January and will help to guide the University for the next 5-10 years of growth. We appreciate the many voices who have contributed to the exciting vision emerging from our community-wide consultations.

In addition to updates on our strategic enrolment management efforts, this edition of the President's Report provides a high-level overview of recent progress on targeted metrics and milestones tied to our other three institutional priorities:

- enhancing the overall student experience;
- in partnership, moving forward with commitments to AU's Special Mission and goals of being a national leader in Truth and Reconciliation; and
- providing increased workplace readiness and experiential learning opportunities for students.

The accomplishments noted would not have been possible without the exceptional talent and commitment of our community partners, staff, students, faculty, admin, Senate and Board.

As we move into the holiday season, I want to reinforce my appreciation to all members of the AU community for your tremendous leadership and effort during the past year.

Thank you - Chi-Miigwech and season's greetings to all.



*Asima Vezina, President and Vice-Chancellor*





## STRATEGIC PRIORITY: STUDENT EXPERIENCE

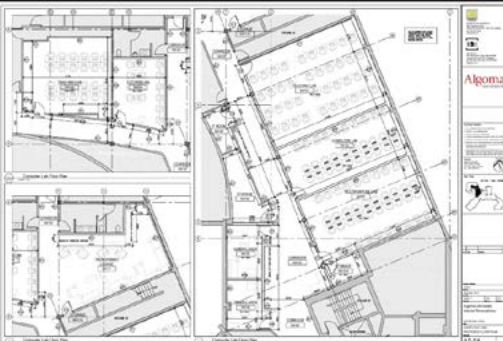
A number of strategies are moving forward to support efforts to enhance the overall student experience at Algoma University. Improvements to physical spaces and infrastructure, new staffing models to support the academic and social experience of the University's growing international student population, and the creation of new scholarship opportunities are just a few related actions from the past two-months. Key highlights and related metrics are shared below:

### Campus Master Plan

As we continue to focus attention on enhancing the overall student experience, while simultaneously moving forward an aggressive enrolment growth strategy, the development of physical spaces to support student success become more and more critical. Following a six-month consultation process, we look forward to receiving the preliminary Sault Ste. Marie Campus Master Plan (CMP) report from the IBI Group on November 28<sup>th</sup>. The CMP establishes a vision and framework to guide how and where the university campus will physically change in support of the university's strategic vision and academic plan throughout all its available and future facilities over a 5- to 10-year horizon. The final CMP, including an overarching Campus Vision, supported by planning principles to guide changes, along with a range of strategies for the planning and design of current and future buildings, public spaces, and transportation systems will be presented to the Board of Governors on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### Enhancements to Computer Science Infrastructure

Computer science is currently the fastest growing program on the SSM campus. Given current and future enrolment growth potential, the Board of Governors recently approved a \$2 million investment to support the development of new state of the art teaching and learning spaces fully equipped with industry leading technology. The new infrastructure will ensure a top-quality learning environment for students as they prepare for the careers of tomorrow. Enhancements also support high-quality faculty research in areas such as computer gaming



technology, mobile software engineering and cyber-security. Work on the new facilities will commence in winter 2020 with completion targeted for the summer term. The new lab spaces will more than double current student capacity. The overall development will include two teaching labs, a tutoring room, revamped “tech heavy” Thunderbird lounge, general computer lab, a multipurpose research lab and two gaming rooms.

### Speakeasy

As a result of AUSU’s leadership and \$1 million funding commitment, plans continue to evolve for a full redesign of the Speakeasy. The new space will serve as a hub of student life programming, building on the momentum generated during the current academic year.

### Scholarship Funds Continue to Grow

The Ted Nolan Foundation has generously donated \$100,000 to Algoma University to establish The Rose Nolan Scholarship. This annual scholarship, named after Ted Nolan’s mother, was established to help First Nations women achieve their educational and training goals while maintaining strong community involvement. The investment was announced during the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual National Building Reconciliation Forum in October.

Later in the month, 300 members of the extended Algoma University community attended the 2019 John R. Rhodes Scholarship Dinner. This year’s event honoured the tremendous contribution the McDougall family has made to our community while recognizing this year’s recipient of the John R. Rhodes Scholarship, Claudia Aguas, a first-year Psychology student. The dinner raised \$50,000 to support this important scholarship fund.

### New Algoma University Business Society (AUBS) Brampton

Efforts to enhance the student experience at our growing campus in Brampton took another step forward with the establishment of a new chapter of the Algoma University Business Society (AUBS). Congratulations to [Simran Soi](#) on being named chapter President.





## STRATEGIC PRIORITY: STRATEGIC ENROLMENT MANAGEMENT (SEM)

The Strategic Enrolment Management Committee continues to move forward a range of initiatives to ensure Algoma U achieves its stated long-term enrolment target of 3000 students by 2023-24. We are pleased to see growth occurring on all three campuses and would highlight the following recent milestones and metrics:

### Fall Enrolment Update

As of November 12<sup>th</sup>, Algoma's 2019-20 reported enrolment was 1673 FTE, exceeding the budgeted projection of 1450 FTE. Algoma's enrolment currently exceeds the institution's previous enrolment record of 1431 FTE achieved in 2013-14.

### Winter Term - New Student Intake

With winter term deposits secured from almost 700 new students, the institution is currently tracking to surpass its stretch target of 1850 FTE. At present, the new student intake is split almost evenly across our Brampton and Sault Ste. Marie campuses. The 1850 FTE stretch target equates to growth of 55 percent over 2018-19.

### International Diversification

This fall, the Algoma University student body included individuals from 53 different countries of origin. As our international enrolment continues to grow, one key enrolment parameter established by the SEM committee is to ensure no one country will make up more than 50% of the international student body. With current enrolment from Indian subcontinent exceeding this target, we have taken a number of steps to support balanced international enrolment. A full-time recruiter with expertise in the Chinese market has recently joined our team. We also have representatives supporting enhanced efforts in Vietnam while increasing attention in Africa and the Middle East; specifically, Ghana, Nigeria, UAE, and Turkey.

We will continue to leverage existing partnerships in the Indian subcontinent including those in Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan.

## Amendment to the Algoma University Act

As most are aware, the Ontario Legislature reconvened in October and a number of pieces of legislation that were introduced prior to the break were rolled into an omnibus bill including amendments to the Algoma University Act. The [Better for People; Smarter for Business Act](#) includes a “broad range of regulatory changes intended to streamline, simplify and avoid duplication for businesses and not for profit organizations and impacts at least 15 ministries”. This Act includes efforts to “streamline and hasten the process involved in program approvals for colleges and universities”. Two schools impacted directly by this piece of legislation are OCADU and Algoma University.

Dr. Donna Rogers, Provost and Academic Dean, is currently in dialogue with representatives from MCU regarding the impact this new legislation will have on academic program approvals, including potential graduate studies, moving forward. We continue to work with the Minister of Colleges and Universities, Ross Romano, MPP for Sault Ste. Marie on related initiatives.

## Brampton Campus Expansion

Campus expansion efforts to address projected growth as a result of new degree programming being introduced in the fall of 2020 continue in Brampton. These efforts build upon the tremendous growth experienced in the first half of the 2019-20 student year.

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 within the School of Business and Economics. While work continues on the lower level of the Market Square building that serves as the hub of our Brampton efforts, a new computer science wing including the development of two new state of the art computer science classrooms is well underway.

These efforts would not be possible without the tremendous support of the City of Brampton who are contributing \$7.3 million to our efforts. Further updates on program expansion, including the creation of the *Centre for Social, Cultural & Economic Innovation* will be shared in winter 2020.





## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Building Reconciliation Forum



## STRATEGIC PRIORITY: SUPPORT FOR OUR SPECIAL MISSION

Algoma University, in partnership with a range of associated organizations and groups including Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig (SKG), continues to move forward with commitments to the institution's Special Mission and the stated goal of being recognized as a national leader in Truth and Reconciliation. Recent and upcoming milestones of note include:

### 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Building Reconciliation Conference

Algoma University and Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig were honoured to co-host the [fifth annual Building Reconciliation Forum](#), from October 8-10<sup>th</sup> in partnership with Nipissing University, the University of Northern British Columbia and Cape Breton University.

Over the course of three days, more than 300 delegates representing over 100 organizations from across the country, and as far away as Mexico and Australia, gathered in Sault Ste. Marie to continue this important conversation. Attendees included senior leaders, faculty and students from over 60 universities, including 22 Presidents. Indigenous leaders, Elders, residential school survivors, community partners and students from across the country also participated in this national dialogue.

The opportunity to have members of the Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association (CSAA) share the truth of Canada's residential school's history on our historic site and through the award winning, and survivor-led, 'Reclaiming Shingwauk Hall' exhibit, combined with a range of land- and culture-based experiential learning opportunities facilitated by SKG provided a powerful [pre-forum](#) which set the stage for the two day forum.

Organizers are currently compiling a final report including recommendations and related next steps for the sector. In addition to numerous student, staff, faculty and community volunteers, we thank the McConnell Foundation and Tourism SSM for their valued support of this event.

### Anishinaabe Inendamowin Research Symposium

On Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, Anishinaabe Initiatives along with Anishinaabe faculty and staff at Algoma University and Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig are hosting the fourth bi-ennial Anishinaabe Inendamowin Research Symposium with the theme "Mino-Bimaadizidaa (Let's have a good life)".

The purpose of the symposium is to enrich research through the integration of Anishinaabe inendamowin (Inendamowin being an Anishinaabe word signifying thought).

This initiative aligns with broader efforts to deepen collaboration among Anishinaabe researchers, academics, and student success personnel.

### **Anishinaabe Stakeholder Community Conversations**

Over the past two months, four community conversations have been held with a range of stakeholders to strengthen the important relationships required to support efforts tied to our Special Mission while clarifying roles and responsibilities, identifying opportunities, and addressing potential challenges that could impact our collective long-term success. Thanks to members of our Elders Council, and representatives from SASA, the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre (SRSC), SKG, Anishinaabe Peoples Council (APC), Shingwauk Education Trust (SET), CSAA, the Joint Working Group (JWG) the Algoma District School Board (ADSB) and other participating stakeholders for their ongoing commitment to this important dialogue.

### **26th Annual Anishinaabemowin Gathering Taking Place in March**

The theme for the 26th Annual Anishinaabemowin gathering, hosted by Algoma University and Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig, is “Moving Forward in the Language” or “Ka’gaanjdaa’aanaa Anishinaabemowin” or “Niigaan-izhiwidooyok Anishinaabemowin”. With so much revitalization across our region, participants will celebrate the success of recent years, remember the leaders and Elders whose efforts led us to this place while working together to move into a future where Anishinaabemowin is heard in all 163 of the communities where it is the heritage language.

### **50th Anniversary of Closing of Shingwauk Residential School**

2020 marks the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Shingwauk Residential School leading to the next steps in the journey in the movement to bring Chief Shingwauk’s original vision of a teaching wigwam to life. To recognize this important milestone, the Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association will be hosting a special gathering July 2-3. We look forward to both welcome and recognize the significant contributions of the survivor community on this historic occasion. Full details will be circulated in the new year.





## STRATEGIC PRIORITY: EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

While we head into 2020 with renewed stability and increased clarity on our long-term vision, we will also be negotiating the terms of our next Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA 3) with the province. One strategic priority of particular importance to this effort is the work we being done to provide increased workplace readiness and experiential learning opportunities for students. Success in this area hinges on the concerted efforts of faculty, staff and external partners. A few recent initiatives to create and nurture a strong foundation that weaves experiential learning into the AU student academic experience includes:

### RBC Future Launch

Through RBC Future Launch, the Experiential Learning team and RBC announced a \$250,000 investment into Career Link - an Algoma University developed program. Career Link is a Co-Curricular Certificate Program that develops career skills, networks, and includes practical work experience. The final component of the program requires students to present a Career Portfolio that serves to highlight professional experience and skills. RBC Future Launch supports initiatives for youth and others who are transitioning from post-secondary education to the world of work. Future Launch supports programs that help students gain skills, get practical work experience, and grow their networks! Current funding through RBC is intended to support this initiative over the next five years.

### Career Networking Night

The Experiential Learning Hub, in partnership with the Algoma University Business Society (AUBS), the Anishinaabe Initiatives Division (AID), and RBC offered students an excellent opportunity to receive great career advice from a panel of graduates in a wide variety of fields, at the Career Networking Night.

Each panelist had a unique story to tell – and tips and strategies to share! The panelists included, Hannah Rowswell, Karen Bird, Noel Stephen, Mitch Oliverio, Paul Sayers, Mario Bruni, and Kimberly Pelletier. Students also had the opportunity to network with the panelists and a range of local employers. With over 100 students in attendance, the Career Networking Night was a very successful event!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>Dec 5-17</b>	Fall exam period
<b>Dec 6</b>	Academic Senate Meeting
<b>Dec 24-Jan 1</b>	University closed for holiday season*
<b>Jan 2</b>	University reopens following holiday break
<b>Jan 3-4</b>	Brampton Campus Frost Week
<b>Jan 5-10</b>	Sault Ste. Marie Campus Frost Week
<b>Jan 6</b>	Classes commence for winter term
<b>Jan 10</b>	Academic Senate Meeting
<b>Jan 23</b>	Board of Governors Meeting
<b>Jan 29</b>	SASA Lounge Grand Opening
<b>Feb 7</b>	Anishinaabe Inendamowin Research Symposium
<b>Feb 21-23</b>	OUA Nordic Ski Championships
<b>March 7-8</b>	Annual Gathering at the Rapids Pow Wow

*\*some exceptions, such as GLC and cafeteria services, apply*



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