

JUNE 2021
Annual General Meeting

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Algoma
UNIVERSITY





PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

*“Great achievement is usually born of great sacrifice,
and is never the result of selfishness.”* NAPOLEON HILL

2020-21 has been incredible to say the least, a year fraught with challenge, resilience, creativity and problem solving, innovation, partnership and new opportunity. Our community has come together, we have accomplished things we never knew we could. While an exhausting year for most, there is an optimistic energy fueled by what this new year brings. We believe we are moving through the final stages of the pandemic and I urge us all to reflect on what we have learned and what we will carry forward in our teaching, research, operations and service.

We are moving into the next year with a healthy [budget](#) that places strategic investment in the following: the safe **reopening** and return to campus; in **reimagining** program delivery, processes and structures to support our students and employees; and in the **revitalization** of our campuses and academic plan.

As part of our annual report, we want to acknowledge the incredible support and the investments of the provincial and federal governments, the local municipalities, foundations and private donations. While these investments have been mentioned in earlier reports, it is important to note that we would not be where we are today without the generosity and partnership of the provincial and federal governments, funding from Fednor, NOHFC, the McConnell Foundation, the City of Brampton, the City of SSM and many others totaling just over \$20 million. This has given us the opportunity to build infrastructure and invest in programming and research on all three campuses, our elearning platform and across all departments. As a result, we are well on track to our goal of 3000 FTE by 2025-26.

Most recently, in May, we announced that Algoma would receive \$13M from the federal and provincial governments to support [Mukqua Waakaa’igan](#), a place that will support and nurture cross-cultural approaches to teaching, learning and research. A place where people of all cultures will be welcomed from around the world to share and learn from and with each other as part of the University’s commitment to a safe, welcoming and inclusive place for cross-cultural understanding, teaching, learning, healing and reconciliation.

Another important milestone was the recent passing of legislation that expands Algoma’s degree granting authority, enabling us to now offer undergraduate and graduate degrees, certificates, and diplomas in any discipline. The new legislation is very welcome news, as Algoma University strives to fulfill our Special Mission, and academic programming potential at both the undergraduate and graduate level while supporting new research activity and other innovative projects.

This month, we presented *Honouring our Commitment*, to the Board, a recommitment by Algoma University to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada - **Calls to Action**. The document details what we’ve accomplished and what we plan to accomplish from 2021-2024 in our efforts to support truth and reconciliation.

The Strategic Plan (2021-2023) refresh being presented to the Board this month, along with the updated Academic Plan currently in development, provides focus for continued growth and success over the coming years. As we continue to welcome students from over 50 countries the refreshed plan includes an additional priority focussed on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI).

Algoma’s success would not be possible without considerable strategic and long term planning, collaboration and commitment by all members of our University community and beyond. Our collective efforts have positioned Algoma well and I extend a note of appreciation to the Board of Governors and Academic Senate for their continued leadership and governance.

Finally, to all members of the Algoma University family - your efforts, your innovation and your ongoing support for our students is nothing short of remarkable. It is an honour to be the President and Vice-Chancellor of this University.

Chi-Miigwech,

Asima Vezina, President and Vice-Chancellor

“Thunderbirds protecting Thunderbirds – Thunderbirds protecting Community.”

SEVEN GRANDFATHER TEACHINGS

- LOVE AND KINDNESS
- RESPECT
- BRAVERY
- WISDOM
- HONESTY
- TRUTH
- HUMILITY



CONTINUE FOCUS ON INSTITUTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH ENROLMENT GROWTH STRATEGY: **RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, VIBRANT PROGRAMMING**

Key Metrics/Areas of Focus

Recruitment

- Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) plan with clear strategies for achieving enrolment targets: 1740 FTE (2020/21); 2050 FTE (2021/22); 3000 stretch target
- Diversify international enrolment across five key international markets
- Expand academic programming in Brampton – growth to 1000 FTE by 2023

Retention

- Confirm Student Success Strategy: Retention metrics identified for various student groups: international, domestic, eLearning, college pathways, Anishinaabe

Vibrant Programming

- Consultation is underway for AU's next five-year Academic Plan (2021-2026)
- Working to amend the *Algoma University Act, 2008* to expand degree-granting authority, including Master's degrees
- AU faculty have joined the University of the Arctic Thematic Research Networks on Northern Food Security and Renewable Energy

2020-21 – What We've Accomplished...

2020-21 FTE
1870
7.5%
OVER
APRIL 2020
PROJECTION

2021
OUAC
UPDATE
SECONDARY SCHOOL
CONFIRMATIONS UP
8.3%

NEW Algoma
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF
BUSINESS &
ECONOMICS
specialization and certificate in
AVIATION MANAGEMENT

Recruitment

- Final 2020-21 FTE 1870, 7.5% above April 2020 projection
- 2021 Ontario University Application Centre Data Update - Direct from secondary school confirmations up 8.3% (compared to 1.9% provincial average) while mature student/transfer applications are up 13% compared to last year (as of June 3rd)
- International deposits have exceeded projection by 9% (with three weeks remaining until the deposit deadline)
- 42% increase in international enrolment from 6 markets targeted for diversification (China, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal)
- Building framework of Anishinaabe enrolment strategy
- Launch of [Algoma University Access Program](#) to support prospective student success

Retention

- New Student Information System being adopted to support tracking of retention data and strategy development
- Streamlined first-year experience process from application to completion of year one
- Over 2500 students participated in virtual events - engagement grew as the academic year progressed

Vibrant Programming

- Amendments to [Algoma University Act](#) expands degree granting authority
- New School BE specialization and certificate in Aviation Management
- School of Computer Science and Technology introduces [dual credential](#) with Northern College, and [new pathway](#) agreement with Sault College
- \$330 thousand in [funding](#) received through eCampus Ontario to support increased depth in staffing to support virtual learning

What's Next in 2021-22?

- Finalize academic programming details with the goal of introducing master's degrees in Biology and Computer Science by Fall 2023
- Finalize enhanced Anishinaabe enrolment strategy
- Actively preparing for increased post-pandemic on-campus activity to support student life and engagement

PRIORITY
#2

TARGET ACTIVITIES AND INVESTMENTS THAT ENHANCE STUDENT EXPERIENCE, ACADEMIC AND OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Key Metrics/Areas of Focus

Student Experience

- Expand Brampton campus footprint
- Finalize and implement SSM Campus Master Plan (CMP) initiatives to support growth to 2000 FTE
- Student Health & Wellness Supports in place to ensure student needs are addressed during COVID
- Review of Student Success Central restrictions and planning for Spring and Fall semesters post-COVID

Academic & Research Excellence

- Determine academic and research components aligned to the Academic Plan for:
 - » Ontario Mental Health and Addictions Research and Training Institute
 - » [Mukqua Waakaa'igan – National Cultural Centre](#) focused on supporting healing, reconciliation, cross-cultural learning and teaching
 - » Centre for Social, Cultural and Economic Innovation

2020-21 – What We've Accomplished...

HOLISTIC MODEL
FOR STUDENT SUCCESS
FINALIZED


Received Post-Secondary Kickoff Grant
\$25,000

\$1.7M
Speak Easy
RENOVATION 

Student Experience

- Finalized Phase 2 of Brampton campus expansion including new welcome centre and student facilities (lounge, meeting rooms, union office and student centre)
- Major renovation to SpeakEasy (\$1.7M AUSU)
- Virtual [Thunderbird Athletics Award Banquet](#) honours student-athletes
- Successful launch of Talk Campus service, 24-7 global support
- Bell Let's Talk Post-Secondary Fund Kickoff Grant (\$25,000) to implement mental health and well-being supports for students
- Finalized Holistic Model for Student Success including additional supports in Brampton and Timmins
- Student Success Central space enhancements finalized to improve service and access for post-pandemic campus activity

Investments to Enhance Academic & Research Excellence

- [Centre for Social, Cultural and Economic Innovation](#) framework
- New facilities for School of Computer Science and Technology in SSM complete - classrooms, lab and research space (\$2M FedNor)
- Classroom, faculty work spaces and other academic facility enhancements in Brampton ready for return to campus activity

What's Next in 2021-22?

Student Experience

- Hiring Wellness Support and Sexual & Gender Violence Prevention Evaluator position (one year)
- Preparing for safe return to on-campus student activities
- Finalize new and improved bookstore and AUSU offices

Investments to Enhance Academic & Research Excellence

- Completion of Academic Plan (2021-2026)
- Create the Research Plan (2022-2027)
- Continued implementation of Library Strategic Plan
- Establish Teaching and Learning Centre
- 5 additional full-time faculty positions
- New eLearning programs and electives under development



KARLY FRACALANZA
THUNDERBIRD
AWARD



BRYCE DAVIS
THUNDERBIRD
AWARD





THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS, ADVANCE THE UNIVERSITY'S LEADERSHIP AND COMMITMENTS TO **TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION**, AND OUR **SPECIAL MISSION TO CULTIVATE CROSS-CULTURAL LEARNING**

Key Metrics/Areas of Focus

Truth & Reconciliation

- Work with partners to develop the concept and secure funding support for Mukqua Waakaa'igan – a national cultural centre focused on supporting healing, reconciliation, cross-cultural learning and teaching
- Work with the five partners (SKG, SC, SAH, NOSM, AU) to develop the concept and a feasibility study for the Ontario Mental Health and Addictions Research and Training Institute
- Recommit to the TRC's Calls to Action and the University's Commitments to Truth and Reconciliation

Advance the University's Special Mission to cultivate cross-cultural learning

- Strengthen relationships and build understanding of the roles key groups play in achieving the Special Mission (SASA/AUSU, AU, SET, SKG, CSAA, SRSC, JWG, APC, AID, Elders Council)
- Deepen collaboration among Anishinaabe research, academic departments, student success and those responsible for site significance

Strengthen the University's relationship with SET, SKG and CSAA

- Re-kindling relations, building strong ties for all students among these stakeholders

2020-21 – What We've Accomplished...

SHINGWAUK RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS CENTRE
receives **Canada History Fund**



Truth & Reconciliation

- Release of Honouring Our Commitment interactive booklet detailing Algoma's commitment to the Calls to Action
- Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre Receives [Canada History Fund](#) to Support Learning About Canadian History
- Numerous accolades for Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre
 - Canada Memory of the World Register
 - "Best Cultural Organization" at International LC Berlin Ceremony
 - National Trust of Canada Ecclesiastical Insurance Cornerstone Resilient Places Award
- Algoma U, CSAA and other partners support [response to Kamloops Residential School tragedy](#)

Advance the University's Special Mission to cultivate cross-cultural learning

- \$13 M in federal and provincial governments through the Department of Infrastructure and the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation to support [Mukqua Waakaa'igan](#)
- Search for Mukqua Waakaa'igan architectural firm underway
- Anishinaabe Grad Celebration hosted by SASA, SKG and AI a success

Strengthen the University's relationship with SET, SKG and CSAA

- SKG presentation to BOG
- Continuing to build on our shared priorities with our partner SKG in strengthening and expanding Anishinaabe programming
- CSAA instrumental in assisting with creating [Mukqua Waakaa'igan vision document](#)
- All partners have made significant contributions to the Honouring our Commitment document and further commit to advancing these efforts

What's Next in 2021-22?

- Continue to work with SKG leadership on shared services agreement
- Continue moving forward with the Mukqua Waakaa'igan plans including; selecting an architect, developing a functional design and beginning pre-construction
- Enhance cross-cultural competencies of faculty, staff, students and administration
- Strengthen relationships and deepen collaboration efforts among Anishinaabe partners
- Implement a formal process to study the concept of Indigenization through reconciliation that will lead to formal recommendations for action
- Further advance Equity, Diversity and Inclusion across the University





CULTIVATE A CULTURE OF **RESEARCH AND INNOVATION** THAT ENHANCES THE UNIVERSITY'S ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND IMPACTS

Key Metrics/Areas of Focus

- Capitalize on scholarship and research to enhance student learning, support faculty growth, and contribute to local economic development
 - » Identify, initiate and leverage support for three new research projects that respond to local community needs
- Algoma U cultivates a culture of research and innovation among students and faculty to promote career readiness
 - » Target 10% increase in students directly involved with faculty research projects
 - » Target increase in both number and value of faculty research grants
 - » Increase EL learning opportunities for students

2020-21 – What We've Accomplished...



\$740k+ IN
TRI-COUNCIL
Research Funding

Launch of **INNOVATIVE RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP**



- Established framework for Centre for Social, Cultural and Economic Innovation
- Launch of [innovative research partnership](#) with Myant Inc. and Sault Area Hospital
- Successful in securing the following Tri-Council funding:
 - SSHRC - \$416,500 (Knowledge Synthesis, Partnership Development, New Frontier Research Fund)
 - NSERC - \$330,840 (NSERC Discovery, COVID Supplements)
- Over \$110K for the Ontario Agri-Food Research Initiative
- Over \$97K secured from the Government of Canada's Innovative Work-Integrated Learning (iWIL) and Cooperative Education and Work-Integrated Learning (CEWIL) Canada's Innovation Hub
- 99 students participated in virtual international program support by Universities Canada Outbound Student Mobility pilot.
- 160 participants in the Cultural Safety Learning pilot program
- Funded partnership with Lakehead University and other institutions for [Lake Superior Field School initiative](#)

What's Next in 2021-22?

- Expand Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL)
- Expansion of career services across all three campuses
- Appointment of Director for Centre for Social, Cultural and Economic Innovation
- Focus on undergraduate research
- Continued development of Ontario Mental Health Addictions Research and Training Institute
- Hiring a Research Officer to support our faculty and students with their efforts while increasing awareness within the university community and beyond
- Organize research events on campus



PRIORITY
#5

INSTITUTIONAL EXCELLENCE: FACILITATE THE ONGOING IMPROVEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY BY FOCUSING ON PROBLEM SOLVING, TEAMWORK, AND LEADERSHIP

Key Metrics/Areas of Focus

- Organizational Alignment
- Talent Management
- Modernization of Systems and Processes

2020-21 – What We’ve Accomplished...

APPROVED

SAULT STE. MARIE
Campus Master Plan

2nd CHANCELLOR
INSTALLED **MARIO TURCO**

REBECCA WYLIE
Silver Medal **earns GOVERNOR GENERAL’S Silver Medal**

- SSM Campus Master Plan approved by Board
- Ended 2020-2021 fiscal year a healthy financial position
- Restructure of Senior Leadership Team
- Mario Turco installed as Chancellor of Algoma University for a four-year term
- Dr. Johnston (2020) and Dr. Tchir (2021) recognized as Distinguished Faculty award winners
- 2021 Algoma U Teaching Award issued to Sean Meades (FT) and Bob Cooper (PT)
- Rebecca Wylie receives Governor General’s Silver Medal
- C.J. (Bud) Wildman awarded Honorary Degree
- Elise Ahenhorah and Joanne Robertson presented with annual Alumni Awards
- Completion of Information Technology Plan

What’s Next in 2021-22?

- Continued modernization, refinement and execution of:
 - Annual planning process
 - Institutional policy review and updating
 - Enterprise risk management framework
 - Initial projects within SSM Campus Master Plan and the 5-year Capital Plan
 - Development of strategic plan for Timmins (and surrounding region)





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@algomau



ALGOMA UNIVERSITY

Sault Ste. Marie Campus

1520 Queen Street East,
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 2G4
1.705.949.2301 1.888.ALGOMAU
E. info@algomau.ca
W. algomau.ca

Brampton Campus

24 Queen Street East,
Brampton, ON L6V 1A3
1.905.451.0100
E. brampton@algomau.ca
W. algomau.ca/brampton

Timmins Campus

4715 Highway 101 East,
South Porcupine, ON P0N 1H0
1.705.235.3211, ext. 2175
E. timmins@algomau.ca
W. algomau.ca/timmins

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