

ALL WELCOME.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
FEBRUARY 2018

#1 IN
PROVINCE
FIRST CHOICE
APPLICATIONS
2018!



Algoma
UNIVERSITY



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WELCOME. Adjective - whose arrival is a cause of joy; received with gladness

As I thought about the first *President's Report* of the new year, I found myself reflecting on the word **welcome** and how it would be used within the AU community across our campus as we welcomed new and returning students and employees. A special moment occurred for me when we 'welcomed' 15 new international students. During our dinner, two sets of parents approached me to share that, after having been with our international recruitment team for three days, they were absolutely comfortable leaving their children with us and returning to their home countries. They said it felt good to be on our campus, everyone they had met were so friendly. AU felt different than other universities, it truly felt like a family. This was a proud moment.

This past week Algoma University announced two more proud moments:

- 1. #1 In Province, FIRST Choice Applications 2018!** Application statistics at the deadline date of January 17/2018, as released by the Ontario Universities Application Centre (OUAC), shows that applications to Algoma U for next year are up overall by 21.1%. First choice applications increased by 46.9%, recognizing AU as having the largest percentage increase in the province. Applications growth from the GTA and our local market were the major contributors to the overall improvement. The new marketing campaign, adjustments to the recruitment strategy, vibrant programming, as well as a strong focus on student success are all contributing to the positive results!
- 2. Campus Food Report Card** – In a January, 2018, provincial Campus Food Report, Algoma University was recognized as being in the top 5 schools in Ontario for the use of local foods. Congratulations Morningstar Hospitality! [Meal Exchange Releases Campus Food Report Card](#)

Over the past two months, I have embarked on a *Listening Tour* across the university in an effort to learn about the internal community and to hear firsthand from students, staff and faculty about what the people at AU are most proud of, what they love most about the university, and what areas they feel we should focus on. Throughout the over 40 meetings with groups from across the university, I was struck by the diversity, the energy, the talent and the vibrant spirit that resides in every corner of Algoma University.

From our students, I have heard how much they appreciate the focus faculty at AU are placing on individual student success. Students have articulated that one of the things they love most about AU is the unique relationships they forge with their professors, made possible by the University's small classes.

Our students have highlighted a real strength in the undergraduate research opportunities they receive at Algoma, the commitment professors have to individual student success and the many leadership opportunities available. Many students told me they appreciate the community-based family feel of Algoma. As one student put it, "I like that at Algoma, I am called by my name, I'm not merely a student number." As we continue taking specific actions that will move us closer toward our vision of being a university that offers a **transformational education through a student-centred approach to teaching and learning**, it is comforting to know that many of the foundational pieces are already in place.

Our students have highlighted the need to continue our focus on equity and diversity with an overall goal of ensuring that Algoma University is a place that is inclusive, safe and welcoming for everyone. There are two areas in particular to which students have asked us to pay close attention: supporting our LGBTQ community; and putting leadership attention on sexual violence/harassment prevention and intervention.

This month, in response to a key theme emerging from the listening tour, we launched "[Sharing our Stories](#)", a campaign focused on ensuring our wider external community has the opportunity to learn and hear stories of both the experiences and successes of our students and alumni. This month we are featuring stories from our student [Anastasia Zagordo - accepted to dental school](#), our day at [Searchmont Resort](#) and alumnus [Mark Palombi](#).

The President's report is our way of sharing with the wider community some of the exciting initiatives and events underway at the University as we work towards the five strategic priorities of our University's Strategic Plan. This report highlights and celebrates the recent accomplishments of the talented students and employees that make Algoma U such a unique and special place. We hope you enjoy!

As we begin this new year, I want to start by extending to everyone within our community a warm and heartfelt welcome, whether you are new to AU or have been here for awhile, we are so happy you are here. We have something very special at Algoma University and we should nurture it always. As we head into 2018 let us think about the contributions we make everyday to ensure that everyone within our community feels welcome, included and part of our AU family. All the best to each and everyone of you in 2018, we are going to have an incredible year!

STRATEGIC DIRECTION: CAMPUS CULTURE

Governance Retreat

The Board of Governors held a retreat on January 26th and 27th. At the retreat, members of AU's Board, Senate Executive and Administration participated in a session facilitated by Bonnie Patterson, *Building Board Excellence & Strengthening Bicameral Governance*. This session focused on fostering strong relationships, building understanding of Bicameral Governance, and thinking collaboratively about the implementation of the strategic priorities of the university.

S'Mores and More Searchmont Ski Day

On January 13th, over 130 students from the AU community enjoyed a day of activity at Searchmont. Many students tried skiing and snowshoeing for their first time. Thanks to Searchmont for hosting such a fabulous day and to all those who volunteered their time. The S'Mores, axe throwing, live music, medicine pouches and other activities were a great hit with our students! Click here for [More S'mores Pictures](#).





Bev Teller, Alumni & Development Officer (centre) embraces **Karen Clarke** (left) and **Albert Lucarelli** (right) for photo opportunity.

AU Set to Host National Wrestling and Provincial Curling Championships in February, 2018

This year we are set to host not one but two big sporting events, the Provincial [OUA Curling Championships](#) and the National [U Sports Wrestling Championships](#).

The OUA Curling Championships are scheduled to run February 15 - 19 at the Community First Curling Centre while the U Sports National Wrestling Championships will be hosted at the George Leach Centre at Algoma University on February 23 - 24. Both events will feature some of the top athletes not just from Ontario but from all of Canada. In total close to 400 athletes, coaches, and volunteers will take part. The Thunderbird Men's and Women's curling teams will compete for OUA medals at the Curling Championships, while the Thunderbird Wrestlers will need to qualify for the U Sports Championships by placing in the top three of the OUA Championships being hosted February 11 at Brock University. [Click here to watch CTV News Story](#)

AU Cancer Awareness Night - Hosted by AU Alumni

Special thanks to Physical Plant Maintenance and Custodial Staff and to the Athletics Department for an extremely moving event in support of the annual Shoot For the Cure Cancer Awareness Night. It was a delight to see Albert Lucarelli, Karen Clarke, and their respective families attend the basketball game on Saturday and share in a few laughs while cheering on the Thunderbirds. Everyone looked Pretty in Pink supporting the cause. Karen's superior basketball skills helped to match gate admissions and generate a \$1600 donation for the Canadian Cancer Society.

AU Welcomes International Students

In the midst of record breaking cold temperatures, AU welcomed excited new international students from across the globe to campus in early January. Students arrived from India, Nigeria, Ghana, Kuwait, China, Mexico and Columbia, and were met at the airport by smiling AU staff. Click for further details on our [ISOP!](#)

OUA - Ontario Cup Race

Algoma U Varsity Athletes Marissa Ditoro and Lea-Annabell Storch travelled to Sudbury to compete in one of three Ontario Cup races as part of the OUA cross country skiers race circuit. They competed in the 9km classic ski and 10km skate pursuit. Annabell's performance finishing 17th / 31 competitors was the best showing for an Algoma U skier since joining Nordic Skiing as part of the OUA. The team also competes in local races and invitational events throughout the season.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION: VIBRANT PROGRAMS

Extension Operations

Algoma University continues to offer degree completion programming at our extension sites in Brampton (Business) and Timmins (Social Work and Community Development). In Brampton, AU's offerings complement efforts currently underway to establish a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) based university presence by Ryerson and Sheridan College. Brampton is one of the fastest-growing municipalities in the province, with a large number of new immigrants and a need for a variety of post-secondary options that meet the needs of its diverse and growing population.

Brampton: On February 6, 2018, President Vezina and team will be attending the Mayor of Brampton's annual "State of the City" address event hosted by the Brampton Board of Trade. This event provides another opportunity for AU to build relationships with business leaders and other key stakeholders in the Brampton area.

Timmins: Algoma University programming is offered on the Northern College campus. It has long been an objective of the community to increase the depth and breadth of program options at the university level. The recent completion of a report by Dr. Ken Coates exploring post-secondary options in the community pointed to the development of an expanded and coordinated college-university partnership as one potential option. Senior administrators from Algoma University and Northern College will hold a one-day planning retreat on February 28th focused on the creation of a joint development plan tied to potential expansion of programming to support enrolment growth, as well as economic and regional development.





Algoma University Engineering Pathway Information Session attendees. Shown above are representatives from Algoma University, Laurentian University, Algoma (Steel) and the local engineering community.

Engineering Pathway

Algoma University hosted two information sessions on December 19, 2017 for employers, parents, and prospective students to learn more about the new Engineering Pathway that allows students to complete a first year of study at Algoma University in Sault Ste. Marie followed by a seamless transfer into year two at the Bharti School of Engineering at Laurentian University. Dr. Markus Timusk, Director of the Bharti School of Engineering, and Jason-Scott Benoit, Recruitment Officer, from Laurentian University were in attendance to promote the partnership. The response from prospective employers for co-op students was particularly positive with nine local engineering companies represented on a blustery winter night.

Technology Enabled Teaching and Learning

The eLearning Task Force is busy gathering input from key stakeholders on a range of needs tied to enhancing capacity at AU for technology enabled learning. Approximately 60 faculty completed a recent online survey on eLearning, and a similar survey will be circulated to student groups in the last week of January. The Task Force will take survey findings into consideration in the development of an institutional eLearning strategy intended to enrich and extend the AU learning community.

Experiential Learning

Experiential learning will be receiving a significant amount of focus as we move into 2018. Algoma has identified experiential learning as a significant goal in its Strategic Plan, Academic Plan, and Strategic Mandate Agreement. The new year will see the introduction of initiatives that build on what Algoma already does well and new initiatives that will support capacity building across the institution.

On January 19, 2018, faculty participated in a hands-on workshop that explored experiential education as a pedagogy, ***From Experience to Experiential: Integrating Experiential Education into Teaching Practices***, facilitated by Lisa Endersby, an Educational Developer from York University. Professional development for faculty will be an important component of building experiential learning opportunities moving forward.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION: RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Faculty members at Algoma University are engaged in cutting-edge research projects that create outstanding learning experiences and contribute to enhancing knowledge across the Humanities, Sciences and Social Sciences. Our students have ample opportunities to develop solid research skills in a very supportive, dynamic and creative environment that is linked to our community and the world. We view research and teaching as mutually supportive functions for excellence in teaching and learning.

The Office of Research & Innovation recently expanded with the appointment of Dr. Pedro Antunes as Executive Lead (Research) effective January 1st. The team also includes Sue Harnden and Tiffany Gallivan. Additional information can be found on the website <https://www.algomau.ca/academics/research/>, which is now featured on the University's front page alongside Academics and Student Life. The Office of Research & Innovation is in the process of setting priorities and key performance indicators that will guide its actions over the next three years. We are committed to working with departments, faculty and students to secure externally funded grants and awards. We also expect to see growth in AU's publications and the Office will host research events.

Algoma University's Research Strategic Plan includes four main areas: Anishinaabe and Indigenous Communities, Socio-Economic Issues of Northern, Rural and Remote Areas, Life and the Environment and Cultures and Creativity.

Canada Research Chairs

Canada Research Chairs (CRCs) are awarded by the Government of Canada recognizing emerging internationally recognized scholars. The allocation of CRC positions to universities is based on faculty research success in securing external funding. Recent investment made by Algoma University in research culminated in the allocation of three CRC allocations with a combined value of \$1,5 million. The recipient of the second CRC in the area of Life and the Environment will be announced in 2018 and we are currently in the process of selecting a nominee in the area of Healing and Reconciliation.

Institutional Partnerships

GLFC, Jan 19th, 2018

Algoma University has a long history of partnership with the Great Lakes Forestry Centre (GLFC) and the Ontario Forestry Research Institute (OFRI). These relationships have been instrumental in building our Biology and Environmental Science programs and they contribute to a culture of research and innovation among our students and faculty. On January 18th and 19th we had meetings with representatives from OFRI and GLFC with the objective of renewing our partnerships, including new areas of cooperation in experiential learning opportunities for students and advanced educational programming. Other ongoing initiatives include bringing together local partners and stakeholders in education with the objective of identifying challenges we are facing as a community that an inter-institutional partnership could address.

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Research & INNOVATION



AU visits Great Lakes Forestry Research Centre



Ontario Forestry Research Institute visits AU



Events

3rd Annual Anishinaabe Inendamowin Research Symposium

The Anishinaabe Initiatives Division and Anishinaabe faculty and staff at Algoma University and Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig collaboratively hosted a symposium, 'Weaving Meaningful Anishinaabe Research Bundles', on Friday, January 26th, 2018. This annual symposium aspires to foster a supportive learning community inclusive of traditional knowledge keepers, academic scholars, students, and other educators. In particular, the symposium demonstrates how students can apply Anishinaabe knowledge and protocols into the research process and creates an online journal on Indigenous Knowledge in Research at Algoma University, giving presenters, including students, an opportunity to see their work in publication. Eighteen presenters shared their knowledge.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION: ANISHINAABE INENDAMOWIN

MAP Grant

The "Healing and Reconciliation through Education" project funded by the Museum Assistance Program (MAP) will create an exhibition space on the third floor of Shingwauk Hall. The Exhibit will tell the story of the Shingwauk Residential School within a larger narrative of colonization and will highlight the resilience of the Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association. This project builds upon decades of archival research and data collection under the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre's mandate of 'sharing, healing, and learning'; work undertaken at the behest of the Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association and Algoma University. The exhibit will be installed at the same time as the SIF work occurs on the third floor of Shingwauk Hall.

Events

The Anishinaabe Initiatives Division continues to host the weekly Elders in Residence and Soup's On events. There was excellent student participation at a ribbon shirt and ribbon skirt sewing bee at the Indian Friendship Centre, and during Ski Day at Searchmont, students were invited to make medicine bags. The Anishinaabe Inendamowin Symposium on Friday January 26 and a full moon ceremony on January 31st are important events for the AU community. We are hiring a four-month recruiter to assist the AID team with Anishinaabe outreach.

At Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig, Mitch Case organized three days of workshops with Elder (and retired Laurentian University professor) Jim Dumont, and both student and community participation were excellent.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION: INSTITUTIONAL EXCELLENCE

Welcome Algoma U's new Academic Dean

It is with great pleasure that we introduce Donna Rogers as our new Academic Dean. Over the last several weeks the Decanal Search Committee has had the opportunity to spend time conversing with Donna about her aspirations within her new role and the committee is truly excited about her appointment and look forward to all that she will bring to Algoma University. Donna will start officially on February 1, 2018. Click the [Donna Rogers](#) bio for more detail.

Student Academic Awards

Our annual [Student Awards](#) Reception took place on Thursday, January 18, 2018 at the Water Tower Inn. This special evening is an opportunity to recognize the academic achievements of our students, and to provide an opportunity to bring our donors, who generously support our Scholarships & Bursaries program, together with students who are receiving these awards.

This year we gave out a total of \$511,985 in awards, including entrance and renewable scholarships, as well as entrance and in-course bursaries. A big thank you to all of our donors, staff and volunteers who make this happen each year for our students. A BIG CONGRATULATIONS to all of our students, your hard work and effort is the key to success!

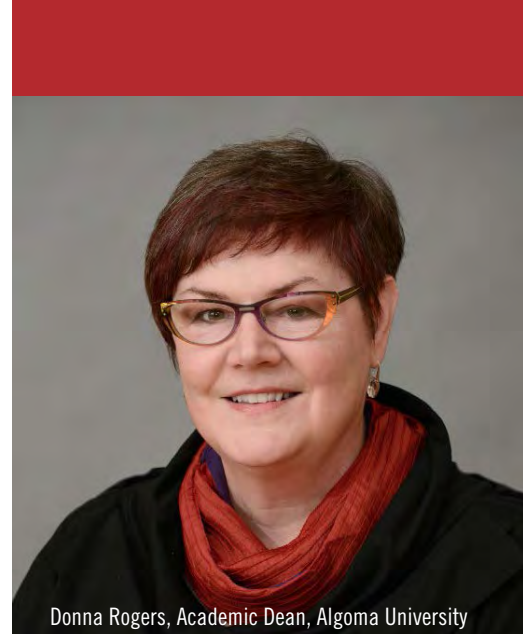
Strategic Mandate Agreements

Each of Ontario's 45 publicly funded colleges and universities have a negotiated agreement with the Ministry of Advanced Education Skills and Development (MAESD) highlighting institutional priorities. *Algoma's Strategic Mandate Agreement* (SMA 2) outlines the role that Algoma U currently performs within Ontario's postsecondary education system and details how we will build on our current strengths over the next two years.

Algoma's SMA 2 shows how the University is working to fulfill the five priorities outlined in our Strategic Plan:

- Algoma University will be a dynamic hub for community and student life, with spaces and activities that support inspired and engaged learning and a sense of pride.
- Algoma University will offer an integrated suite of programming that is current, relevant, attractive and aligned with students' expectations.
- Algoma University will foster 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.
- Algoma University will be a recognized leader in Anishinaabe learning through partnerships, the incorporation of Anishinaabe language and culture throughout the institution and the fulfillment of our special mission.
- Algoma University will be 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.

AU's Ministry-approved SMA 2 can be found here: [SMA - AU and MAESD 2017-2](#)



Donna Rogers, Academic Dean, Algoma University





UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 4** AU Tailgate Party @ Soo Blasters, Super Bowl Sunday and Soo Greyhound Game
-
- February 9** MP, Terry Sheehan visiting campus
-
- February 14** Team Jacobs Drive - Street Naming / Unveiling
-
- February 15-17** Algoma U hosts the OUA Provincial Curling championship at Community First Curling Centre
-
- February 20** Algoma U organizes the Soil Health Innovations Workshop with Wilfrid Laurier U
-
- February 22-24** Algoma U hosts USports National Wrestling Championships
-
- February 24** [From Sublime to the Ridiculous](#) returns to Stage featuring Duo Turgeon Music Department
-
- March 2** 2nd Annual Anishinaabe Alumni Panel
-
- March 3** Gathering at the Rapids Pow Wow
-
- March 28** Northern Ontario Business Case Competition

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