

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
NOVEMBER 2018

FUTURE. FOCUSED.



Algoma
UNIVERSITY



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Algoma University community has entered into an exciting period of transformation and change. With an intense focus on increasing student enrolment, improving the overall student experience, creating new experiential learning opportunities and an ongoing dedication to fulfilling our special mission, we are carving out a clear and strategic path towards long-term success and sustainability - **our University has a bright future.**

This week, we announced another significant increase in enrollment. As we finalize registrations for January, we are now forecasting enrolment growth of approximately twenty percent for the 2018-2019 budget year. After five years of decline, this is a wonderful story of hard work and determination! It is amazing what people can do when they come together.

We are also seeing record numbers of students attending various events around campus, new partnerships are forming in the communities we serve, faculties are deeply engrossed in the planning and development of new or enhanced program opportunities for students and so much more. Thank you to all those who have contributed to the many successes we have had over the past few months - every one of you has helped make this difference. A word of thanks to our Board and Senate for their continued leadership as we explore exciting new academic programming options and other strategic initiatives to support our aspirational goal of growing annual enrolment to 3000 students by the year 2025. After the past six months, I truly believe anything we set our mind to is possible - we have the talent.

I hope you enjoy reading this version of the President's Report as we share the progress we are making on the key objectives of our strategic plan and four core institutional priorities.

As we approach the holiday season, I want to take a moment to wish everyone a very peaceful and joyful holiday with friends and family. May you all have an opportunity to rest, rejuvenate and reconnect with loved ones. Thank you for believing and thank you for inspiring. It is truly a pleasure and honour to be your President.



1

STRATEGIC DIRECTIVE: Campus Culture

A dynamic hub for community and student life with space and activities that support inspired and engaged learning and a strong sense of pride. This strategic direction will be achieved in close collaboration with student leadership to ensure all decisions reflect students' needs.

CAMPUS CULTURE ALIGNS WITH PRIORITY #1 - Student Experience

[Strategic Plan 2016-2021 \(p.8\)](#)

Under this *Strategic Direction* the University has been actively focused on the following objective within the Campus Culture section of the *Strategic Plan*:

- Algoma University is a dynamic hub for community and student life (Objective 1.1)
- Members of the Algoma University Community have a strong sense of pride in their institution (Objective 1.2)

(OCT.-NOV. 2018 PROGRESS REPORT)

Objective 1.1

Action: Phase Two of the Student Success Central (One-stop Shop) initiative will see the relocation of the Learning Centre to a larger, yet quieter, working space for students within close proximity to the main Student Success Central service hub. The design plans, which have been shaped using feedback from students, will improve space utilization for both staff and students.

Deliverable: The development of Phase I and II of the Student Success Central initiative are intended to improve efficiency in services to students, enhancing the overall positive experience. Staff are designing processes to provide students in Brampton and Timmins with a similar experience in their service interactions with Student Success Central.

SHARING OTHER INITIATIVES AND EVENTS SUPPORTING CAMPUS CULTURE (STUDENT EXPERIENCE)

Employee Appreciation Event Recognizes Over 450 Years of Service

We recently celebrated the outstanding accomplishments and dedication of the Algoma University employee community during a revamped Employee Appreciation Event. Awards handed out during the event recognized over 450 years of combined service to the university. Congratulations to Ryan Refcio on being named the 2018 Thunderbird Award winner.

Algoma Students Offered Special Performance by the National Ballet of Canada

In October, thanks to the support of the Algoma Fall Festival, 65 students attended a special private performance of "The Dreamers Ever Leave You" put on by the National Ballet of Canada at the Art Gallery of Algoma. Students were able to walk around the dancers as the performance took place and we received very positive feedback on the beauty of the production. Afterwards, students were able to view the rest of the gallery before returning to campus.





Thunderbird Men's Basketball Team Travels to Portugal

In October, our Men's Basketball team had the unique opportunity to experience a different culture when they traveled to Portugal over reading week. The athletes worked hard to fundraise for this trip, and were rewarded with an experience they will never forget. In addition to playing against professional teams in Portugal, the team participated in a number of community service activities. This trip provided our student-athletes with both athletic and cultural experiences that have enriched their overall Algoma University experience. With the success of this trip, we will be looking at how we use it as a model for other groups to participate in similar opportunities in the future.

Algoma Supports the Communities It Serves

Over the past two months, our students and staff have actively engaged with the extended community through a range of academic, artistic, social, athletic and cultural activities. The annual United Way Trick or Treat event, Rotary Santa Claus Parade, Peel Region Indigenous Cultural Days, and varsity athletics activities are just a few examples. These initiatives provide value-added experiences for both our students and the communities we serve.



2

STRATEGIC DIRECTIVE: Vibrant Programs

An integrated suite of programming that is current, relevant, attractive, and aligned with students' expectations.

VIBRANT PROGRAMMING OBJECTIVES AND ALIGNMENT WITH INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITIES:

[Strategic Plan 2016-2021 \(p.10\)](#)

Under this *Strategic Direction*, the University is currently focused on achieving the following:

PRIORITY - Experiential Learning

- Developing systems to support the use of experiential and work-integrated learning in classroom settings and in overall curricular delivery (Objective 2.1)

PRIORITY - Anishinaabe Programming

- Create and sustain programming in Anishinaabe Studies (Objective 2.2)

(OCT. - NOV. 2018 PROGRESS REPORT)

Objective 2.1

Action: The New Graduate Transition Program (NGTP) was successfully launched at the Career Conference in October. The NGTP offers students bi-monthly workshops to develop core skills important to employment success, career coaching, and a paid work experience.

Deliverable: The Career Conference on Friday, October 26 was attended by over 60 students. This conference, co-hosted by Algoma University and the Sault Community Career Centre, featured keynote speaker and Host of the CFL, Brodie Lawson, as well as a variety of workshops and a networking hour with local employers. On November 7, the New Graduate Transition Program hosted its first bi-monthly career building workshop. These workshops will continue throughout the academic year and will be followed by a paid work placement for participating students this coming spring.

Objective 2.2

Action: Launch of Bachelor of Arts in Anishinaabe Studies degree program.

Deliverable: Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig and Algoma University hosted a launch event for the Anishinaabe Studies degree program on November 20. Over 150 secondary school students from across the district participated in a full day of activities, including a program information session, traditional activities and games, as well as culture and language-based workshops.



CAREER
CONFERENCE
Guest Speaker

Mitchell Oliverio

Business Administration, Marketing Student
Algoma University

Algoma University Career Centre LinkedIn



NEW
GRADUATE
TRANSITION
PROGRAM

MAKE A SMOOTH TRANSITION
FROM STUDENT TO EMPLOYEE

Offering students who are in their final year monthly workshops and a work experience placement with a local employer to help them make a smooth transition from student to employee.



SHARING OTHER INITIATIVES AND EVENTS SUPPORTING VIBRANT PROGRAMMING

School of Business and Economics Expanding Programming & Brampton Facilities

The School of Business and Economics introduced a new Post-Graduate Certificate in Brampton and Sault Ste. Marie in fall 2018 – interest has been strong, with many new students, and significant application numbers. Our current new student intake target for January 2019 is 200. We are delighted with the success of the new School and its programs, and are expanding our Brampton campus footprint to accommodate the enrolment growth. In Sault Ste. Marie we will also see enrolment growth over the 2018-19 academic year, with strong projections for 2019-20.

The School is also exploring additional certificate programs--such as the Certified Aboriginal Financial Manager designation--which it plans to begin offering in the new year.



Computer Science Department Developing New Post-Grad Certificates

The Department of Computer Science is preparing to launch four new Post-Graduate Certificates in 2019, in Computing, Mobile Software Development, Information Technology and Computer Games Technology (pending Senate approval). The Certificates are part of an expanded set of credential offerings that bring enhanced enrolment and greater diversity to Algoma University. We expect to have an enrolment intake of 100 new students in these programs by May 2019.



Great Lakes International Summer Music Institute to begin in Summer 2019

Commencing in August 2019, the Algoma University 'Great Lakes International Summer Music Institute' is a two-week intensive university credit program for advanced musicians at a pre-professional level; specifically for students in secondary school (Grade 11-12) and/or college/university students. The mission of the initiative is to build a vibrant, nationally known summer institute that influences and empowers the next generation of musicians. The Institute will also enhance the vibrancy of arts and culture within the Sault Ste. Marie, Northern Ontario, and Algoma University communities, while honoring the 50 year legacy of the Algoma Music Camp and its founders. Eligible secondary school students wishing to participate will be enrolled in Algoma University's 'Early Access' program. More details to be announced in early December.



3

STRATEGIC DIRECTIVE: Research and Innovation

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.

THE NEW PRESENCE OF AN OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ON CAMPUS HAS EMERGED FROM THE UNIVERSITY'S STRATEGIC

Strategic Plan 2016-2021 (p. 12)

Under this *Strategic Direction*, the University is focused on scholarship and research to enhance student learning, support faculty growth, and contribute to local economic development (Objective 3.1).

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ALIGNMENT WITH INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITIES:

Under this *Strategic Direction*, the University is focused on cultivating a culture of research and innovation among students and faculty to promote career readiness (Objective 3.2).

(OCT. - NOV. 2018 PROGRESS REPORT)

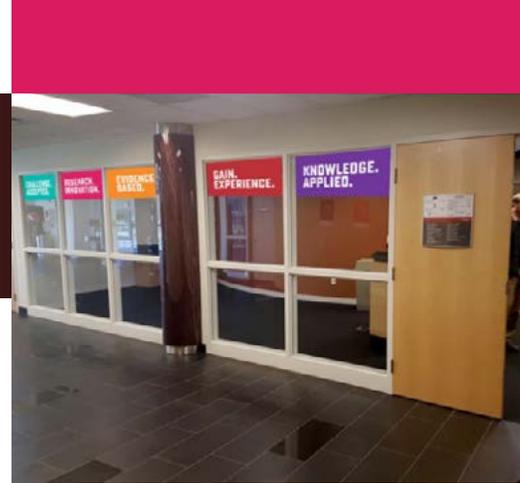
Objective 3.2

Action: The Office of Research and Innovation is currently designing a new collaborative work space intended to promote and foster a culture of research and innovation, as well as increase awareness of the research being done at Algoma U.

Deliverable: The Office has been collaborating with the Experiential Learning Team at Algoma U, and plans are in place to work together on some exciting research-based initiatives for students. The official opening the new Research space is scheduled for Dec. 11th, 2018. Further details on the Experiential Learning Hub will also be shared at this event.

Action: The Office of Research and Innovation is involved in efforts to establish partnerships with private sector companies in order to increase the number of AU students employed in research and engaged in experiential learning activities.

Deliverable: The Office has been in discussion with two private sector companies in the community to develop a student employment program that will commence at the beginning of the winter term. The students will work on a research project alongside a faculty member and/or company researcher, sharing ideas, facilities, and equipment.





SAMPLE INITIATIVES AND EVENTS SUPPORTING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Research Funding

The Research and Innovation Team has been working closely with faculty members on grant proposals and is pleased to report that seven Tri-Council faculty grant applications have been submitted in the last few months.

The “Healing and Education Through Digital Access” project lead by Krista McCracken, research/curator at the Shingwauk Residential School Centre (SRSC), was successfully funded through the [National Heritage Digitization Strategy](#). Out of all the 21 projects selected to receive funding, this one at Algoma University and the SRSC received the most (\$86,890).

New Faculty Publications

Dr. Brandon Schamp co-authored a [paper](#) that was featured in a recent issue of *Nature*. The paper argues that the effects of climate change have led to an increase in plant height across the arctic tundra over the past 30 years. *Nature* is considered one of the top journals in the world and the research published there typically receives a lot of media attention internationally because it has immediate global impact.

Dr. Robert Rutherford recently co-edited a book entitled [Making Men, Making History: Canadian Masculinities across Time and Place](#). The volume showcases some of the best new work in the thriving field of masculinity studies, organized by themes such as expertise and authority, masculine spaces, and fatherhood. This is the first book to explore these themes entirely in Canadian historical settings.

Partnership with Lallemand Plant Care

In October, the Office signed a memorandum of understanding with Lallemand Plant Care, a company active in the development, production, and marketing of microorganism-based solutions for various agri-food markets. This partnership with Lallemand is welcomed as it presents opportunities for student and faculty research and student employment in the private sector.

4

STRATEGIC DIRECTIVE: Anishinaabe Inendamowin

A recognized leader in Anishinaabe learning through partnerships, the incorporation of Anishinaabe language and culture throughout the institution, and fulfillment of our special mission.

ANISHINAABE INENDAMOWIN ALIGNMENT WITH INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITIES:

[Strategic Plan 2016-2021](#) (p.14)

PRIORITY - SUPPORT FOR SPECIAL MISSION

Algoma University characterizes and distinguishes itself by its Anishinaabe programming. Under this *Strategic Direction* the University is currently focused on achieving the following:

- Create and sustain programming in Anishinaabe Studies
- Reaffirm and strengthen linkages with Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig
- Utilize the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre Archives in academic programming
- Partner with Anishinaabe organizations and institutes to deliver programs in ways that meet the needs of and expand access for Anishinaabe learners
- Encourage the integration of Anishinaabe teachings worldviews and ways of learning in all disciplines, while minimizing content overlap (Objective 4.2)

Additional Strategic Plan objectives of note;

- Algoma University is recognized as a leader in Anishinaabe learning in Canada (Objective 4.1)
- Enhance cross-cultural competencies of faculty, staff, students, and administration (Objective 4.1)
- Strengthen its relationship with Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig through the Covenant (Objective 4.2)

(OCT. - NOV. 2018 PROGRESS REPORT)

Objective 4.1

Action: As a key initiative to build Algoma University's presence as a leader in Anishinaabe learning in Canada, Algoma University in partnership with Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig, the University of Northern British Columbia, Nipissing U and Cape Breton University submitted a bid to co-host the [2019 Universities Canada National Building Reconciliation Forum](#).

Deliverable: An announcement of our success in securing the fall 2019 forum was announced at the University of Victoria in November. Planning is now underway. The event will see over 200 senior post-secondary and Indigenous leaders from across the country gather in Sault Ste. Marie to continue the important conversation and mobilize actions associated with the post-secondary sector's responsibilities in this period of Reconciliation.

Objective 4.2

Action: In early November, an historic [signing ceremony](#) was held to build on the 2006 Covenant with Shingwauk Education Trust to include Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig. The traditional ceremony featuring sacred pipes, water prayer and a feast for the spirits was hosted in the Arthur A. Wishart library to honour the Anishinaabe people and those children who didn't go home from the former Shingwauk Indian Residential School.

Deliverable: The addendum formally brings Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig into the original 2006 Covenant relationship with Algoma University. Through this partnership, Algoma will provide a unique student experience that only this site and the geographic surroundings and history can offer.





SHARING OTHER INITIATIVES AND EVENTS SUPPORTING ANISHINAABE INENDAMOWIN

Shingwauk Residential School Centre (SRSC) Experiencing Record Activity

Since the public launch of the 'Reclaiming Shingwauk Hall' exhibit, the SRSC has experienced a record amount of activity, recording over 5000 touch points between early August and October - this includes tours, visits to the SRSC and external outreach such as participation in the Fall Rendezvous at the Old Stone House.



Development Work For Next Phase Of MAP Grant Well Underway

Planning work continues on the next phase of the MAP grant project, including conversations with the Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association (CSAA) and vendors who will help complete the next phase of development. Completion of design work will enhance the hands on experience for all participants who are exposed to the exhibit.

Algoma U Supports Peel Region Indigenous Cultural Activities

The Anishinaabe Initiatives Division (AID) and the Shingwauk Anishinaabe Student Association collaborated with the Peel District School Board, the Peel Aboriginal Network and the Algoma University School of Business and Economics staff and students from Brampton to host two Indigenous Education Days featuring an "Honoring Our Indigenous Veterans" theme. The initiative also facilitated the first ever Powwow within the public school system in the GTA.



Algoma U Delivers Pilot Program to Sault Ste. Marie Police Services

An agreement with the Sault Ste. Marie Police Service (SSMPS) was formalized in October that will see Algoma U deliver the [Shifting Indigenous Frontline Tactics](#) (SHIFT) training program to all SSMPS personnel. The initial pilot took place in the Doc Brown Lounge and Biidaabahn Arbour this month.

Feedback gathered during the pilot offering will be used to refine program content for delivery to an expanded cohort of SSMPS personnel starting in 2019. Training will also be made available as a professional development activity for Algoma U faculty, staff and administrators.



5

STRATEGIC DIRECTIVE: Institutional Excellence

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.

INSTITUTIONAL EXCELLENCE ALIGNS WITH ALL KEY INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITIES:

Strategic Plan 2016-2021 (p.16)

The University continues to make considerable progress on this particular Strategic Direction in order to support the four strategic priorities referenced throughout this report. Over the past two months, particular attention has been directed to the following objectives:

- 5.1 Organizational Alignment
- 5.4 Brand Image

(OCT. - NOV. 2018 Progress Report)

Objective 5.1

Action: Key performance indicators (KPIs), which are aligned with identified institutional priorities and SMA2 metrics, have been established by members of the Director’s Leadership Team and incorporated into their administrative performance objectives.

Deliverable: A dashboard and cadence schedule has been created to measure the progress and completion of each outcome.

Objective 5.4

Action: Building on the successful university rebranding exercise initiated in 2017, the Marketing and Communications Department was charged with developing additional marketing assets to support enhanced strategic enrolment management efforts.

Deliverable: New website and institutional videos ([long](#), [short](#)) in place by the end of November.

SHARING OTHER INITIATIVES AND EVENTS SUPPORTING INSTITUTIONAL EXCELLENCE

John Rhodes Scholarship Dinner A Resounding Success

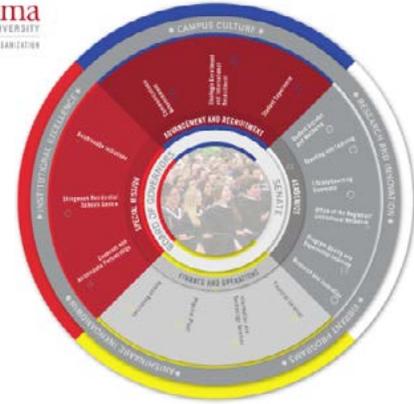
Close to 300 people from our extended community gathered in celebration at the annual John R. Rhodes Scholarship Dinner. The event celebrated the accomplishments of this year’s scholarship recipient, Payton Beilhartz, with members of the Rhodes family, while honouring the Hollingsworth family for the outstanding contributions they have made to our community.

This year’s event raised approximately \$35,000 for the annual John R. Rhodes Scholarship fund while raising over \$110,000 for the newly established “Hollingsworth Family Scholarship in Business and Economics”.

New Director of Strategic Advancement Joins Algoma U Community

Colin Wilson assumed to role of Director of Strategic Advancement this October. As a key member of the University’s leadership team, Colin will work closely with the President on operational matters, stakeholder relations, and special projects of importance to the University including the coordination and processing of funding proposals and grant applications. This role assists the President in fulfilling our established strategic priorities in order to advance the mission, vision, values and success of the institution.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 6-19 **Fall exam period**

Dec 7 **Academic Senate Meeting**

Dec 24-Jan 1 **University closed for holiday break**

Jan 2 **University reopens following holiday break**

Jan 9 **Classes commence for winter term**

Jan 11 **Academic Senate Meeting**

Jan 24 **Board of Governors Meeting**

Feb 9 **Student Leadership Conference**

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