



STRATEGIC. FOCUS.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
MARCH 2019

Algoma
UNIVERSITY





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the Winter, 2019 term winds to a close and a new academic year comes onto the horizon, this *President's Report* will focus not only on the tremendous strides Algonquin University has made this past year but will also provide a glimpse into planning and commitments underway for 2019-2020.

This past year, a number of strategies were put into play to address the University's 4 corporate priorities as outlined below:

1. enhancing the overall student experience
2. workplace readiness and increased experiential learning opportunities
3. moving forward with institutional commitments to Truth and Reconciliation and the University's Special Mission
4. increasing enrolment on all three campuses through enhanced strategic enrolment management practices

We are pleased to report that 2018-2019 enrolment levels exceeded initial projections by 14 percent. Strategic enrolment management strategies for 2019-20 support targeted growth in the School of Life Sciences and the Environment, the School of Business and Economics and Computer Science. Enrolment indicators for 2019-20 point to further growth as the University continues on its path to 3000 students by 2023-2024. As reported by the Ontario Universities' Application Centre, at 33.5%, Algonquin U tops the province in terms of the percentage increase in new full-time, domestic first year student applications for Fall 2019. International applications are also up considerably. This is all great news.

While our short-term transformation has been truly remarkable, we must remain cognizant of the potential impact that changes to the post-secondary funding framework and other external factors may have on our future. We are actively working with all three levels of government (including ongoing dialogue with municipal governments in Brampton, Sault Ste. Marie and Timmins), to leverage identified opportunities and garner support to ensure our long-term success. The \$400 thousand in funding recently secured through the Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Fund is a shining example of the positive progress we are making.

We are taking a proactive approach to long-term planning as we develop our 2019-20 operating budget. We must ensure targeted investments align with our strategic priorities and our goal to grow to 3000 students by 2023-24 as outlined within the strategic enrolment management plan. I want to thank all those who have contributed to our current budget planning exercise. We will continue to share details as we work through the final stages of associated approval processes.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the *President's Report* which provides further updates on the significant progress we are making on the key objectives of our strategic plan and core institutional priorities.

Enjoy the remaining days of winter and thanks, as always, for your ongoing support. It is truly a pleasure and honour to be your President.

Asima

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 are engaged and inspired in their studies, work, and extracurricular activities (Objective 1.3)

(JANUARY - MARCH 2019 PROGRESS REPORT)

Objective 1.1

Action: A range of staff along with student leaders from the Algoma University Students' Union (AUSU) and the Shingwauk Anishinaabe Students' Association (SASA) have been actively planning a series of space improvements to "support inspired and engaged learning and a strong sense of pride". An RFP encompassing a range of current projects (development of Campus Master Plans for SSM and Brampton, development of a National Training Centre closely tied to our special mission, finalization of conceptual drawings for the School of Business and Economics in SSM, and a range of other renovations to students spaces including computer labs, the bookstore, AUSU offices and the Speak Easy) is currently in circulation with a submission deadline of March 28, 2019.

Deliverable: All items noted in the project schedule outlined in the RFP are to be successfully completed within approved timelines and budgets.

Objective 1.3

Action: The Thunderbird Athletics program recently completed a five-year strategic plan to grow the success of our varsity teams and support for our student-athletes. The program experienced some positive results this past year including having three varsity wrestlers qualify for the U-Sports Championships following a strong showing at the OUA Championships. The Men's and Women's Basketball teams had their best regular season showings since joining the OUA, with both squads competing for playoff spots.

Deliverable: The results of the varsity athletic strategic planning process will be used to support related decision making and resource allocations until 2022-2023.

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

Algoma Students Participate in Winter Activities at All Campus Locations

Over 110 students participated in the second annual "Ski, S'Mores, and More" event, a fun-filled day on the slopes of Searchmont Resort. The event provided many new students with their first exposure to winter recreation activities such as skiing, snowboarding, and snowshoeing. Students in Brampton and Timmins were also provided with opportunities to ski and tube at facilities in their respective communities.





International Students Celebrate With Sault College

In late January, over 300 international students from Algoma University and Sault College participated in “Freshers 2.0”, an evening of dancing, games, food and fun. This was the largest joint event yet between the two schools, helping international students at both institutions make connections that they can carry with them during their time as students.



2nd Annual Student Leadership Conference

The Student Leadership Development Conference was held at the Delta Hotel by Marriott on February 9th, 2019. With the theme “Building for the Future”, the Student Success team and a number of high-quality keynote speakers provided participants with a range of leadership skills that they can now use to achieve their goals and aspirations. Although the weather created many challenges for this year’s event, 42 students were still able to participate and leave with a toolkit that will enrich their student experience at Algoma University.



Students & Staff Support Important Causes & Community Initiatives

Over the winter term, students and staff organized a range of events to raise awareness about important societal issues. A few examples include Bell Let’s Talk, World University Services Canada (WUSC) Shine a Light, Coldest Night of the Year, International Women’s Day and Pink T-Shirt Day. Events such as these reinforce the commitment the Algoma U community has to making the world a better place for all.



2

STRATEGIC DIRECTIVE: Vibrant Programs

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

VIBRANT PROGRAMMING ALIGNS WITH ALL KEY INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITIES:

Strategic Plan 2016-2021 (p.10)

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

- Recognize excellence in teaching and learning (Objective 2.1)
- Algoma University has an integrated suite of relevant programming that is linked to the broader community (Objective 2.3)
 - Strengthen and expand access to programming through the use of technology-enhanced learning, in particular online learning
 - Establish and strengthen pathways to and from colleges and universities
 - Strengthen and diversify program offerings at extension sites

(JANUARY - MARCH 2019 PROGRESS REPORT)

Objective 2.1

Action: We have created two Algoma University *Excellence in Teaching Awards*—one designated for full-time faculty and one for part-time faculty—for which we are currently receiving nominations.

Deliverable: The inaugural *Excellence in Teaching Awards* will be presented at our June 2019 convocation ceremonies.

Objective 2.3

Action: Algoma University and Northern College signed an inter-institutional agreement to launch an online bridging program from Northern's Computer Engineering Technician diploma program to Algoma's Bachelor of Computer Science. This action wrapped up a multi-year project funded through eCampus Ontario.

Deliverable: As of May 2019, college graduates are able to enrol in a series of six online courses. In September, students will be prepared to enter the Bachelor of Computer Science program at Algoma. Students entering through the bridge program will be able to complete a general Bachelor of Computer Science degree in two consecutive semesters (fall/winter).

Action: Algoma University signed seven new 2+2 agreements with Sault College in January, providing seamless pathways from Business, Environmental and Policing programs into Algoma's BBA, Environmental Science, and Law and Justice degree programs. Also in January, Algoma signed new 2+1 and 2+2 agreements with Northern College, into our Computer Science BBA and degree programs respectively.

Deliverable: Graduating college students from select programs may enter four distinctive Algoma U programs as of May 2019.





Action: The School of Business and Economics has planned for and is delivering programming to increasing enrolment numbers on our Brampton campus, with another strong intake projected for May. Algoma University's Strategic Enrolment Management plan and the Recruitment team are supporting this enrolment increase.

Deliverable: New enrolment in January of 232 students and projections of 300 students for May.



SHARING OTHER INITIATIVES AND EVENTS SUPPORTING VIBRANT PROGRAMMING

New Computer Science & Health Sciences Post-Grad Certificates Approved

The Academic Senate has approved new Post-Graduate Certificate offerings developed by the Department of Computer Science, the Department of Biology, and the Department of Psychology. These certificates, launching in 2019, provide interested students with one-year full-time study options in Computing, Mobile Software Development, Information Technology, Computer Games Technology, and Health Sciences. The Certificates are part of an expanded set of credential offerings that bring enhanced enrolment and greater diversity to Algoma University.

Career Link Certificate Program

January marked the delivery of the first seminar for the Career Link Certificate program. Career Link is a co-curricular program that includes skill development, networking, and work experience, all with the aim of career preparedness for Algoma University graduates. Program enrolment far exceeded the original goal of 40, with 100 students registering to participate in the program.



AUBS First Annual Internal Case Competition

The Algoma University Business Society (AUBS) hosted its first annual Internal Student Case Competition on Friday, March 8th, 2019, on our SSM Campus. This unique event involved second and third-year Business students who analyzed a case and presented their solutions to judging panels made up of Algoma University faculty and local business partners. This event was created by fourth-year Business students to help their second and third-year classmates gain insight into the process of a case competition and what they will face in their final year. First-year students volunteered throughout the day, while fourth-year students served as mentors.



Great Lakes International Summer Music Institute to begin in Summer 2019

Promotion is underway for the Algoma University ['Great Lakes International Summer Music Institute'](#), a two-week intensive university credit program for advanced musicians at a pre-professional level; specifically for students in secondary school (Grades 11-12) and/or college/university students. The inaugural institute takes place from July 21st to August 3rd, 2019.

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.

RESEARCH & INNOVATION ALIGNS WITH EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PRIORITY

[*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)
- Cultivating a culture of research and innovation among students and faculty to promote career readiness (Objective 3.2)

(JANUARY - MARCH 2019 PROGRESS REPORT)

Objective 3.1 & 3.2

Action: The Office of Research and Innovation promotes and fosters a culture of research and innovation for students while increasing awareness of the research being done at Algoma U through various events and activities. A key priority of the Research Office is to align research talent with the needs of the local community by facilitating collaborative research efforts between the university, government, and the private sector.

Deliverable: Winter 2019 marked the first full semester of activity for the Experiential Learning Hub which was launched by the Office of Research and Innovation and the Experiential Learning team. The Experiential Learning Hub is a central resource for the many activities that help prepare students for a successful transition to further studies or employment. A term-end activity report will be finalized in April 2019 to support further planning.

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. 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

Pan-Northern Mining Research Alliance Meeting

As an active member of the Pan-Northern Mining Research Alliance (PNMRA), Algoma U recently hosted a meeting of PNMRA members on campus. The PNMRA is a group of ten post-secondary institutions in Northern Ontario established to support research on a global scale, enhance Northern Ontario's research strengths in mining-related areas for all post-secondary institutions, and to actively seek industry engagement, support, and collaboration. Participants from Northern Ontario colleges and universities were joined by representatives from Ontario Centres of Excellence, Algoma Steel, Natural Resources Canada, and the Centre for Excellence in Mining Innovation for a discussion on how to best to address mining sector challenges in the North.





NOHFC Internship Funding

The faculty noted below have secured funding for [NOHFC internship positions](#) at Algoma U. Not only do these internships support enhanced research activity, but they provide valuable career-related experience for those hired to fill these exciting roles.

- Labour Migration: Impact on Interprovincial and International Trade Intern - Nusrate Aziz, Assistant Professor, Economics
- Avian Social Behaviour Intern - Jennifer Foote, Associate Professor, Biology
- Research Office Administrative Assistant Intern - Dr. Pedro Antunes, Executive Research Lead

Nature Masterclasses Online

The Office of Research and Innovation recently acquired a subscription to an online training course in scientific writing and publishing through Nature Masterclasses, available to all students and faculty. The training is delivered by Nature Research journal editors and aims to help institutions support their researchers with writing research papers. [Nature](#) is one of the highest-impact journals in the world and a pioneer in the field of open research.

New Faculty Publication Examples

Dr. Trevor Tchir (Political Science) recently published an article in a special edition of The Russian Sociological Review entitled "[Hannah Arendt's Ethic of Responsibility to the 'Who' and the 'World'](#)". The article presents three vital resources in the work of German Jewish theorist Hannah Arendt for addressing the challenges to pluralistic and democratic action and judgment posed by the rise of populism and the polarization of new media in the current political era.

Dr. Nicola Shaw (Sociology) recently co-authored a paper entitled "Examining the use of electronic patient portals in an integrated health-care institution". The paper outlines a study that aims to measure the use of the myCARE patient portal at the Group Health Centre (GHC) to determine why patients choose to (or choose not to) engage in its use. A [research report](#) based on the paper was featured in the Winter 2018 issue of the [Northern Ontario Medical Journal](#).

In January, **Dr. Isabel Molina (Biology)** co-authored a paper alongside AU student Annika Sonntag entitled "[Functional Overlap of Long-Chain Acyl-CoA Synthetases in Arabidopsis](#)" that was published in Plant and Cell Physiology. The paper attempts to clarify the functions of long-chain acyl-CoA synthetases (LACs) by isolating a suite of higher-order mutants that were previously lacking and by analyzing oil, wax, cutin, cuticle permeability, fertility, and growth phenotypes.



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 to the extent possible 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)
- Partner with Anishinaabe organizations and institutes to deliver programs in ways that meet the needs of, and expand access for, Anishinaabe learners (Objective 2.2)

(JANUARY - MARCH 2019 PROGRESS REPORT)

Objective 4.1

Action: The SHIFT (Shifting Indigenous Frontline Tactics) training pilot, delivered to the Sault Ste. Marie Police Services (SSMPS) in November 2018 led to a plan to deliver the training to the entire SSMPS contingent of 120 officers and 80 civilian staff from 2019-2021.

Deliverable: Algoma University and the SSMPS will develop an agreement to deliver SHIFT Training to 200 SSMPS officers and staff 2019-2021. This training aims to bridge the gap between communities by fostering an environment of greater cultural understanding and sensitivity towards indigenous peoples and communities.

Objective 2.2

Action: The Anishinaabe Initiatives Division and Algoma's School of Business and Economics have continued pursuing the Certified Aboriginal Financial Management accreditation through a partnership with the Aboriginal Financial Officers Association (AFOA) and the Canadian Professional Accountants. AFOA has completed its review of and has approved Algoma University's Accounting degree program.

Deliverable: The AFOA and Algoma University will finalize an agreement to offer the CAFM accreditation for the fall of 2019 through a partnership with the Anishinaabe Initiatives Division and the School of Business and Economics.





SHARING OTHER INITIATIVES AND EVENTS SUPPORTING ANISHINAABE INENDAMOWIN

2019 Elders and Youth Gathering: Culture in the Family

In late January, over 80 students and community members gathered in Shingwauk Hall to engage with visiting elders from Bear Island, Ottawa, Manitoulin Island and Sault Ste Marie. Elders shared how Anishinaabe Inendamowin (AI) keeps their family together, and students received advice on how to maintain AI in mainstream society. Participants also had fun playing Anishinaabemowin Bingo and learned about rites of passage and crafts.

14th Annual Gathering at the Rapids Pow Wow

Algoma University, the AU Anishinaabe Initiatives Division (AID), and the Shingwauk Anishinaabe Students' Association (SASA) welcomed thousands to campus during the first weekend in March to indulge in a two-day celebration of Native culture and customs at the 14th Annual Gathering at the Rapids Pow Wow: "Celebrating Life Long Learning".

Increased Activity at Shingwauk Residential School Centre (SRSC) Continues

Over 7500 points of contact have been established between SRSC and a range of internal and external groups since the opening of the Reclaiming Shingwauk Hall Exhibition in August. This includes school visits, internal staff, faculty, and student tours, professional development for external groups and other touch points to the end of February 2019. We continue to book visits well into the spring season.

Next Phase of Reclaiming Shingwauk Hall Moving Forward

Design work for the next phase of the Reclaiming Shingwauk Hall project, funded through the Museums Assistance Program (MAP), is nearing completion and steps are being taken to complete fabrication and installation plans. Conversations with the Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association (CSAA) have aided the design team in the selections made for each seasonal depiction of life at Shingwauk Hall at the point in history being depicted. The final choice on the selection of local vendors will be ready by the end of the winter semester so that installation can be completed by June 30th, 2019.

Universities Canada National Building Reconciliation Forum - October 2019

Planning continues for the 5th Annual Universities Canada National Building Reconciliation Forum, being hosted at Algoma University from October 8th to 10th, 2019. Presidents and their colleagues from across Canada will continue the conversation on their actions and commitments tied to implementing the TRC calls to action. The significance of the Forum's historic location and collaborative approach to programming truly sets the pace for our event. Co-hosting with Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig, the University of Northern British Columbia, Nipissing University and Cape Breton University really allows us to showcase and use a collaborative approach. Situated at the "heart of the Great Lakes" in a region that has long served as a traditional gathering place of people from all different territories, tribes and cultures will really allow us the opportunity to celebrate our Special Mission and Chief Shingwauk's vision of a teaching wigwam.

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 few months, particular attention has been directed to the following objectives:

- 5.1 Organizational Alignment
- 5.3 Generation of No-Tuition Revenue
- 5.4 Brand Image

(JANUARY - MARCH 2019 Progress Report)

Objective 5.1

Action: Members of the Algoma Leadership Team utilized new budgeting philosophy and planning templates based on core strategic priorities to support decision making by Senior Executive, and ultimately the Board of Governors, to prepare the 2019-20 institutional budget request.

Deliverable: 2019-20 approved budget supporting identified institutional strategic priorities to be in place for May 2019.

Objective 5.3

Action: An economic impact study has been commissioned to gauge the value of Algoma University to the communities and students it serves and the industry partners the institution collaborates with. The study will outline the direct and indirect socio-economic benefits of the University's presence with results being used to inform continuous improvement and to market its value to a range of stakeholders including prospective students, industry partners, and funding providers/donors from both the public and the private sector.

Deliverable: Initial draft of Economic Impact Study will be ready by April, with the final report completed by the start of June.

Objective 5.4

Action: The Director of Strategic Enrolment and the Marketing and Communications Department are collaborating with identified academic departments and marketing agency on a new program specific promotional toolkit tied to Strategic Enrolment Management Plan initiatives.

Deliverable: New toolkit of promotional materials in place in time for the 2019-20 student recruitment cycle.

SHARING OTHER INITIATIVES AND EVENTS SUPPORTING INSTITUTIONAL EXCELLENCE

Algoma U Tops Province in New Student Application growth

[Great news](#), data released by the Ontario University Application Centre earlier in the term indicates that, at 34.5%, Algoma U was ranked number one in the province in new student application growth percentage! Thanks to the efforts of many, including our outstanding recruitment team.





School of Business & Economics - Brampton Expansion

The 6000 foot renovation on the new school is moving along well and is on target to be completed by end of Spring early Summer. Administration continues to meet with the City of Brampton to update them on progress and to discuss possibilities for partnership and collaboration that will enhance the Student Experience and Enrolment Growth priorities as they fit into the City's overall vision for a stronger University presence and a revitalization of their downtown.



School of Business & Economics Receives Funding Support For Sault Ste. Marie Expansion

At the March 18th meeting of Sault Ste. Marie City Council, a unanimous vote approved \$400,000 in funding from the Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Fund to support the \$5.2M planned expansion for the Algoma University School of Business and Economics. The funding will be used over the next three fiscal years to support a four-phase development aimed at generating enrolment growth and program expansion initiatives within the School of Business and Economics.



Algoma Recognized for Diversity Efforts By Chamber of Commerce

Algoma U was presented with the Diversity Award, sponsored by the Sault Ste. Marie & Area Local Immigration Partnership, at the Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Business Achievement Awards. This award recognizes a business or organization that embraces, celebrates and applies holistic inclusion and participation of a diverse people, making the workplace a better environment in which to work, and the community a better place in which to live, work and raise a family.

Registrar Receives Provincial Award of Achievement

A big congratulations to Registrar Dave Marasco on receiving the Ontario University Registrars' Association Award of Achievement! This annual award honours long-standing members — minimum of 10 years — who have made significant contributions by participating through active membership on the executive, standing committees and workshops, and active enhancement and development of academic administration within the Ontario university system.



Krista McCracken, Archives Supervisor, named Open Education Fellow

eCampusOntario has named Krista McCracken, Archives Supervisor at the Arthur A. Wishart Library and Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre, as one of only five Open Education Fellows for 2019-20. eCampusOntario CEO David Porter notes characterizes Krista's application and credentials as "truly exceptional."



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 23	Athletic Banquet
March 29	Residence Banquet
March 30	Jack.Org Summit
April 4	Northern Ontario Business Case Competition
April 29	First Day of Spring Classes
June 3	Algoma U Classic Golf Tournament
June 8	Sault Ste. Marie Convocation
June 15	Brampton Convocation



JOIN US!






FORMAT OF PLAY
4 person team-scramble

INCLUDES:

- 18 Holes of golf with cart
- Complimentary box lunches
- On-course contests
- Deluxe banquet dinner
- 1:00 pm tee-off, shotgun start
- Flights by score
- Men's, women's, & mixed categories
- Prizes
- Fun for all skill levels!

MONDAY JUNE 3, 2019

ENTRY FEE: \$150 PER PERSON, \$600 PER TEAM



TO REGISTER CONTACT: Bev. Teller, CFRE
 Alumni & Development Officer, Algoma University
 T: 705.949.2301 ext. 4125 E: bevteller@algomau.ca



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

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