



Interim President and Vice-Chancellor's Report to the Board of Governors

June 2025

Message from Interim President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Donna Rogers

Boozhoo, Bonjour, Hello,

It has been my privilege to serve as Interim President and Vice-Chancellor of Algoma University over the past several months, and I thank the Board of Governors (the Board) for the opportunity to serve.

As I prepare to conclude my time at Algoma University, I find myself reflecting with deep gratitude on the progress we have made together over these past months. This final report to the Board captures a period of meaningful change, forward momentum, and unwavering commitment to Algoma's Special Mission.

It has been a privilege to work alongside dedicated colleagues, supportive partners, and a remarkable community that continues to shape the university's future with purpose and care. The initiatives and milestones outlined in the following pages are a testament to the collective effort and shared vision that define Algoma University. I offer this report not only as an account of recent developments, but also as a reflection of the strength, resilience, and promise that will carry this institution forward.

Nyaagaaniid, Anishinaabe Initiatives & EDI

Earth Turning Gathering

On Friday, June 20, the Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association (CSAA), in partnership with Algoma University, hosted a special gathering to mark the official Earth Turning for Makwa Waakaa'igan. This event brought together Elders, Survivors, Knowledge Keepers, community leaders, and key government partners and funders to honour the spiritual, cultural, and historical foundations of this important project ahead of the construction phase.

Indigenous Bachelor of Social Work Partnership with Mamaweswen

The Nyaagaaniid ~ Anishinaabe Initiatives team has initiated discussions with Mamaweswen—the North Shore Tribal Council—on a potential partnership to offer an Indigenous-focused Bachelor of Social Work program. This would support member First Nations in designing and delivering their own child and family services legislation, with the potential to serve a broader catchment area.



EDI Strategy Implementation

The selection of nearly 22 EDI Chairs—representing all departments across all three campuses—is now complete, thanks to the support of the VPs.

EDI Foundation Course Compliance:

- 52% overall (all employees including OSSTF and OPSEU)
- 43% ALT (academic leadership)
- 38% SET (senior executive team)

Capital Projects & Health & Safety

36 Queen St. (Brampton)

The purchase closed successfully on May 30, 2025. The property is now owned by Algoma University.

Brampton Student Residence

Drawings have been submitted for review. Existing buildings are scheduled for demolition, with construction beginning in late 2025.

Psychology Wing Renovation

Design work is progressing in the Convergence Centre. Construction is scheduled for Fall 2025 with completion anticipated in early 2026.

Health & Safety Audit

The audit identified 60 Level 1 non-compliance items (requiring OHSA compliance).

- 30 items completed
- 7 in progress
- 23 not started (some dependent on others)

The team aims to complete all within six months and will require continued support from senior leadership to maintain momentum.

Office of the Registrar & Student Services

In May, the Registrar's Office and Student Affairs were reorganized to better align and enhance student services. The new structure aims to improve student transitions, engagement, and retention as part of the Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) Plan.

- The University Registrar now reports directly to the Interim President and Vice-Chancellor. The role is now titled **University Registrar and Executive Director, Student Services**.
- The AVP, Student Affairs now reports to the Registrar.



Following the successful launch of phase one of the Colleague Student Information System (SIS) in March, work continues to enhance system functionality. This has improved the registration experience for students and increased advising capacity.

This summer, the Registrar's Office will work with I.T. and the Business Transformation Office to migrate InfoSilem, our academic scheduling tool, to the cloud. Integration with Colleague will improve data use for scheduling and planning, enhancing student success.

School of Graduate Studies

To support recruitment into existing and new graduate programs, a review of Master's programs across Ontario was completed, analyzing admission requirements, averages, prerequisites, and English proficiency standards. The findings will guide adjustments to ensure our programs remain competitive and accessible.

A review of all graduate policies is also underway to align with our expanding graduate offerings and reflect experiences and feedback from the past two years.

Office of Research & Innovation (ORI)

ORI has finalized its EDI Action Plan, aligning with institutional strategy. The team completed reviews of the Risk Management Exercise and the Efficiency and Accountability Fund (EAF) report to identify 2025 priorities. Operational planning continues through the summer.

On May 27, ORI hosted its first professional development workshop for faculty and staff, with Public Safety Canada presenting on safeguarding research.

National Centre of Excellence for Immersive Technologies

The inaugural XR Accelerator launched on June 2 with nine early-stage companies focused on real-time 3D, XR, and AI. Mentors will provide training in technical development, commercialization, IP, and investment readiness.

Curriculum and stackable pathways will launch in Q1 2025, with delivery supported by PACE, CTL, and IT. Instructors have been hired, and courses will begin in July.

Professional and Continuing Education (PACE)

PACE is advancing a multi-year initiative to develop high-quality online programs for domestic and international learners. Four new postgraduate certificates will launch in Fall 2025:

- Information Technology & Infrastructure (1-year & 2-year)
- Supply Chain Operations & Analytics (1-year)
Advanced Supply Chain Management, Strategy & Analytics (2-year)



Stackable micro-credentials in high-demand areas, such as Business Leadership and AI Ethics, are also in development for 2025–26.

Recent University Achievements

Cameron Faculty Event

On June 13, we celebrated the naming of the **Cameron Faculty of Science**—the first named Faculty in Algoma’s history—signifying a major milestone in advancing science education. The Cameron family was honoured at a gathering at the Convergence Centre.

Spring Convocations

We proudly celebrated our largest-ever graduating class! Ceremonies were held on June 14 in Sault Ste. Marie and June 18–19 in Brampton. Highlights included:

- **Shirley Horn**, former Chancellor and CSAA co-founder received an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts.
- **Chloe Haney** received the Governor General’s Silver Medal for top undergraduate achievement.
- **Gia Ky Huynh**, MCS graduate, received Algoma’s first Governor General’s Gold Medal for graduate excellence.
- **Dr. Brandon Schamp**, Department of Biology, received the Distinguished Faculty Award.
- **Emily Cormier**, City of Sault Ste. Marie Sustainability Coordinator, received the Honorary Member of Algoma University award.

Queen’s Park Advocacy Event

This month, I participated in Algoma U’s advocacy event at Queen’s Park, joined by distinguished researchers, Board members, staff, students, and alumni. Special thanks to Minister Nolan Quinn and MPP Graham McGregor for their support. The event showcased Algoma’s mission, impact, and growing provincial presence.

Final Reflections

This is my final report to the Board. As I conclude my term as Interim President and Vice-Chancellor, I offer a few reflections.

Change is a constant in university life—students, colleagues, programs, structures, and physical spaces evolve continuously. Some changes I’ve led; others I’ve experienced. Through it all, I’ve tried to approach my work with good faith, empathy, and grace.

I returned to Algoma University because I believe in its mission. The institution will continue to grow and thrive long after my time here, in ways we cannot yet imagine.



To all Board members and colleagues: thank you. Your dedication and contributions are deeply appreciated and make a lasting impact.

Chi-miigwech, merci, and thank you for all that you do.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donna M. Rogers". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Donna M. Rogers, Ph.D.
Interim President and Vice-Chancellor
Algonquin University