

Government Advocacy Update

Individually and through the Council of Ontario Universities, Laurentian has been aggressively engaged with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and the Provincial Government with respect to the needs of the sector and the specific challenges that Laurentian faces. It remains clear at this time that universities remain a low priority for a government that is dealing with the continuing health and economic challenges of COVID-19. There is a strong sentiment that robust domestic enrollment across the sector in the fall means that universities are fine and not in need of assistance. Indeed, the government is presently most concerned with providing assistance to students and families rather than institutions. Our work continues.

On the federal side, Laurentian has been a strong proponent of the work being done by Universities Canada with respect to international students. Thus, we were very pleased to learn last week that the federal government is relaxing the travel restrictions for international students. With strong protocols in place at Laurentian for self-isolation of arriving students, we are hoping that many international students that are presently outside of Canada will soon be able to return to campus.

Maclean's

The Maclean's Universities Rankings continue to provide a challenge for Laurentian University through its methodology and ranking. For 2021, we continue to rank 12th overall in our category. Of the 13 indicators that comprise the ranking, we improved by two places for Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council grants (to 13th) and declined one position (to 11th) in Student to Full-time Faculty Ratio (to 11th). Overall, our ranking is weighed down by the highly weighted Reputational Survey and Student Satisfaction components of the rankings, which were performed this year concurrent with the onset of COVID-19. With our continuing strong ranking in research (1st) and awards (5th) we continue to be a poor overall match for the criteria of our category.

Update on Conversation with Laurentian's Federated Partner Universities

Conversation with our federated partners on updating and renewing the Federation have been formally launched. There has been agreement to focus the conversation first on the academic partnership model that will best suit us going forward, before turning our attention to consideration of finance and governance of the Federation. In this conversation, Laurentian is guided by the principles that any changes to the federation model must enhance learning and the student experience as well as increase the efficiency and sustainability of the federation.

Monthly Kudos

Great work to the Indigenous Student Affairs (ISA) team in the organization of important sharing and learning opportunities for the community on Orange Shirt Day. I would also like to recognize both the ISA team and the Communications team who for the first time collaborated to publish a fully-written news release in Anishinaabemowin.

Dr. Linda Ambrose had a successful virtual launch of her most recent book "After the Revival" on September 30th.

Dr. Joey-Lynn Wabie received a grant worth \$38,000 from the Canadian Heritage Commemorating the History and Legacy of Residential Schools component of the Celebration and Commemoration Program. The purpose of the *Tabik*

with homeless and disabled people, all while following physical distancing and other health regulations.

mandate to develop applied wood research. The institute will explore research collaborations with the forest products industry, government agencies and university forestry departments to develop a new wood research facility based at the MSoA. The institute will serve as a Northern Ontario research hub within an international network of wood research centres that advance the use of wood in furniture and architectural applications. The FedNor Youth Internship program will assist in our objective to develop this new research centre and foster important partnerships that will ensure its success.

Dr. Aaron Langille, a master lecturer in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Laurentian University, has been named one of Ontario's most outstanding university teachers by the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA). He is receiving a 2019-2020 OCUFA Teaching Award for his outstanding contributions to improving the quality of higher education at Ontario's universities.

As you may have seen in recent media announcements, the Faculty of Education's École des sciences de l'éducation ha

Dr. Laura Hall, Clayworks and Creation'ing: Addressing and Ending Violence through Land and Arts-Based Learning for Indigenous Women and 2SLGBTQIA Communities

Dr. Kamran Eshghi, The Potential Impact of Adoption of Cryptocurrencies by Firms: hype or a wise investment?

Dr. Luis Radford, The Ethics of Mathematics Teaching-and-Learning: A Vygotskian Approach

Dr. Isabelle Côté, Women's Safety-Related Empowerment in the Context of Domestic Violence : A Study of Shelter Practices

Dr. Lynne Gouliquer, Stigmatised Identity: Giving voice to easterly Canadian Métis

Dr. David Leadbeater, Amalgamation, Community Decline, and the Future of Northern Resource-Dependent Communities

Dr. Na Xiao, The Influence of Evaluation Mode on Construal Level in Product Evaluation and Choice: A Goal-activation Perspective

Dr. Lorrilee McGregor, Indigenous Research Sovereignty and Governance: Anishinaabek Perspectives on Indigenous Knowledge, Cultural Expressions, and Intellectual Property

Dr. Andrew McDonald, Harquail School of Earth Sciences, was awarded the Hawley Medal with student Elliot Wehrle, in recognition of their co-authored paper, which was selected as the best to be published in The Canadian Mineralogist throughout 2019.

Drs. Rosanna Langer, and Moira Ferguson were recognized with the 2020 International Award for Excellence for The Interdisciplinary Social Sciences Journal Collection for their paper on Stigma, Discrimination, Resilience, and Support in Members of a Mental Health Consumer Peer Support Organization.

Kudos to the student team under the direction of Malek Abou-Rabia, 2nd year business student and Vice-President Education, SGA and in partnership with Cameron Perdue, Masters Student and owner of Incaptur for the ongoing development of a platform that will feature virtual information about significant artwork around campus. This initiative has come out of the Strategic Plan Objective Outcome #4: "To be a hub for arts and culture."
