

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO
McMASTER UNIVERSITY'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS
JUNE 6, 2019**

Reflections on Nine Years at McMaster: A Brief Retrospective

Since this is my last report to the Board of Governors I hope you might indulge me in engaging in some reflections on my time here and all that the institution has been able to achieve over the last nine years. In 2011 when I delivered *Forward with Integrity*, my letter to the McMaster community, I challenged the members of our University to reassess our work and consider what needed to be done to develop a distinct, effective and sustainable undergraduate experience, enhance the connections between McMaster and the local and global communities of which we are a part, and integrate a reconceived educational mission with continuing excellence in research. In articulating McMaster's identity, and acknowledging its standing and potential for continued and enhanced success, I sought to make explicit that which had long been been implicit, and focus our future around clear principles and priorities.

The speed and enthusiasm with which the questions posed by *Forward with Integrity* were taken up across the campus astonished me. The changes made since that time are entirely the result of the dedication and commitment of faculty, staff and students at all levels of the institution, who sought ways to contribute to and advance the vision of the letter, and the ongoing success of McMaster. I am grateful to all those individuals, departments and units who took the challenge to heart and worked hard to effect the positive changes that have taken place on our campus. As I reflect back it seems that during the nine years I have been at McMaster I have been witness to constant and far-reaching change. The most obvious example has been alterations to the physical fabric of the place: the demolition of Wentworth House and the construction of L.R. Wilson Hall, the expansion of studio art and engineering experiential education facilities, groundbreaking for the Peter George Centre for Living and Learning, opening of the David Braley Health Sciences Centre downtown, and construction of the outdoor Indigenous meeting circle, to name only a few.

Beyond the changes to physical infrastructure, we have experienced a major shift in pedagogy during the last decade or more, with the emphasis moving towards experiential, technology-enabled, self-directed and community-engaged ways of learning. The establishment of the Paul R. MacPherson Institute for Leadership, Innovation and Excellence in Teaching helped to signal the importance of this transformation and the University's investment in it, and the award of the Global Teaching Excellence Award to McMaster in 2018 confirmed our standing as a recognized innovator and leader in teaching and learning.

At the same time, the more gradual development of the Office of Community Engagement has supported admirably our focus on ensuring a more vital engagement with our local community in a way that respects and builds upon our values of ensuring mutual benefit, working in partnership with the community and building relationships based on reciprocity, trust and respect. These principles also apply to our relationships with global partners and our work to bring greater and sustained focus to our mission to serve the greater good – locally, nationally and globally. I regard our recent success in the Times Higher Education University Impact rankings – where we were ranked second in the world for our contribution to the Sustainable

Development Goals of the United Nations – as a measure of just how substantive that focus has been.

Over the last nine years we have also worked hard to build connections within our community, encouraging and facilitating the interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary collaborations for which McMaster has long been admired, and also striving to establish and support the diverse and inclusive community that we aspire to be. In addition to promoting pathways into the University and enhanced outreach and access programs, such as the Discovery Program, for those who may not otherwise see a place for themselves here, we are deeply focused on the promotion of equity, diversity and inclusion on our campus. Our efforts include working to ensure that all members of our community are welcomed and that the needs of our diverse student body are met; understanding the current composition of our faculty and staff and taking steps to promote and ensure greater diversity within those groups; and identifying and addressing systemic barriers within our policies and practices. The launch of McMaster's first Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan represents a huge step forward in our thinking and signals that, although slower than we would like, progress on these important issues is being made.

The launch last year of our Strategic Plan for Research, *Research for a Brighter World*, signals our ongoing focus on research excellence as the cornerstone of McMaster's success as a global research-intensive university. Our current standing as the most research-intensive university in Canada for the second year running is testament to the dedication and success of our researchers and the students and staff who support them. The *Brighter World Research Initiative*, which builds upon the successful and ongoing Brighter World branding and marketing campaign, will focus on the University's goal of attracting and developing partnerships and funding opportunities, with the intention of increasing research revenue into the University from a variety of sources. Such additional funding is, of course, always welcome and necessary, and will enable our researchers to develop further their research programs and areas of focus, and provide them with the necessary equipment, infrastructure and support to do so.

Such additional investment will, I hope, also help to expand even further McMaster's global reach and standing in the world. Although we clearly cannot be driven by the global university rankings, we should still take pride in the improvements we have achieved, and celebrate our success in raising the profile of the University and promoting the quality of our education, the impact of our research, and our values as a community, to a global audience. Our induction last year into the Universitas 21 global network of research-intensive universities indicates the regard in which McMaster is held and enables us to build deeper connections with leading universities from more than 17 countries. Similarly, our relationship with Academics without Borders, for whom McMaster now serves as the host institution, underlines both our global reach and our institutional values. These values are supported and emphasized further by our signing onto the *Magna Charta Universitatum* in 2013, a document that lays out a number of the fundamental principles that underpin and guide universities, and our adoption of the *Okanagan Charter: An International Charter for Health Promoting Universities and Colleges*, which is essentially a call to action intended to promote health and wellness, and contribute to the well-being of people, places and the planet.

I appreciate the support and commitment of the members of our Board of Governors over the last nine years, and the dedication of the many members of the McMaster community who have

embraced, and worked hard to advance, the vision of *Forward with Integrity*. As I take my leave I am confident that McMaster is well-positioned to achieve even greater success in the future.

CAMPUS UPDATE

Hamiltonians Charles and Margaret Juravinski create \$100M+ Endowment to Fund Health Research in Perpetuity

As Board Members know, Hamilton philanthropists Charles and Margaret Juravinski will create an endowment of more than \$100 million to support researchers across Hamilton Health Sciences, McMaster University and St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton. Their estate gift was announced on May 29 and is one of Canada's largest ever legacy gifts. A planned endowment of \$100 million or more will provide up to \$5 million a year to the institutions, in perpetuity.

The endowment will create the Juravinski Research Centre, which will equally support Hamilton Health Sciences, McMaster University and St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton by funding health research in a variety of areas including cancer, mental health, lung and respiratory care, and diseases of aging.

McMaster signs Government of Canada's Dimensions Charter

McMaster has become one of the first postsecondary institutions in the country to endorse *Dimensions: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Canada*, a pilot program from the Government of Canada designed to transform research culture by strengthening equity, diversity and inclusion.

Inspired by the United Kingdom's internationally recognized Athena SWAN program, the Dimensions charter addresses systemic barriers within the research community, particularly those experienced by members of underrepresented or disadvantaged groups.

Research

McMaster Science and Engineering Researchers receive \$17.8 million in Federal Funding

The federal government is investing \$17.8 million in McMaster, and more than half a billion dollars across Canada, to support science and engineering research. Science and Sport Minister Kirsty Duncan announced the \$588 million investment in the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Discovery Grants program on May 21 in McMaster's newly renovated Arthur Bourns Building.

The new grants will support more than 4,850 researchers and students across the country. The investment includes \$6.2 million in Discovery Launch Supplements for 499 early-career researchers in the first year of their Discovery Grants.

Three McMaster Researchers receive Grants for "high-risk, fast-breaking" Research

Three McMaster researchers have received funds from the Government of Canada's New Frontiers in Research Fund. Joyce Obeid and Alexander Hynes, both of the Faculty of Health Sciences, and Ryan Wylie, of the Faculty of Science, will each receive up to \$250,000 over the next two years.

The New Frontiers in Research Fund supports “high-risk, high-reward interdisciplinary and international research...to help Canadian researchers make the next great discoveries in their fields” specifically for researchers within the first five years of their first academic appointment, according to a Government of Canada press release.

Statistician awarded prestigious Steacie Fellowship

McMaster researcher Paul McNicholas – a statistician and world leader in developing cutting edge methods of analysing data – has been awarded NSERC’s E.W.R Steacie Memorial Fellowship. He is one of six researchers to receive the fellowship, which is awarded annually to enhance the career development of highly promising scientists and engineers.

McMaster Physicist awarded 2019 Brockhouse Medal

Graeme Luke, chair of McMaster’s Department of Physics and Astronomy, was awarded the 2019 Brockhouse Medal by the Canadian Association of Physics. The award recognizes “outstanding experimental or theoretical contributions to condensed matter and materials physics.”

Banting and Vanier Scholars recognized for Innovative, Impactful Research

Seven McMaster graduate and postdoctoral researchers have received Canada’s most prestigious awards for their work in medicine, science, engineering, social sciences and humanities. Political Science PhD candidate Kelsey Leonard has been awarded the Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship, worth \$70,000 a year for up to two years. Six doctoral students have been awarded the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship. Each will receive \$50,000 a year, for up to three years.

New Trudeau Scholar studies how Nationalism and Politics affect Migration

McMaster sociology PhD candidate Carlo Handy Charles has been named a 2019 Pierre Elliott Trudeau Scholar. Carlo is studying how cross-cultural understandings of race, ethnicity, and nationalism shape the perception, acceptance and integration of Haitian refugees in Canada and France.

Offered by the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation, the doctoral scholarship recognizes outstanding, innovative doctoral research. The three-year program provides up to \$180,000 in funding, as well as leadership training and the opportunity to connect and work with leading scholars.

Global and Community Engagement

McMaster Celebrates Indigenous Nurses Day 2019

McMaster hosted the annual Indigenous Nurses Day in May. The event included a panel discussion featuring Indigenous nurses as well as remarks from Bernice Downey, Assistant Professor and the lead on the Indigenous Health Initiative in McMaster’s School of Nursing.

McMaster's Centre for Buddhist Studies receives \$1.2 million for new Visiting Scholar Program

McMaster University's Department of Religious Studies has received its largest donation to date, which creates the Numata Visiting Scholar Program in Buddhist Studies. The \$1.2-million gift comes from Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) — the Society for the Promotion of Buddhism, a global foundation based in Japan. BDK's donation will establish a permanent fund at McMaster for the ongoing study of Buddhism.

Indigenous STEM Day inspires youth from Six Nations Polytechnic

Playing video games might pave a pathway to becoming an engineer for Jarrod Wardell, one of several Grade 9 and 10 students from the Six Nations Polytechnic STEAM Academy program in Brantford who visited McMaster recently.

Wardell and other students spent May 16 touring campus, and building laser tag prototypes using Arduino, an electronics prototyping platform, in the Thode Makerspace.

Santee Smith, McMaster's incoming chancellor, welcomed the Six Nations students to campus.

Community-Campus Exchange aims to put Ideas into Action

130 members of the McMaster and Hamilton communities recently gathered on campus to discuss ways to make a difference in the Hamilton community at the 2019 Community-Campus Idea Exchange. The annual event, which was themed "Forward with Community: The Future Direction of Community Engagement at McMaster," provided an opportunity for campus and community partners to share knowledge and experiences, build relationships, and discuss ways to put ideas into action.

MELD Community Access Award provides ESL opportunities for Hamilton Residents

McMaster's McMaster English Language Development (MELD) program has opened its doors to the community, working with McMaster's Office of Community Engagement to offer annual tuition and fees waivers (valued at approximately \$26,000) for up to 10 Hamilton residents who demonstrate financial need and want to improve their English skills.

"You can't be what you can't see." Girls in Science Day shines a light on Women in Science

Girls in Science Day, which took place on April 26, brought together 105 female Grade 10 students from about 20 local schools to spend the day on campus learning about science. In addition to touring the McMaster Planetarium and LIVELab, the students tried a variety of science, technology, engineering and math activities.

The event, now in its sixth year, is made possible through funding from the Faculty of Science and McMaster Graduate Women in Physics and Astronomy (GWIPA) fundraising efforts throughout the year.

Social Sciences Students recognized for their Advocacy Work

Three McMaster students are the 2019 recipients of the Clarke Prizes in Advocacy and Active Citizenship. Funded by McMaster graduate Ryan Clarke and his wife, Leanne, the prizes are awarded to Social Sciences undergraduates with a vision for an advocacy campaign that brings about social or political change.