

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO
McMASTER UNIVERSITY'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS
DECEMBER 15, 2016**

As Board members know, the University has been engaged for some time in a Brand Marketing project intended to raise McMaster's profile as a highly recognized research-intensive university, promote the University's impact as a research-focused student-centered institution, and build upon McMaster's reputation and visibility with government, industry and the broader community. Following the adoption of the positioning statement, "advancing human and societal health and well-being", which was discussed and accepted across all Faculties, work on the associated brand platform is now well advanced. The creative agency selected by the University has developed two design concepts for the brand platform, which Board members will have the opportunity to review and discuss as part of a lunchtime presentation immediately following the Board meeting.

At the same time that we are working to promote McMaster's strength and reputation as an individual institution, locally, nationally and internationally, the Council of Ontario Universities, which represents all of Ontario's publicly-assisted universities, has launched a "futuring" campaign entitled, "*Creating Conversation for a Better Future*". Developed as a year-long conversation about the province's future, the campaign is intended as a means of considering the complex challenges facing the citizens of Ontario, from disruptive technologies and artificial intelligence to demographic shifts and the impact of climate change, to inform a discussion about how Ontario's universities can be effective and proactive partners in imagining and creating a brighter future for all Ontarians.

The Council of Ontario Universities is inviting everyone who shares an interest in the future: students, parents, alumni, employers, interested citizens and organizations, to join the conversation. Throughout the year a series of roundtable discussions, online chats, surveys, conferences and requests for submissions will invite Ontarians to think about their aspirations and concerns for the future, and how the province's universities might work to address and support those things. The online survey includes questions about the specific skills that students and parents think graduates need to prepare them for the future, and asks for ideas and advice on issues such as how we might work together to build strong industries and jobs for the future, strengthen our growing service sectors, support our artists, protect our natural heritage, and promote good health within our population.

Findings will be made public throughout the year in a series of online postings, blogs and reports, culminating in a summit, which will focus on the ways in which universities can use their skills and talents as educators and researchers to support Ontario and all its citizens to prepare for and influence the changes and challenges that have an impact on our world. The overall goal is to consider and promote the important role that universities can and must play in building a positive future, whether through educating the next generation, expanding the bounds of knowledge through research, fostering entrepreneurship, contributing to community well-being, or developing Ontario's stature internationally.

Every university has been tasked with gathering input within its own community, and our Public Affairs and Alumni Advancement teams are already working to publicize the campaign and engage the McMaster and broader Hamilton communities in the conversation. The online survey can be found at ontariosuniversities.ca and the conversation is also available on social media @futuringON and #futuring. Included with your Board packages members will find a promotional card, which highlights the campaign and promotes the importance of the conversation.

I welcome this campaign and the opportunities it brings to demonstrate the relevance and accessibility of universities, as well as highlighting our important role as community partners at the local and provincial levels and beyond. I look forward to many interesting discussions about our collective futures and the role that McMaster can play in shaping our success.

CAMPUS UPDATE

McMaster Economist wins Polanyi Prize

McMaster economist César Sosa-Padilla has been named one of this year's winners of the John Charles Polanyi Prize. Dr. Sosa-Padilla is an expert in international finance, macroeconomics, fiscal policy, sovereign debt and defaults.

McMaster Arts and Science Student named Rhodes Scholar

Arts & Science student Matthew Jordan has been named a Rhodes Scholar, one of 11 outstanding Canadian students – only two from Ontario – to earn the distinction this year. The Rhodes Scholarships are postgraduate awards which support students undertaking a course of study at Oxford University, UK.

Research

McMaster awarded six new CRCs to support Research Excellence

McMaster has been awarded six new Canada Research Chairs (CRCs) and three renewals, bringing a total of \$8.9M in new funding from a federal program aimed at retaining and attracting research leaders. The nine Chairholders are dedicated to fields of study that range in scale from microbes and molecules to extragalactic stars, and from basic science to addressing complex social issues.

McMaster ranked among Canada's top Research Universities

McMaster has once again ranked among the country's top research universities in the 2016 Research Infosource Inc. rankings. In research intensity, the University improved its position, placing second among Canada's top research universities, averaging \$358,300 per faculty member – nearly double the national average. With a total sponsored research income of \$324.6 million, McMaster maintained its eighth overall position. Research Infosource also looked at total sponsored research income over the last 15 years, with McMaster securing some \$4.6 billion, and ranking sixth overall, rivalling universities nearly double its size. During that same period, universities were ranked by the number of papers published in peer-reviewed scientific international journals, with McMaster placing sixth, publishing 36,469 papers.

Asthma Researcher receives International Honour

Dr. Malcolm Sears, a Professor of Medicine at McMaster and world-renowned for his influential research on asthma, has received the 2016 J. Allyn Taylor International Prize in Medicine. The award from the Robarts Research Institute of Western University is given to an individual or individuals who have made significant contributions to a field of basic or clinical research on a topic selected each year. This year the topic is chronic lung disease, including asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Teaching and Learning

New Degree combines Engineering and Health Sciences

A new degree program that brings together Engineering and Health Sciences to solve real-world problems will launch at McMaster in September 2017. The first of its kind in Canada, the new Integrated Biomedical Engineering and Health Sciences Program (IBEHS) will offer students a five-year biomedical program that integrates Engineering and Health Sciences, allowing multiple pathways to careers in health, engineering and entrepreneurship.

Sustainability Minor highlighted in report on Green Campuses

The Council of Ontario Universities has highlighted McMaster's Interdisciplinary Minor in Sustainability in its annual report on environmental sustainability at the province's universities. The report showcases the ways in which post-secondary institutions across Ontario are fighting climate change, building green communities and embedding the teaching of environmental issues into their curricula. McMaster's Minor was cited as an example of the interdisciplinary approach needed to tackle issues of climate change and sustainability. The program allows students to choose from more than 60 courses in a number of Faculties and provides the opportunity to meaningfully engage with communities both within and outside of McMaster.

McMaster launches new Minor in Community Engagement

Undergraduate students from all Faculties now have a formal pathway to learn the skills they need to make a difference in local, and even global, communities. McMaster now offers an Interdisciplinary Minor in Community Engagement aimed at teaching students the theory and principles of community engagement, while providing them with opportunities to gain hands-on experience working in a community setting.

ArtSci celebrates 35 years

Former faculty, staff and students descended on McMaster recently for the 35th anniversary of the Arts & Science program. The weekend kicked off with an opening reception at the University Club, featuring performances by Arts & Science alumni and students.

Community Engagement

Thousands of children to benefit from Joyce Family Foundation Gift

A \$1.25M gift and matching program will support and expand the Children and Youth University program and its lectures and events. It also seeds a unique matching program that doubles any commitment of support to the program.

Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship awarded to McMaster Alumnus

Geography graduate and former teacher Ken Hall, 86, was recently given the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship. The award recognizes individuals who, through exceptional long-term efforts, have made outstanding contributions to their communities. Throughout his life, Hall has been active in teaching, sport and environmentalism.

Red Dresses blanket Campus to Raise Awareness of Missing Indigenous Women

McMaster held a series of events on campus and participated in the REDress campaign as part of the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. As part of the day, McMaster also commemorated a new plaque and white pine trees near L.R. Wilson Hall dedicated to the memory of missing and murdered Indigenous women.

New “rapid response” Research Service combines McMaster Expertise with Community Needs

The Research Shop, a new “rapid response” research service, taps into the skills of graduate students to provide public, non-profit and community organizations with the research assistance they need. Working with the Research Shop, public and community-based organizations can request a Rapid Research Review – a short, plain language report containing academic literature reviews, key interviews, and a survey of existing practices – completed within six to eight weeks.

McMaster again named a Top Employer in the Hamilton-Niagara region

McMaster has been named one of Hamilton-Niagara’s Top Employers for the second year in a row. Hamilton-Niagara’s Top Employers is an annual competition organized by the editors of Canada’s Top 100 Employers to recognize the Hamilton-Niagara employers that offer exceptional places to work.