

The background of the cover is a photograph of a stone building facade. It features a black lantern-style light fixture on the left, a large section of green ivy in the center, and bare, tangled vines on the right. The building has ornate stone carvings. Overlaid on the top left are geometric shapes: a black rectangle, a yellow rectangle, and a red rectangle containing the title text.

# STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

UNIVERSITY  
of GUELPH

COLLEGE of SOCIAL AND  
APPLIED HUMAN SCIENCES

FALL 2020

## BACKGROUND

The College strategic plan, first implemented in 2016, has been the guiding force behind the decisions and projects established within the College. Throughout the 2019/2020 year, significant progress has been made in reaching the goals set forth in the plan. Many projects already under way have been completed and new projects inline with strategic priorities and which build on previous successes are being planned or have begun.



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2019/2020

The past year has seen unforgettable upheaval. With the Covid-19 pandemic sweeping through the world, the College quickly shifted much of its curriculum and activities to the online realm. The adaptability and innovation of faculty, staff and students has meant that much of the previous work in the College has been able to continue, and new areas of focus and new opportunities have been identified and tackled with agility. The College has also looked to the needs of its students, especially international and graduate students who have been affected by the pandemic, and have allocated resources and financial support.

The past year has also seen violence and racial tension, which reminds us of our need to pursue social and economic justice, and to take a stand against racism wherever it is found. Our strategic priorities have been shaped by these pressing issues.

1. New and innovative academic programs which address areas of need and which build on expertise within the College have been developed. These include the new Justice and Legal Studies program – which also has a co-op option, a certificate in Indigenous Environmental Governance, and the Master of Conservation Leadership program. New co-op programs in geography, environmental governance, anthropology, and criminal justice and public policy have also been added;
2. The launch of the Canada India Research Centre for Learning and Engagement which builds on our research expertise and numerous connections with India. The Centre has already held a series of successful events;
3. The Community Engaged Scholarship Institute (CESI) had a banner year with 48 new partnerships, 1715 students supported through community engaged learning opportunities. CESI supported 7 successful grant applications;
4. CSAHS performed exceptionally well this year with successful tri-agency operating and strategic grants valued at over \$7M in total. Researchers from CSAHS were also awarded funding from the University's COVID-19 Research Development & Catalyst fund to pursue COVID-19 related research projects;
5. The College added nine new funds to support students, totaling \$145,000, including two new bursaries for incoming students; one for a student who identifies as Indigenous and another for a student who identifies as black – supporting our focus on equity, diversity and inclusion within CSAHS;
6. The Interdisciplinary Hub continued to be a valuable resource, the physical space being used for a number of events including the launch of a new Criminal Justice and Public Policy lecture series. This year the Hub has switched to holding events virtually.



## UPCOMING PROJECTS

- ❑ Nokom's House – an Indigenous land-based lab promoting truth, reconciliation and decolonization is being developed.
- ❑ The College is looking to increase support for the Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) communities through new scholarships and bursaries at the undergraduate and graduate levels, a research fund to support graduate student research, and a curriculum development fund to support the development of new courses related to diversity, inclusion and equity. The College, in collaboration with the College of Arts, is exploring a new student-led graduate mentorship program for Black and Indigenous Students.
- ❑ Departments and units are also being encouraged to pursue their own equity, diversity, inclusion & Indigeneity (EDI) initiatives.
- ❑ New interdisciplinary programs are being developed in partnership with the College of Arts. These are a new Black Studies minor and a Gender and Sexuality major.

“It is important that we actively confront systemic problems and pursue justice for all. As a College we are trying to learn from the events of this year and introduce change that does just that”

- Byron Sheldrick, Acting Dean -



## NEXT STEPS

In collaboration with partners across the College, University and beyond, we will continue to establish objectives for projects, provide routine updates to faculty and staff, gather community feedback and provide essential support in the pursuit of the College mission and vision.

Through the Dean's Council and community consultation, the College aims to maintain an inclusive approach to strategic implementation, working with stakeholders across the institution and the greater Guelph community. The aim is to make the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences a model for building consensus and fostering strategic change. We look forward to your feedback and insights as we continue on this journey together.

For further information, to provide feedback on our initiatives or to find out how you can be a part, please contact:

**College of Social & Applied Human Sciences**

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