TRANSFORMING EDUCATION.
TRANSFORMING LIVES.
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
Western University is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapeewak and Attawandaron peoples, who have longstanding relationships to the land and region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London. The local First Nation communities of this area include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. This land is also connected to London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Wampum.

OUR MISSION
We foster informed global citizenship through transformative educational opportunities. We are an engaged academic community guided by the values of integrity and ethics, equity and social justice, and academic and research excellence. We are deeply committed to the delivery of innovative research-intensive and online professional academic programs, which aim to enhance equity and accessibility for all learners; rigorous research defined by high academic and social impact; and culturally and socially responsive service that aims to produce high-quality outcomes that positively affect education and benefit all of society.

OUR VISION
Transforming Education. Transforming Lives.
Welcome to the Faculty of Education

We did it. Five years ago, Western’s Faculty of Education set ambitious targets and we are so pleased to have surpassed our goals. We set out to Take Charge of Our Future and we accomplished just that.

Our Teacher Education program has been reformatted to a newly realized and vibrant two-year degree program, providing the important tools and experience necessary for our candidates to thrive and meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world. Our graduate programs expanded as we launched a suite of professional programs. Our researchers have attracted funding and have produced findings that have been recognized locally, nationally and internationally.

We have added more Research Centres to our faculty in areas of children’s mental health and interdisciplinary curriculum.

And within the last year we have opened our Child and Youth Development Clinic and we have three Canada Research Council nominations.

Everything we have accomplished in the last five years has been with one thought in mind – to help families and children develop the skills they need to flourish.

In truth, we are not done. We are building on our successes and we are Going Global. And we want you to be part of our next chapter.

This Strategic Vision document will highlight for you our various success stories and will introduce to you our plan to continue the important work.

It is an exciting time to be in the Faculty of Education. We are passionate about what we have done – and what we are going to do. Join us on our journey. We are changing the world!

Dr. Vicki Schwean
Dean, Faculty of Education
Western University

Dr. Vicki Schwean
In 2012-2013 academic year, the number of graduate students was 450+. In 2012, the number of research publications was 207. In 2012, our research funding was approximately $1M.

In 2017-2018 academic year, the number of graduate students was 950+. In 2017, the number of research publications was 300+. In 2017, our research funding increased to $24M.

Canadian Research Centre on Inclusive Education;
Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children;
Centre for School Mental Health;
Child and Youth Development Clinic;
Interdisciplinary Centre for Research in Curriculum as a Social Practice;
Mary J. Wright Research and Education Centre at Merrymount;
Three Canada Research Council nominations.

We are pleased to have surpassed our ambitious goals. We set out to Take Charge of our Future and we accomplished just that.
WORKING TOGETHER

We are deeply committed to the spirit of collaboration and respect for diverse knowledges and perspectives, including First Nations, Métis and Inuit worldviews. We are aligned to the tenets of equity and social justice, and we strive to model strong ethical behaviour in all that we do. We are committed to conducting evidence-based research aimed towards positively impacting education and people’s lives around the globe and we are honoured to play a vital role in educating the current and the next generation of teacher practitioners, educational leaders and scholars.

SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

Together, we will develop collaborative partnerships:

• Within Western University and our local Boards of Education to develop and launch the Centre for the Science of Learning;
• Through our diverse Research Centres to create the Child and Youth Institute, focusing on research and practice regarding mental health and resiliency amongst our young people;
• By anticipating emerging challenges and developing innovative and impactful ways to address them;
• Through the implementation of Western University’s Indigenous Strategic Plan and a commitment to strengthening and integrating content in all of our academic streams with curriculum informed by Indigenous perspectives.

Looking beyond our Faculty, we will develop new opportunities by:

• Developing and launching Western Education – Global Initiatives, which focuses on furthering our Faculty’s international efforts through expanded engagement and outreach programs;
• Developing a Global Education Policy Studies research group to create a community of global and international education researchers whose work is relevant and positively impacts academic disciplines at local, national and global educational levels.

Through our research and education programs, we will evolve current and forge new relationships:

• With Boards of Education, we will improve our teacher education partnerships and conduct research in schools;
• Within Western University, the Faculty of Education, our Research Centres, and the Child and Youth Development Clinic, we will ensure collaboration amongst our community.
INNOVATIVE & IMPACTFUL THINKING

We will be inventive and develop new ideas in the pursuit of knowledge that will advance education in Canada and around the world. We will be seen as a leader in education practice and research.

SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

We will develop our graduate students’ research and work experience through:

- Mentoring and training of highly qualified personnel by working with research supervisors and gaining applied research skills;
- Expanding student placement at the Faculty’s Mary J. Wright Research and Education Centre and the Child and Youth Development Clinic;
- Developing research opportunities at our approved Research Centres (see page 23 for a list of our centres);
- Western Education – Global Initiatives becomes a leader in teaching in international contexts.

We will configure and implement programs reflecting contemporary trends in education by:

- Developing our STEM education offerings and expand into STEAM education, where the Arts can fuse creativity and innovation with educational skills;
- Developing model classrooms to reflect the diverse and multiple approaches to teaching that our teacher candidates will need as they enter the profession;
- Adapting to emerging and interdisciplinary areas of study, such as science, second language acquisition, and Indigenous education;
- Developing certificate programs for non-credit-oriented areas, such as Braille Education and teaching skills for higher education STEM disciplines;
- Continuing to design and deliver professional education programs addressing the needs of international school teachers and leaders and global education professionals;
- Expanding existing and creating new research partnerships and providing research-intensive graduate education opportunities in global education;
- Including ‘Research into Practice’ workshops where we bring in-progress faculty and graduate student research to our teacher candidates and to our professional graduate students.
We aspire to internationalize our programming and practices through encouraging international exchange and intercultural dialogue. By engaging across diverse, social, cultural and national contexts, our ideas and practices will be strengthened as we take on more global perspectives in our scholarship and teaching to address challenges that transcend national boundaries and presuppose a common humanity.

**GOING GLOBAL**

We are committed to expanding international opportunities to faculty and students by:

- Enhancing the learning process, improving the readiness and promoting the employability of teacher candidates undertaking an international teaching experience;
- Strengthening and expanding our participation in international exchange programs for our teacher candidates and faculty through visiting fellowships and post-doctoral exchanges;
- Partner with researchers from other faculties and around the world who are conducting international research.

Recruiting top international students will also be a priority. The Faculty’s Western English Language Centre will:

- Expand to recruit students for Huron University College, which combines credits with English Second Language training;
- Cultivate opportunities for Western University through innovative programs, such as English Boost, King’s Enhanced Year (with King’s University College), EnRoute (with Huron University College), and Academic English Programs;
- Develop our international student recruitment for further diversity, including Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Providing a home away from home will also be important. For our international students, we will:

- Be their advocate throughout enrolment and we will foster the Western experience;
- Continue to create an atmosphere that is welcoming, encouraging and one that promotes academic excellence;
- Provide the necessary support that will help them succeed at university.

**SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES**

- Partner with researchers
- Develop students
- International recruitment
Our faculty members and researchers will conduct rigorous research that will make an impact in our communities of research, policy, and practice – locally and globally.

SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

Recruit Canada research chairs
Develop teaching resources
Increase funding

RESEARCH WITH IMPACT

Our Faculty will make an impact through:

• The inauguration of two Tier II Canada Research Chairs (CRCs) in the Science of Learning and Neuroscience and Learning Disorders;

• The inauguration of a Tier I Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience and Learning, in collaboration with the Faculty of Social Science’s Department of Psychology;

• The formation of a Research Centre for the Science of Learning, in partnership with the Faculty of Social Science’s Department of Psychology and the Thames Valley District School Board;

• The development of the Signature Area in Child and Youth Development, focusing on children’s growth and mental health from an interdisciplinary perspective;

• Extending existing and creating new research partnerships with universities, agencies, and other stakeholders globally and nationally;

• Continued exploration of curriculum and policy that contributes to the advancement of teaching and leads to the enhancement of student learning as well as leadership development.

Through our efforts, our researchers will:

• Develop resources for educators, institutions, school boards, governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and community organizations;

• Continue in our excellence of publishing research articles in top-rated scholarly journals;

• Create and collaborate on policy interventions for governmental agencies and related areas of influence;

• Increase our tri-council funding by 30 per cent over the next five years, enabling us to lead and engage in prolific research projects and the engagement of experts from around the globe;

• Share our knowledge with stakeholders, including community, media, government and international organizations.
We are committed to ensuring equitable opportunities and outcomes for all faculty, students and community partners, which will allow everyone to reach their full potential.

SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

Broaden student perspectives
Increase mental health support
New inclusive training

INCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

For our faculty, we will:

• Work within the context of Western University’s Indigenous Strategic Plan to build into our programs, operations, and research areas in ways to broaden perspectives amongst our students, staff, and faculty;

• Support the development and practice of Indigenous, decolonizing and anti-oppressive pedagogical approaches in all teaching and learning environments;

• Involve non-traditional community partners and agencies in our research and we will seek alternative ways to share our knowledge with marginalized people.

Foster a healthy and caring place to work and study through:

• Providing mental health support for our Teacher Candidates and our graduate students;

• Enhancing TeachResiliency.ca, an online resource developed with and for teachers in partnership with our Centre for School Mental Health;

Ensure ongoing revitalization of our teacher education and commitment to equity, diversity, social justice and inclusive education through:

• Responding to contemporary issues facing education through rigorous program and course design and embedded research practices;

• Actively and collectively responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Calls to Action and the ACDE’s Accord on Indigenous Education;

• Reflecting the reality of gender and sexual diversity as it exists in the everyday world;

• Building ‘model classrooms’ that reflect the use of technologies, accessible and flexible workspaces, and collaborative meeting areas used in modern classrooms.

Establishing a Wellness@FOE Team to bring a community of faculty and students together to plan wellness initiatives and activities as we build a supportive and inclusive campus for all students.

For our students, we will:

• Respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Calls to Action and the ACDE’s Accord on Indigenous Education;

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INDIGENIZATION

We have demonstrated our commitment to being deeply invested and actively involved in the development of Western University’s Indigenous Strategic plan. We understand that Indigenization is most effectively organized by embedding an integrated approach across the faculty alongside a leadership structure that contains individuals with specialized training and capabilities. To complement our integrated approach, we will create a new leadership structure that supports us in becoming a notable influence at the local and national levels in Indigenous education. We will nurture and expand our commitments in supporting the distinctive teaching and learning needs of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students while prioritizing Indigenous Peoples’ scholarship, perspectives and ways of knowing.

SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

Partner with communities  Nurture Indigenization  New leadership structure

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Strengthen and build relationships with communities and organizations that serve Indigenous populations through:

• Expanding the partnership agreement of the existing Master of Professional Education program in the field of Aboriginal Education;
• Facilitating placements in Indigenous educational settings with interested pre-service and graduate students;
• Establishing a new leadership structure that includes external facing responsibilities.

Become a destination of choice for Indigenous students, staff and faculty members by:

• Supporting the representation and growth of Indigenous students through the increase of culturally-responsive services, academic supports and targeted recruitment and retention initiatives;
• Increasing the size of the dedicated gathering space for Indigenous people and include use of facilities for Indigenous ceremonies and cultural gatherings;
• Establishing a new leadership structure for Indigenous education and alternative mechanisms for nurturing Indigenous ways of knowing;
• Increasing Indigenous representation in staff and faculty compliment.

Excel in Indigenous teaching, learning, research, and programming by:

• Recognizing and affirming that Indigenous education is sui generis ('a thing of its own kind') and requires alternative pathways that are not necessarily consistent with existing organizational structures and administrative approaches;
• Developing a communications tool that profiles Indigenous education and relevant research initiatives;
• Assisting in the co-development of Indigenous intercultural and decolonizing training for all staff, faculty and students;
• Supporting community-based Indigenous scholarship, Indigenous research models of praxis and Indigenous Research and community partnerships and initiatives;
• Establishing a Canada Research Chair in Indigenous education or related area.

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At the Faculty of Education, we are proud of our Research Centres. Everyday, our researchers and graduate students are conducting world-class scholarship as they tackle the problems our children and families face in society. Together, we are striving to make a positive difference in our world.

**Children and youth**
- Canadian Research Centre on Inclusive Education
- Centre for School Mental Health
- Child and Youth Development Clinic
- Interdisciplinary Centre for Research in Curriculum as a Social Practice
- Mary J. Wright Research and Education Centre at Merrymount
- Provincial Centre of Excellence for Early Years and Child Care

**Anti-violence**
- Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children

**International**
- Western Education – Global Initiatives

To learn more about our research centres, visit www.edu.uwo.ca/centres
HELP US REALIZE OUR VISION.

To make a donation contact:

**Rosie Triebner, CFRE**
Director, Community Engagement & Development

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