

Report of the President & Vice-Chancellor to Senate

June 17, 2025

Dear Senate colleagues,

Let me begin by offering my thanks to those of you who attended any of our ten Convocation ceremonies earlier this month. With over 1,000 students walking across the stage, it is truly the greatest honour to be part of such a ceremony and to celebrate the achievements of our graduands with their families. I was pleased to see many faculty members reconnect with their students as we wish them well on their next adventure. Convocation is a monumental logistical undertaking, and my thanks go out to the many staff and volunteers who made these special ceremonies possible.

Our graduates were also celebrated by four honorary doctorate recipients, who spoke at multiple ceremonies. These included Thomas (Tom) R. Greco, Kristan Straub, Dawn Madahbee Leach, and Luciano (Lu) Galasso. We were also fortunate to have alumni guest speakers return to campus to share their journeys and insights with the graduating students.

Canadian Mining Expo

The 2025 Canadian Mining Expo took place at the beginning of June at the McIntyre Complex in Timmins, with the gala dinner and awards night on June 3 followed by the trade show on June 4 and 5. With over 400 exhibits, this event showcased the latest innovations, products, and services in the mining industry. Laurentian is a proud sponsor of the event, which featured discussion of key topics, including the First Nations Forum and the Projects in the Pipeline series. Many Laurentian University team members attended to network with industry, partners, collaborators, prospective students, and influencers.

Meeting with alumni in Timmins

At the beginning of May, I spent some time in Timmins reconnecting with alumni. This visit included a meeting with the local MPP, Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth The Honourable George Pirie, as well as with the Mayor of Timmins Michelle Boileau. I also attended an event at the Timmins Chamber of Commerce and hosted a group of alumni for lunch before returning to Sudbury. It is always a pleasure to expand our community relationships and to re-connect with alumni, especially when they are making critical contributions to Northern Ontario.

National Building Reconciliation Forum

From May 14-15, I was also pleased to attend the National Building Reconciliation Forum 2025 at First Nations University Canada and the University of Regina. This year's Forum focused on the theme 'Responsibility as Reconciliation', marking a decade since the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 94 Calls to Action. The Forum, supported by Universities Canada, brings together Canadian university presidents and leadership teams, Indigenous leaders, student

representatives, and scholars dedicated to advancing meaningful reconciliation. The Forum aims to provide a platform for critical discussions on how to sustain and deepen reconciliation efforts within post-secondary institutions. Given my previous connections to First Nations University Canada, I was especially privileged to return to my former institution.

Congratulations

Engineering Students Present Novel Method of Dismantling Sudbury's Superstack

A team of senior Engineering students from Laurentian has developed an innovative solution to a longstanding local engineering conundrum: how to safely and systematically dismantle towering industrial stacks like Sudbury's iconic Superstack.

Inspired by the ongoing decommissioning of large smokestacks across North America, Laurentian Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering students Tyler Marcon, Alex Giguere, Quinn Roos, and Emmanuel Mukwakwami designed and prototyped a robotic system capable of disassembling reinforced concrete stacks from the top down. Their project, which formed part of Professor Markus Timusk's Capstone Design course, earned top honours in the course's annual project awards.

Student wins top award at Chemistry conference with study on retinal cell health

Sonia Carrier, a fourth-year student in Laurentian University's Bachelor of Science, Spécialisation en Biochimie program, has earned a top honour at the 53rd Southern Ontario Undergraduate Student Chemistry Conference (SOUSCC). Held on March 29 at the University of Guelph, Carrier stood out among more than 150 student researchers and was awarded one of two prizes for Best Presentation in the Biomedical/Medicinal Chemistry division. Sonia's research was supervised by Dr. Guangdong Yang, Full Professor, School of Natural Sciences.

Faculty of Management Expands Global Reach with New International Agreements

Laurentian University's Faculty of Management announced multiple new international agreements aimed at deepening academic collaboration and expanding global opportunities for students, faculty, and researchers. These partnerships emphasize a commitment to fostering international experiences and specifically enabling these opportunities for our growing population of francophone students.

Congratulations to Dr. Parvinder Arora, Dean of the Faculty of Management, and his team for creating these new agreements. The Memorandums of Understanding are designed to enrich the student learning experience and position Laurentian's Faculty of Management as a hub for international business education and applied research.

Sincerely,

Lynn Wells
President & Vice-Chancellor