

2025 Sharing Information on Progress **(SIP) Report**

University of the Fraser Valley -
School of Business

Table of Contents

1. About PRME	3
2. About SDGs	5
3. Getting Started	6
4. Purpose	13
5. Values	18
6. Teach	20
7. Research	26
8. Partner	31
9. Practice	36
10. Share	39

About the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME)

The Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) is a United Nations-supported initiative founded in 2007 that aims to raise the profile of sustainability in their classrooms through Seven Principles focused on serving society and safeguarding our planet.

PRME engages business and management schools to ensure they provide future leaders with the skills needed to balance economic and sustainability goals, while drawing attention to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and aligning academic institutions with the work of the UN Global Compact. Driven by its mission to transform management education, PRME equips today's business students with the understanding and ability to deliver change tomorrow. As a voluntary initiative with over 800 signatories worldwide, PRME has become the largest organized relationship between the United Nations and management-related higher education institutions.



“ *The PRME initiative was launched to nurture responsible leaders of the future. Never has this task been more important. Bold leadership and innovative thinking are needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).* **”**

Antonio Guterres

Secretary-General (2017 - Present)

United Nations

Principles of PRME



Purpose

We advance responsible management education to foster inclusive prosperity in a world of thriving ecosystems.



Values

We place organizational responsibility and accountability to society and the planet at the core of what we do.



Teach

We transform our learning environments by integrating responsible management concepts and practices into our curriculum and pedagogy.



Research

We study people, organizations, institutions, and the state of the world to inspire responsible management and education practice.



Partner

We engage people from business, government, civil society, and academia to advance responsible and accountable management education and practice.



Practice

We adopt responsible and accountable management principles in our own governance and operations.



Share

We share our successes and failures with each other to enable our collective learning and best live our common values and purpose.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In September 2015, all 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted a plan for achieving a better future for all – laying out a path over the next 15 years to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and protect our planet. At the heart of Agenda 2030 are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 related targets that address the most important economic, social, environmental and governance challenges of our time. The SDGs clearly define the world we want – applying to all nations and leaving no one behind. Successful implementation of the SDGs will require all players to champion this agenda; the role of higher education is critical to this.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





Getting Started

This section provides foundational information about University of the Fraser Valley - School of Business, including key details and basic institutional data.

Mission

The Mission of the UFV School of Business is "to empower our students to contribute positively to the sustainable development of our communities and succeed in the global economy. We will accomplish this by providing a diverse and inclusive learning environment that fosters teaching excellence, innovation, leadership, and social responsibility. We will do this while honouring the traditions of the Indigenous Peoples of this land."

Vision

The Vision of the UFV School of Business states that "the UFV School of Business advances sustainable development in the Fraser Valley and beyond, through adaptive, research-informed, experiential, and applied business education. Graduates show leadership and employability potential, academic excellence, ethical integrity, and social responsibility."

Strategy

Strategic Objectives 2025-2030

The UFV School of Business Strategic Plan 2025-2030 outlines our institutional priorities for the next five years. This strategy reflects extensive input and consultation from faculty and staff, and positions the School for continued growth and relevance in a rapidly changing environment.

Strategic Goals:

1. Enhance the relevance of our programs and curriculum: Ensure our academic programs and curriculum remain current, applied, and responsive to evolving business and societal needs.
2. Expand community partnerships and engagement: Deepen partnerships with local organizations and communities to enhance learning and create shared value.
3. Promote research excellence that informs classroom teaching: Support high-quality research that contributes to knowledge, informs teaching, and addresses real-world issues.
4. Promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and Indigenous perspectives: Promote an inclusive environment that values diverse voices and integrates Indigenous knowledge respectfully.
5. Expand global reach and impact: Increase international connections and opportunities to prepare students for success in a globalized world.
6. Strengthen the culture, capabilities, and impact: Strengthen our organizational capacity through continuous improvement and collaboration.

UFV School of Business _ Strategic Plan 2025-2030



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Strategy Alignment

Strategy Alignment

At the UFV School of Business, our strategic priorities are aligned with the goals of quality education, sustainable development, and the common good. This alignment is reflected in our vision, mission, values, and strategic goals, which collectively guide our approach to governance, pedagogy, research, and curriculum.

Quality Education

The UFV School of Business demonstrates a strong and comprehensive commitment to the value of quality education, as reflected in our strategic priorities. Our Vision and Mission, along with our core values, clearly articulate the School's primary purpose: fostering student success and preparing well-rounded graduates. We define quality education not only in terms of academic excellence but also through the development of employability, leadership, integrity, and social responsibility. These foundational principles guide the qualities we expect our graduates to embody and outline the approaches we take to achieve these outcomes.

To deliver on this commitment, our Vision and Mission emphasize maintaining programs that are current with industry trends, grounded in the latest research, and delivered through high-quality, experiential, and applied teaching. This commitment is reinforced through our strategic goals, which focus on continuously enhancing program relevance, accessibility, and engagement. We strive to provide diverse program offerings and multiple pathways to ensure broader access, while also fostering connections with key stakeholders, including local school districts and alumni, to enrich the student experience before, during, and after matriculation.

Research plays a critical role in our understanding of quality education. We aim to strengthen the integration of research into our curriculum and increase opportunities for both faculty and students to engage in meaningful research activities.

Additionally, we are focused on strengthening our quality assurance and academic integrity practices to uphold the highest standards in education. We recognize accreditation as a vital tool for continuous improvement and are actively seeking to expand our accreditations to support ongoing development.

Finally, the School is equally committed to promoting a vibrant and inclusive student life. We aim to foster student engagement and provide support for underrepresented groups to ensure all students thrive.

Sustainable Development

Our strategic priorities reflect a strong commitment to the value of Sustainable Development. This focus is clearly articulated in our Vision and Mission, which emphasize the advancement of sustainable development as a core objective. The School's stated values, including Community, further reinforce this commitment by highlighting the importance of sustainable growth.

Our strategic goals outline specific actions to support this objective, including the increased integration of sustainability principles into the curriculum and the development of community partnerships and projects that advance sustainable development. Additionally, the School benefits from being part of a parent institution that also prioritizes sustainability, as at the broader university level, sustainability initiatives are championed by the Office of Sustainability.

Common Good

The UFV School of Business's strategic priorities are closely aligned with the pursuit of the common good. This goal is clearly articulated in the School's Vision and Mission, which emphasize leadership, ethical integrity, and social responsibility. The School's values, such as *Integrity*, *Community*, and *Inclusivity*, further reinforce this commitment.

Evidence of this focus is also found in the School's strategic goals, which include the increased integration of corporate social responsibility (CSR) principles into the curriculum, the development of meaningful community partnerships, the support of social innovation, and the promotion of a culture rooted in inclusivity, collaboration, and respect. Through these efforts, the School of Business is advancing a responsible and forward-looking approach to education that empowers learners and contributes to a lasting, positive impact on society.

At the UFV School of Business, we understand that each of these values is mutually supporting. Our commitment to quality education reinforces our efforts toward sustainable development, while both contribute to advancing the common good. Together, these priorities shape a learning environment

that is ethical and forward-thinking – one that prepares our graduates to lead with integrity, respond to real-world challenges, and make meaningful contributions to society. As we continue to evolve, these guiding values remain at the heart of our mission and our impact.

Institutional History

Institutional History of RME

History of the Institution and Path Toward Responsible Management Education (RME)

The University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) was founded in 1974 as *Fraser Valley College* to meet the educational needs of the local community in British Columbia, Canada. In 1991, it became *University College of the Fraser Valley*, and in 2008 it achieved full university status, becoming the University of the Fraser Valley. Over the decades, UFV has grown to offer a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs, while strengthening its focus on community engagement, student-centred learning, and social responsibility.

Adoption of RME and Commitment to PRME

On December 17, 2014, the School of Business became a signatory to the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) initiative, thus committing to integrating sustainability, ethics, and social responsibility into teaching, research, and operations. This commitment was aligned with broader strategic values and priorities.

Strategic Alignment

In 2024, the School adopted a new strategic plan. The plan further affirms the School's commitment to the principles of RME by embedding them into its vision, mission, values, and goals.

Institutional Support: The Office of Sustainability

In parallel, UFV's broader institutional commitment to sustainability has been significantly strengthened through the development of the Office of Sustainability (OoS), which became a formal department in 2021. This office supports the integration of sustainability across all university functions – operational, academic, and community engagement – thereby reinforcing RME efforts campus-wide.

Key milestones include:

- **2021:** Office of Sustainability officially established as a UFV department.

- **2022:** Launch of the Sustainable Event Certification program and engagement initiatives like the Ecochallenge and Plastic-Free July.
- **2023:** Launch of Sustainable Office Certification and release of annual Sustainability Reports, documenting energy, emissions, waste, and SDG progress.
- **2023:** UFV signs the SDG Accord, committing the university to global goals in education and operations.
- **2024:** Development of the Sustainability Action Pathway (SAP), UFV's long-term strategic roadmap for integrating sustainability across teaching, research, and campus life.

One of the Office's most impactful tools has been its Annual Sustainability Report, which highlights UFV's achievements and progress across a range of environmental and social metrics. The report tracks emissions reductions, energy efficiency upgrades, waste diversion, and program impacts aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It also reinforces transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement – core principles of responsible management education. The report is widely shared across the institution, contributing to knowledge mobilization and culture change in support of sustainability and responsible management education.

The Office's work complements the School of Business's PRME commitments by fostering an institution-wide culture of sustainability and accountability. These developments demonstrate UFV's evolution from informal sustainability efforts to a systemic, values-driven approach aligned with global RME and PRME principles.

Graduates & Enrollment

2024 Statistics	Number
Graduates	262
Faculty & Staff at the University	1,788
Faculty & Staff at the Institution	54
Student Enrollment at the University	15,960
Student Enrollment at the Institution	1,657
Undergraduate Attendance	1,657

2024 Statistics	Number
Masters-Level Postgraduate Attendance	0
Doctoral Student Attendance	0
Certificate, Professional Development, or Continuing Education Attendance	25

Degrees Offered

Bachelor Programs

 Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.)

Undergraduate Degree Programmes

 Bachelor of Business Administration

 Bachelor of Business Administration (Aviation)



Purpose

We advance responsible management education to foster inclusive prosperity in a world of thriving ecosystems.

Letter of Commitment



University of the Fraser Valley
33844 King Road
Abbotsford, BC V2S 7M8
www.ufv.ca | 604-504-7441

September 2, 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Over the past two years, the Faculty of Business and Computing (FBC) has advanced our integration of the United Nations Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) through a diverse range of initiatives in teaching, research, engagement, and organizational practices. Our 2025 Sharing Information on Progress (SIP) Report provides evidence of our ongoing efforts and achievements over the 2023 and 2024 calendar years, while this letter reaffirms our commitment to the PRME principles and their continued integration.

At the program level, faculty have embedded sustainability and social responsibility themes across multiple courses. For example, case-based learning on sustainable business strategy has been expanded in senior-level courses, and research-informed teaching on circular economy practices has been piloted in both undergraduate and graduate classrooms. Our students continue to connect classroom learning with practice through experiential projects, addressing topics such as sustainable finance, ethical supply chains, and Indigenous business development.

FBC has also strengthened its outreach and dialogue platforms. *The Dean's Community Alumni & Stakeholder Engagement Series* has convened alumni, educators, and community leaders to examine regional workforce needs and youth development. In 2024, the session *Reaching for the Stars* featured collaboration with Mission Literacy in Motion and the School of Computing to introduce coding to local youth, building digital literacy as a foundation for regional sustainability. Similarly, the *Dean's Conversation Series* has created space for cross-disciplinary discussions on issues such as innovation in education, reconciliation, and the role of technology in sustainable economies.

Research and thought leadership remain central to our PRME integration. Highlights include the March 2025 session on *Economic Sustainability and One Health* delivered by Dr. Lenore Newman, which drew attention to the intersections of environmental health, food systems, and economic development. Faculty across the School of Business have also advanced publications and grants addressing business sustainability, ethical governance, and responsible leadership.

Internally, FBC has strengthened its organizational practices through initiatives like *the Dean's Coffee Series* and the annual *Spark! Faculty and Staff Social*, which promote community while centring values of inclusivity and reconciliation. Spark! has continued its tradition of distributing faculty-wide readings on Indigenous issues, deepening collective awareness and learning.

As proud signatories of PRME, we remain committed to advancing sustainability, ethics, and responsibility across all facets of our work.

On behalf of the Faculty of Business and Computing and the School of Business, I am honoured to present this report, recognizing our collective achievements and reaffirming our vision of preparing the next generation of leaders to contribute meaningfully to a just, inclusive, and sustainable global economy.

Sincerely,



Dr. Chris Schinckus
Dean, Faculty of Business and Computing
University of the Fraser Valley

The University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) recognizes and honours the contributions that Indigenous Peoples have – and continue – to make for our community. UFV supports Indigenous learners and seeks to incorporate Indigenous ways of knowing in the curriculum.



Letter of Commitment from Senior Officer

September 19, 2025

Dear PRME Community,

It is both a privilege and a responsibility, as Director of the School of Business at the University of the Fraser Valley, to reaffirm our School's commitment to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME).

For us, PRME is not just a framework, it is a way of thinking and leading. We believe business education must go beyond technical skills to cultivate responsible leaders who act with integrity, embrace diversity, and place sustainability at the heart of decision-making.

At UFV's School of Business, we are weaving these values into the fabric of what we do: in the classroom, in research, in how we work with industry, and in how we engage with our community. We want our students to graduate not only career-ready, but also world-ready, able to make decisions that balance profitability with purpose, innovation with inclusion, and growth with sustainability.

It is through our new strategic plan that these principles are brought to life. By embedding them directly into our vision, mission, values, and strategic priorities, we reinforce our commitment to responsible management education. The plan further reaffirms our student-focused approach, placing the development of well-rounded, employable graduates with strong leadership, integrity, and a sense of social responsibility at the core of our work, while also ensuring a continued responsibility to contribute to sustainable development and the common good.

We are grateful to be part of the global PRME network, learning and sharing alongside colleagues around the world who are equally committed to shaping management education for a better future. Together, we can ensure that business remains not just a force for economic success, but also a force for good.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Khyati Shetty".

Khyati Shetty
Director, School of Business
University of the Fraser Valley

Definition of Purpose

The UFV School of Business advances responsible management education by strengthening regional prosperity, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, and building community partnerships. Through innovative programs, global accreditations, community outreach, and action-oriented projects, we promote social innovation, economic development, and environmental sustainability.

Institutional Engagement

26% - 50%

of faculty at University of the Fraser Valley - School of Business actively contribute to our work with PRME, advancing responsible management education, or addressing sustainable development challenges through their work.



Values

We place organizational responsibility and accountability to society and the planet at the core of what we do.

How We Define Values

We embrace the Values Principle by embedding sustainable development in all aspects of our strategy - from our vision, mission, and values, to our strategic goals.

Who Champions Responsible Management Education at Our Institution

- ❖ Centralized sustainability office
- ❖ Interdisciplinary efforts across business school
- ❖ Interdisciplinary efforts across parent organization
- ❖ Research or issue group, society, or club leading sustainability efforts
- ❖ Senior leadership office
- ❖ Student contributor

Student Awareness

26% - 50% of students at University of the Fraser Valley - School of Business are aware that we are a PRME Signatory Member.

Student Engagement

26% - 50% of students at University of the Fraser Valley - School of Business actively contribute to our work with PRME, advancing RME, or addressing sustainable development challenges through their work.

Additional Evidence

UFV Sustainability Report _ 2023-2024



Scan QR code to access document



Teach

We transform our learning environments by integrating responsible management concepts and practices into our curriculum and pedagogy.

How We Define Teach

Teach means helping students learn to lead responsibly, think critically, and contribute positively to organizations and society. As a teaching-focused, student-centred institution, teaching is our first priority.

Courses that support RME

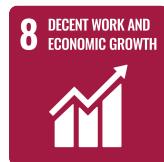
University of the Fraser Valley - School of Business reports 6 courses in 2024 that support responsible management education and sustainable development goals.

BUS 203 Organizational Behaviour

| Bus 203

Emphasizing the human side of organizations, this course consists of a general overview of the basic concepts and theories of the behavior of individuals and groups in organizations. Students will participate in a variety of structured learning experiences where theories and concepts can be applied

This course is making a meaningful impact by helping students connect theory to real-world leadership and team experiences. Through collaborative projects, reflective writing, and active engagement, students are not only learning about organizational behaviour—they're developing the skills and insights needed to thrive in dynamic workplaces. It's a journey of growth, understanding, and practical application that empowers students to become thoughtful, effective contributors in any organizational setting.



Data Driven Business Decisions

| Bus 384

Every day, quintillions of bytes of data are created. Successful managers need to know how to leverage data from disparate sources. This course focuses on a strategic approach to the opportunity and challenges related to business data including strategies, tools, and techniques.

This course is empowering students to become confident, data-savvy decision-makers. Through hands-on simulations, real-world tools like Tableau, and thoughtful exploration of data strategies, students are learning to turn information into insight. It's exciting to see them build practical skills while developing a deeper understanding of how data shapes the future of business.

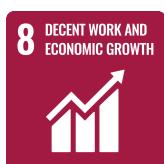


Financial Management

| Bus 349

Calendar description The principles of effective corporate financial management are essential in running any business organization. This course will target various aspects of managing an organization financially, focusing on the theory and application of financial analysis, valuation, capital budgeting, and risk. Note: This course is offered as BUS 349 and ECON 349. Students may take only one of these for credit

This course is helping students build a strong foundation in financial decision-making, giving them the tools to understand and analyze the financial health of organizations. Through hands-on assignments and real-world applications, students are gaining confidence in navigating complex financial concepts. It's exciting to see them grow into thoughtful, capable professionals ready to make smart, strategic contributions in any business setting.

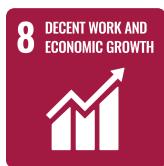


International Marketing

| Bus 421

Students explore the challenges of navigating and integrating foreign countries' ethnic diversity, customs, values, policies, and institutions when implementing the marketing mix principles in a global marketplace. Student teams develop an international marketing plan that addresses the strategic implications and applications of different political, cultural, legal, economic, and environmental factors on global marketing management and on a firm's ability to allocate resources to meet its international marketing objectives.

This course is opening students' eyes to the complexities and opportunities of global business. By working on real-world international marketing plans and engaging with diverse cultural, political, and economic contexts, students are developing the strategic thinking and global awareness needed to thrive in international markets. It's a transformative experience that builds confidence, creativity, and a deep appreciation for doing business across borders.

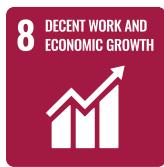


Income Tax 1

| Bus 345

Introduces the Canadian system of income taxation for individuals. Specific study concentrates on the rules and procedures in the Canadian Income Tax Act. Topics include employment income, income from business, income from property, capital gains and losses, eligible deductions such as RRSPs, and capital cost allowances.

This course gives students a practical and empowering understanding of Canada's tax system. By learning how to navigate real-world tax scenarios, students gain confidence in applying complex rules and making informed financial decisions. It's a foundational step toward becoming financially literate and professionally prepared—skills that truly make a difference in everyday life and future careers.

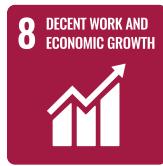


Introduction to Business

| Bus 100

Success in a complex changing business environment requires analytical proficiency to make critical decisions. This course provides a comprehensive overview of organizational functions and processes. It prepares students to critically analyze business problems and develop the skills necessary to resolve them.

This course gives students a dynamic and engaging introduction to the world of business. Through hands-on projects, team collaboration, and real-world company analysis, students begin to see how business concepts come to life. It's a confidence-building experience that helps them discover their strengths, sharpen their communication skills, and feel inspired about their future in business.



Educator Recognition

At University of the Fraser Valley - School of Business, we recognize educators for quality of teaching in the following ways:

- ❖ Annual teaching excellence awards
- ❖ Course evaluation scores
- ❖ Faculty promotion and tenure consideration
- ❖ Institutional recognition events
- ❖ Pedagogical innovation grants

💡 Fostering Innovation



To a great extent

Teaching and learning at our institution strongly foster innovation.

💡 Experiential Learning



To a great extent

Teaching and learning at our institution strongly encourage experiential learning.

💡 Learning Mindset



To a great extent

Teaching and learning at our institution strongly promote a lifelong learning mindset.

💡 Method of Teaching and Learning



In person

Traditional classroom-based learning with face-to-face instruction.

Barriers to Innovative Curriculum

In 2024, University of the Fraser Valley - School of Business identified the following barriers to innovating, updating, or taking risks in existing curriculum:

- ❖ Change fatigue
- ❖ Assessment challenges

Barriers to Innovative Pedagogy

In 2024, University of the Fraser Valley - School of Business identified the following barrier to innovating, updating, or taking risks in existing pedagogy:

- ❖ Assessment rigor concerns



Research

We study people, organizations, institutions, and the state of the world to inspire responsible management and education practice.

How We Define Research

Research is the generation of new knowledge that deepens our understanding of people, organizations, and systems. Our research informs and enhances teaching, ensuring that students engage with current, relevant, and responsible management practices that reflect both academic and real-world application.

Research vs Research for RME/Sustainable Development

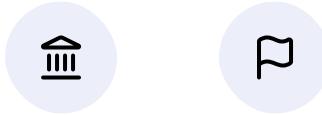
25 Peer-reviewed articles were published by University of the Fraser Valley - School of Business from this past calendar year.

vs

22 Peer-reviewed articles were published by University of the Fraser Valley - School of Business from this past calendar year in support of RME.

Research Funding

In 2024, University of the Fraser Valley - School of Business was awarded funding for research that is:



Institution
Specific

National

Socializing Research

In 2024, University of the Fraser Valley - School of Business contributed research findings to:

- ❖ Local media
- ❖ Open-access platforms
- ❖ Research collaborations
- ❖ Social media and digital outreach
- ❖ National media
- ❖ Industry and business networks
- ❖ Public events and lectures
- ❖ Community organizations
- ❖ Government and policy makers

Research Awards

In 2024, University of the Fraser Valley - School of Business was awarded 1 research award for responsibility- and/or sustainability-related research.



SMA 2024 Best Doctoral Student Paper in the Organizational Behavior Track

Granter: Southern Management Association (SMA)

Grantee: Mariana Toniolo Barrios

Award Description:

Award for the best paper authored by a PhD candidate in the Organizational Behavior track at the 2024 Southern Management Association (SMA) Conference.

Research Presentations Related to RME and/or Sustainability

In 2024, University of the Fraser Valley - School of Business gave 1 research presentation related to RME and/or sustainability.

Creating an Upward Spiral: The Effects of Mindfulness on Thinking Positively

Authors: Dr. Mariana Toniolo Barrios, School of Business, University of the Fraser Valley | Dr. Lieke ten Brummelhuis, Beedie School of Business, Simon Fraser University

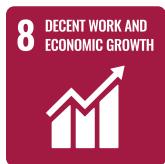
Date of publication: October, 2024

Presented at: National or international academy of management

Department: Human Resource Management

Although mindfulness is defined as a non-evaluative, pre-reflexive state of mind, it is often described in the literature as a practice that promotes positively modulated states of mind. To shed light on this debate, this paper investigates whether mindfulness first fosters a neutral state of mind by removing negative thoughts, and later promotes increases in a positive state of mind. In Study 1, an experimental experience sampling study, we examine whether state mindfulness, generated by short-term mindfulness training, is immediately related to reduced negative affect and later fosters increases in optimism. In Study 2, a three-wave longitudinal study, we examine whether individuals with higher levels of trait mindfulness experience increased general levels of resilience because they experience reduced depressive feelings. Study 1 shows that state mindfulness is related to reduced state negative affect, and that increases in the rate of change of mindfulness across three weeks are significantly related to increases in the rate of change of optimism. Study 2 shows that trait

mindfulness is related to increased general levels of resilience through reduced general levels of depressive feelings. Taken together, the findings of the two studies suggest that mindfulness first leads to a neutral state of mind and later leads to a positively modulated state of mind.



Publications Related to RME and/or Sustainability

DOI

Regenerating Place: Highlighting the Role of Ecological Knowledge



Authors: Dr. Saeed Rahman, School of Business, University of the Fraser Valley | Nhan Thanh Nguyen, Gustavson School of Business, University of Victoria | Dr. Natalie Slawinski, Gustavson School of Business, University of Victoria

Date of publication: January, 2024

Department: Management

As many local places globally suffer from ecological and social decline, sustainability research increasingly recognizes the critical importance of studying organizational efforts toward regenerating local communities and ecosystems. This emerging research, however, overlooks the role of ecological knowledge, that is, place-based understanding of the processes and functions of the ecosystems in which organizations operate. As such, we ask "How do organizations harness ecological knowledge to advance the regeneration of local places?" Through an inductive study of nine certified organic farming organizations on Vancouver Island, Canada, we find that organizations engage in three cyclical and closely interlinked practices of identifying, acquiring, and applying ecological knowledge which together enhance their organizational performance while contributing to regenerating the local social-ecological systems. Our empirically grounded model of leveraging ecological knowledge contributes to research on sustainability and place, and to studies of regeneration, by uncovering the specific practices that enable firms to develop place-based regenerative solutions.



Research Barriers

In 2024, University of the Fraser Valley - School of Business identified the following barriers to conducting research related to sustainability and/or responsibility:

- ❖ Funding challenges
- ❖ Participant recruitment
- ❖ Time constraints



Partner

We engage people from business, government, civil society, and academia to advance responsible and accountable management education and practice.

How We Define Partner

The Partner Principle means actively collaborating with businesses, government, civil society, and academic institutions to strengthen responsible management education. Through these partnerships, we co-create learning opportunities, share knowledge, and promote accountability, ensuring that our programs remain relevant and aligned with the needs of society and the evolving business landscape.

Institutional Partnerships

- ❖ EFMD (European Foundation for Management Development)
- ❖ Ministries of Education, Higher Education, or similar national bodies
- ❖ University Councils
- ❖ Local institutions and associations
- ❖ AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business)
- ❖ AASHE (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education)
- ❖ United Nations organs other than the UN Global Compact

Student Organization Partnerships

- ❖ Enactus
- ❖ PRME Global Students

Partnerships

The following provides more details on 10 key partnerships at University of the Fraser Valley - School of Business.

Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) Business Education Alliance

Schools of Business (AACSB) Business Education Alliance, a non-profit association that connects educators, students, and businesses who share the common goal of creating the next generation of leaders and who are interested in high quality educational and benchmarking resources specifically designed for business programs and faculty.

As a member of the AACSB Business Education Alliance, the UFV School of Business is part of the world's largest network of business schools and organizations focused on advancing business education, and our membership indicates our willingness to align our practices with the most prestigious business schools in the world. Through content-driven events, publications,

comprehensive data tools, and industry research, this alliance connects our school with top business educators and industry leaders from nearly 100 countries. The AACSB membership is vital to the continued success of the UFV School of Business, as it offers various avenues for the School to learn and benchmark, as well as to contribute to the meaningful development of business schools in Canada and the world. It is our goal to move from membership to full accreditation in the very near future.

European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD)

The EFMD is a global, non-profit organization and accreditation body, that substantiates the quality of management education through established accreditation services for business schools and their programs. Their EFMD Programme Accreditation System (EPAS) is the one of the leading international systems of quality assessment, improvement, and accreditation for business programmes. We have successfully renewed our EFMD status.

Recently, one of our areas of required improvement was to continue to advance the internationalization features of our BBA. In response to this directive, we have taken many important steps. For instance, we launched the International Business Major and Minor and have explored the introduction of collaborative online intercultural learning – virtual exchange (COIL-VE) projects into the BBA program. We have continued to recruit faculty with international experience and have encouraged faculty to increase the amount of international content within courses so as to further the international learning experience. Finally, we formed a committee to review the BBA with the goal to increase flexibility within the program and thus promote study abroad, international study tours, and co-op opportunities for students. In exploring our options to increase the number of quality international strategic partnerships and promote student mobility and cross-cultural understanding, the School has developed a partnership with the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, consisting of an annual event centred around leadership, the International Leadership Week. In 2021, the School of Business hosted the event online, however last year's event welcomed guests back in-person to Vancouver.

Bank of Nova Scotia

We hosted workshops at the Bank of Nova Scotia, themed "Women in the Community.", helping women advance their corporate careers.

Abbotsford Women's Chamber

We provided mentorship and learning resources to businesswomen in the Abbotsford Women's Chamber.

Stolo Community Futures

We partnered with Stolo Community Future on the development of the Stolo Future Certificate, aiming to support Indigenous leaders. This links with UN SDG16 and 17.

Office of Sustainability at University of Fraser Valley

We partnered with the Office of Sustainability at UVF to host the SDG Lab Initiative (2025), which aligns with the following SDG goals:

SDG 4: Quality Education – The SDG Lab fosters interdisciplinary learning, awareness, and action toward the Sustainable Development Goals among students and the wider community.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals – This initiative exemplifies institutional collaboration to mainstream SDG thinking and drive campus-wide engagement with global challenges.

SDG 13: Climate Action – By providing a space to ideate and act on sustainability challenges, the Lab promotes grassroots climate consciousness and systemic solutions.

Food and Agriculture Institute (FAI)

We partnered with Food and Agriculture Institute (FAI), which supports SDG 2: Zero Hunger; SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production; SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Specifically, this partnership supports Canada's efforts to ensure food security by innovating for sustainable and safe food production, advocates for agri-food innovation that aligns with strengthening sustainable food systems and supporting agricultural entrepreneurship, and emphasizes sustainability in food systems, which helps reduce environmental impact and waste. Besides, the collaboration with FAI and broader industry stakeholders enhances multilateral cooperation in shaping Canada's food future.

Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce

Dr. Khyati Shetty serves on the Board of Directors for the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce.

Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts

For over 10 years now, the UFV School of Business has hosted an annual International Leadership Week in partnership with the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, based in Lucerne, Switzerland. In the past two years, xxx number of students attended the event, gaining experience in international collaboration.

Archway Community Services

Lorne Mackenzie, an Associate Professor at the School of Business, is actively involved with Archway Community Services, a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the communities in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Mission, Langley, and Chandigarh, India. Lorne has served on the Board of Archway since 2014, leveraging his extensive experience as a business professional and educator spanning over three decades. Lorne views his position on the board as a privilege and is honored to collaborate with fellow community volunteers in supporting Archway Community Services. Building upon this partnership, Enactus UFV, under the guidance of Dr. Saeed Rahman from the School of Business, has joined forces

with Archway since 2021 to deliver essential financial education services to newcomers settling in the Fraser Valley region. Furthermore, the School of Business proudly sponsors the Annual Archway Charity Golf tournament, strengthening the bond and fostering an even deeper partnership between our organizations.

Additional Evidence

UFV's Office of Sustainability

Established as its own department in the spring of 2021, the UFV Office of Sustainability team has been working to navigate sustainability at UFV and creating collaborations to meet institution -level sustainability goals. Thanks to their efforts, in 2023, UFV became a signatory of the SDG Accord, solidifying our institution's alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UFV is a membership university in the United Nations Academic Impact Initiative (UNAI). As a UNAI member, UFV carries out at least one activity in support of the UNAI and its ten principles each year. <https://www.ufv.ca/sustainable-ufv/commitment/un-goals/>



Practice

We adopt responsible and accountable management principles in our own governance and operations.

How We Define Practice

Practice means embedding responsible management principles in our own governance and operations. In practice, this means modelling ethical leadership, transparency, sustainability, and inclusivity in decision-making and daily practices, demonstrating our commitment to accountability and setting a positive example for students and the broader community.

Institutional Policies and Practices

- ❖ Accreditation body recommendation documents
- ❖ Campus operations guides
- ❖ Climate action plan
- ❖ Curriculum guidelines
- ❖ Employee equity, diversity, inclusion
- ❖ Faculty hiring, tenure, and promotion guidelines
- ❖ Ministry of education recommendation documents
- ❖ Professional training opportunities
- ❖ Student equity, diversity, inclusion
- ❖ Sustainability strategy or strategic plan (school or university level)
- ❖ Travel guides
- ❖ USGBC building guides
- ❖ Water
- ❖ Zero-waste guides

Policy Documents Related to RME and/or Sustainability

Sustainability-(244)



Scan QR code to access document

UFV_s commitment _ Plans, policies, rep...imate Resilience Pathway Plan _ UFV



Scan QR code to access document

UFV's commitment _ Plans, policies, rep...Sustainability Action Pathway _ UFV



Scan QR code to access document

Practice Awards

In 2024, University of the Fraser Valley - School of Business received 1 award for responsible and/or sustainable practices.

🏆 STARS Silver Rating

Grantor: AASHE

Grantee: University of Fraser Valley

Award Description:

STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, & Rating System) is a program of AASHE where universities report their actions taken towards sustainability. The comprehensive tool measures and encourages sustainability in aspects of higher education, including: Academics; Engagement; Operations; Planning and Administration; Innovation and Leadership

Additional Evidence

UFV Strategic Energy Management Plan Report _ 2024-2025



Scan QR code to access document

UFV Climate Change Accountability Report _ 2024



Scan QR code to access document



Share

We share our successes and failures with each other to enable our collective learning and best live our common values and purpose.

How We Define Share

We define the Share Principle as openly communicating our successes and challenges so as to foster collective learning and continuous improvement. By embracing transparency and collaboration, we strengthen our commitment to shared values and build a supportive community dedicated to responsible management education.

Engagement Opportunities

University of the Fraser Valley - School of Business offers transparent engagement opportunities for members of our institution and community to contribute to our sustainability and responsibility efforts in the following ways:

- ❖ Boards and advisory committees
- ❖ Annual reports
- ❖ Community events and consultation forums
- ❖ Feedback mechanisms (e.g., surveys, suggestion boxes)
- ❖ Open faculty and student meetings and town halls
- ❖ Partnerships with local organizations
- ❖ Public events and panel discussions
- ❖ Student and staff volunteer programs
- ❖ Sustainability-focused research and collaboration Opportunities
- ❖ Publicly accessible sustainability data and dashboards

Communication Audiences

University of the Fraser Valley - School of Business communicates its policies and progress on sustainable development and responsibility with:

- ❖ Accreditation bodies
- ❖ Alumni and donors
- ❖ Boards and advisory committees
- ❖ Business and industry partners
- ❖ Chamber of commerce and local communities
- ❖ Faculty and staff
- ❖ Government and policy makers

Communication Barriers

University of the Fraser Valley - School of Business faces the following barriers in transparent communications:



Audience
reach



Engagement
gaps



Media visibility



Bureaucratic
delays

SIGNATORY

University of the Fraser Valley - School of Business



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Website

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