

**MEMO**

**FROM:** Dr. James Mandigo, Provost and VP Academic  
**DATE:** November 7, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Senate Provost's Report

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**COVID-19 Updates**

At the time of writing this report, Fraser Valley East continues to be operating under [additional health measures](#) as per the directive of the Public Health Officer. We continue to be in regular contact with our Fraser Health partners and they have reassured us that our current Return to Campus Safety Plans meet the high standards in place to mitigate the spread of the SARS-Cov2 virus on our campuses. "Post-secondary institutions are considered low-risk settings for COVID-19 transmissions, particularly in the context of a highly immunized population."<sup>1</sup> You can see the full results of UFV's vaccination disclosure survey [here](#).

As noted on our [Return to campus | UFV.ca](#) Website: "If a student or colleague informs you they have tested positive for COVID-19, or if this person indicates they have been instructed to self-isolate by Fraser Health or another BC public health authority, please review or complete the items in this checklist: [Return to campus > Safety plans and guidelines > COVID-19 case awareness and action checklist | UFV.ca](#). Fraser Health is responsible for all notification and communication to those who are impacted. Please do not share anyone's health information – including COVID-19 test results with your class or department. Personal medical information should never be shared."

Please also note that the Public Health Officer has extended the use of mandatory masks indoor until further notice. Please review UFV's Mask Guidelines here: [Return to campus > Mask guidelines | UFV.ca](#)

Finally, for those small few who are not vaccinated and are able, please consider becoming vaccinated ASAP by visiting: [How to get vaccinated for COVID-19 - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#). Flu shots are also now available in the province and locations can be found here: [Find a Flu Clinic | Immunize BC](#)

**Sr. Administrative Updates**

The search for two new Deans ([Dean for the Faculty of Professional Studies](#) & [Dean for the Faculty of Education, Community, and Human Development](#)) has commenced. Both committees have moved into the applicant review phase of the search.

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<sup>1</sup> See: [Public Health Guidance Campus.pdf \(bccdc.ca\)](#)

## Integrated Strategic Plan

A total of 29 projects were funded from the Provost's call for funding from the Strategic Initiatives Fund.

### IYAQÁWTXW: House of Transformation funding

Theme	Projects funded	Total Funding amount
Indigenization and Reconciliation	9	\$91,980
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion	6	\$44,503
Applied Research	5	\$32,907
Engagement with community	4	\$21,700
Student experience and success	2	\$15,591
Personal and professional Development	2	\$15,000
Lifelong learning	1	\$2400

A full list of funded projects is available here: [Funded-SIF-Projects.pdf \(ufv.ca\)](#)

### Winter, 2022 Update

Registration for the Winter term starts on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Currently, 71% of course sections scheduled have a face-to-face component. Fully face-to-face make up 48% of courses while hybrid courses constitute 23%. There are 5 sections of hy-flex courses scheduled. Online courses make up 26% of all course sections with 14% being delivered asynchronously and 12% delivered synchronously.

To align my report with the Integrated Strategic Plan, I have reorganized the activities across the Academic Units under the Mission and Goals of Engaging Learners, Transforming Lives, and Building Communities. Thank you to all those who contributed to providing these updates from the Faculties and Academic Units.

### Engaging Learners: Yoystexw ye totilthet

*Provide inclusive learning environments for everyone*

- The Esposito Family Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (EFCIE) hosted an online workshop, [Conservation as Innovation: The role of biodiversity in agriculture](#) facilitated by Dr. Sandra Gillespie, Faculty Associate, Oct 20. Recording available [here](#).
- Taught by the Integrative Career and Capstone Learning Assistant Professor Dr. Candy Ho, UFV's PORT 399: Enhancing Career Mobility course was approved to become a case study for the [2021 SDSN Accelerating Education for the SDGs in Universities](#) publication.

- CHASI Faculty Associate and Assistant Professor of the School of Social Work and Human Services Dr. Karun Karki and colleagues from Wilfred Laurier University have completed a [report on remote learning during COVID-19](#) and shared their recommendations for the optimal remote classroom.
- Associate Professor of the School of Land Use and Environmental Change and Director of Integrated and General Studies, Transfer & Partnerships Dr. Michelle Rhodes was one of several co-organizers of the 1st annual [BC-Yukon Prison Education Conference](#), exploring current practices, programs, and issues in the delivery of post-secondary education in the province and territory. This conference also marks the first event for the newly established Prison Education Network (PEN) of BC and Yukon. PEN seeks to connect post-secondary institutions interested in establishing and expanding programming inside.
- Associate Professor of the School of Land and Environmental Use Dr. Cherie Enns, the Food and Agriculture Institute Director Dr. Lenore Newman, Social, Cultural, & Media Studies Associate Professor Dr. Nicola Mooney, South Asian Studies Institute Director Dr. Satwinder Bains, and Global Development Studies Assistant Professor Dr. Geetanjali Gill, will represent the University of the Fraser Valley in the MiFOOD Project — a project designed to implement a new and innovative high-impact global research and knowledge mobilization agenda focused on the neglected interactions between migration and food security within the Global South.
- Randy Kelley, Associate Dean, attended a workshop on *Be More Than a Bystander* from October 6-8, 2021. This program was developed by the Ending Violence Association of BC in conjunction with the BC Lions and is sponsored by the ITA. This was offered as a “Train-the-Trainer” event so we can deliver this in-house to male students, staff and faculty.
- SportAbility BC was on Chilliwack campus and completed a training of 2 faculty and 6 Kinesiology students (various years) in preparation for the 6-week Pilot Boccia Program. This is a project funded by Boccia Canada.
- The FoS outreach program, Science Rocks! hosted their first Science Rocks! Days event on Saturday, October 16 <https://ufv.ca/science/science-in-the-community/science-rocks/science-rocks-days/>. 24 kids aged 9-11 attended the “Ocean-ology” camp. A huge thank you to our Science Rocks Coordinator and Math and Stats Professor, Robin Endelman, UFV science students, Rhien Hare, team Lead, and her crew of Manjot Benning, Connor Frey, Kasey McDougall, and Curtis Plug for making it a camp to remember! Our next camp, also sold out, “Nature Exploration!”, is being held at CEP on October 30. Read more on our blog: <https://blogs.ufv.ca/science/2021/10/20/science-rocks-welcomes-back-campers/>

### **Transforming Lives: Ayeqet kw’e shxwaylexws**

*Provide opportunities for people to discover, develop, and share their gifts while also recognizing and celebrating the gifts of others*

- CHASI Lead Researcher, Larissa Kowalski, shared a blog, [Addressing the challenges of food insecurity](#) examining its impact on university students in the Eastern Fraser Valley.
- Dr. Steven Schroeder hosted an online web presentation showcasing [Peace Talk - PACS Student Field Work: Restorative Justice and Housing in the Fraser Valley](#) on October 19 featuring the work of Kayla Fisher and Katelyn Van Hove.
- Alicia Kessler, a GDS BA student, has been selected amongst applicants from across Canada to be an [E-Fellow in Youth Challenge International’s HerStart program](#). She will work with grassroots NGOs in

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Tanzania, Ghana, and Uganda on gender equality and economic empowerment initiatives from October 2021 until February 2022

- Alicia Dyck, a GDS minor student, contributed as a Research Assistant to the [“Leaving No One Behind: Empowering Persons with Albinism, particularly women and adolescent girls, in rural regions of Sierra Leone” project](#), funded by the Government of Canada, and being implemented by Dr. Geetanjali Gill (GDS) and Catherine Liao (Nursing). Alicia helped design and carry out remote gender sensitization training with participants in Sierra Leone and developed a training manual.
- SASI produced film [“Solidarity Lives - South Asian Canadian Historic Sites of BC”](#) has been selected to screen at this year’s Vancouver South Asian Film Festival on Nov. 11 – Nov. 14
- CECE is upskilling the career readiness of UFV’s Science students and Data Analytics students. CECE secured \$89,198 to fund 3 projects that will increase work-integrated learning opportunities for Science and DAC students. In September, CECE staff visited Science and DAC classrooms to deliver career education workshops to 170 Science students and 20 DAC students. Also, part of this funding was used to purchase specialized equipment for students to conduct local water quality testing for the City of Chilliwack, Stó:lō Nation, and the Great Blue Heron Reserve. This will also offer students the opportunity to work with global partners by conducting water quality testing for the Global Rivers Observatory.
- QR codes have been added to podiums in hybrid classrooms to elicit feedback from instructors teaching in those rooms. The QR code opens up in a short form that can be found here <https://forms.office.com/r/CugiFRxpx1>. All feedback is welcome.
- Phantom Screens, a local Abbotsford business, ran a fundraiser allowing employee donors to choose whether three volunteer employees should “cut” or “keep” their COVID hair. The contest raised \$20,000 towards a scholarship which will help preserve Halq’eméylem - the Indigenous language of the Stó:lō. The income generated by the new endowed scholarship will fully cover the tuition of a student annually in perpetuity to learn Halq’eméylem.
- Come and enjoy lunch at TTC Rivers Cafeteria! Our culinary students are sharing their skills by offering hot lunch service on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week, according to the latest COVID-19 health and safety protocols. For the latest menus follow <https://www.facebook.com/UFVTrades>.
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing semester 7 students are implementing an Influenza clinic on Chilliwack campus November 4, 2021/November 5, 2021, for nursing students and faculty.
- Shirley Hartman was invited to lead and share Sto:lo teachings the Inclusivity Circle for the Librarians.
- Chilliwack Library hosted KIN talks on October 13, 20 and 27 with presentations from Kinesiology 360 students on obesity, chronic illness, body image, exercise, cancer, Indigenous health care and first aid knowledge.
- Dr. Olav Lian and Carolyn Atkins from SLUEC recently returned with their Geography 202 class from a two-day field trip exploring glacial lake sediments, slow moving earthflows, rock formations and other landforms along the Fraser River. Read more on our blog: <https://blogs.ufv.ca/science/2021/10/21/exploring-the-landforms-with-sluec-faculty-olav-lian-and-carolyn-atkins/>
- Dr. Awneet Sivia is involved in the development and curating of curriculum for *Saffron Threads*. The Ministry of Ed, Royal Museum of BC, online school learning (OSL), and various other groups have partnered with SASI to develop lesson plans with South Asian focus. Eight lesson sets have been developed for Grades 3-12.

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### **Building Community: Thayt kw'e st'elt'elawtexw**

*Collaborate and partner in pursuits that enrich the lives of all people on our campuses, in our local communities, and beyond*

- SASI received the [Darpan Magazine's 'Heritage Defender' Award](#) on October 15, recognizing their dedication to the preservation and communication of the history of the South Asian community in Canada, and particularly in BC.
- **November 17** – TEDx Abbotsford presents [Resilience](#) featuring Awnet Sivia, Associate Professor, Teacher Education; Keith Carlson, Director PARC; Karin Jager, Associate Professor, Visual Communication.
- **November 19** – On November 19, SASI will host their 5th Annual Symposium: “Building a Diasporic Roadmap through Inquiry and Engagement.” The 2021 symposium will be organized as a round table discussion built upon the work of interdisciplinary academics and other stakeholders to create a road map towards furthering current and future research and building partnerships. [SASI 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium](#)
- **December 7** – [Science Talks: To Serve and Protect: The Value of Academic, Agency, and Community Collaboration in Police Research](#) by Dr. Irwin Cohen, Director of the Centre for Public Safety and Criminal Justice Research, UFV.
- Teaching and Learning is developing a series of podcasts that explore different aspects of postsecondary learning. The first podcast features Sundeep Hans, UFV's Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. The second features Dr. Tony Bates, former UBC professor, writer and ed tech expert. The podcasts can be found at: <https://video.ufv.ca/channel/TLCAsks%2BPodcast/284841>. More podcasts are in development. The podcasts are produced by Learning Designer Katherine Kohler.
- The annual high school counselors meeting was held virtually on Tuesday October 26. We had more than 90 counselors and career educators register to attend and 86 ended up attending. They were from 9 lower mainland schools districts. This is more than we would normally get for an in-person event and the early feedback has been positive. While we look forward to returning to an in-person event next year where we can host people on-campus, the virtual session showed that we can keep in touch with this very important group using alternate methods as well. We had participants from Burnaby and Richmond who would not normally have been able to attend.
- UFV and the Mission school district have created a partnership to deliver the Carpentry Foundation program and Electrical Foundation program to a cohort of students (for each program) in a manner that enhances the academic success of school district students interested in skilled trades with a positive transition from secondary to post-secondary education.
- In working with Pam Causton, Associate Professor in Health Sciences, the Trades & Technology Centre has continued to provide space for the nursing students regarding the Take-Home Naloxone (THN) training. They are available to answer questions about the opioid crisis, demonstrate kit usage, and distribute kits for UFV students, staff, and faculty that require one. <https://www.ufv.ca/student-services/support/naloxone/>
- Much of the agriculture program experience is being out in the field (literally) and completing a practicum. Over the years, students have been placed in practicums in farms, wineries, greenhouses, food processing plants all over the Fraser Valley and the world. The program also offers livestock

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practicums that include dairy, beef, and poultry operations, cheese production, feed suppliers, among others. Read more about students' experiences at <https://blogs.ufv.ca/blog/2021/10/agriculture-practicums-give-students-a-fresh-lens-on-their-career-aspirations/>

- Six Librarians attended “Shifting the Future” Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN) virtual conference which was spread over 2 weeks in October listening to sessions on Inclusive Practise, Indigenous Subject Headings, Reconciliation,
- UFV International has submitted a signed contribution agreement, as well as narrative and financial workplans for the [Global Skills Opportunity](#) funded through Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) and managed by both Universities Canada and CIGan. This will provide \$500k to promote and assist students (particularly those from underrepresented groups – indigenous students with disabilities, and low-income students) in going abroad for credit-based work-integrated learning experiences. The total number of students impacted should be 128 over the course of the project (2022-2025). UFV International has pledged and additional \$190k in mobility scholarships as an in-kind contribution.
- Since its inception, UFV International’s marketing initiatives have reached 247 million people (impressions) around the globe with UFV marketing messages on Google and have directed 9.37 million people (clicks) to the UFV website.
- Associate Professor, Dr. Cherie Enns from SLUEC with other partner organizations from around the globe received confirmation from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council that the Migration and Food Insecurity in the Global South: Interactions, Impacts, and Remedies (MiFOOD) Project is now official. The goal of the MiFOOD Project is to design and implement a new and innovative high-impact global research and knowledge mobilization agenda focused on the neglected interactions between migration and food security within the Global South. The public launch is scheduled for December 13, 2021, and to be hosted by the Balsillie School of International Affairs, University of Waterloo. More information on the \$2.5 million awarded to the project: <https://bit.ly/3nflsAL>
- Continuing Education is hosting a “Sparks and Innovation” workshop with the Municipal Innovators Community on November 16, 2021. This will be a 2.5 hour facilitated workshop that will introduce the Civic Governance and Innovation certificate to the local government community.
- With co-principal investigators Dr. Rahul Jain (UNBC), Dr. Eric Li (UBCO), and Dr. Indrani Margolin (UNBC), Dr. Karun Karki received a grant of \$49,996 from the British Columbia Ministry of Health towards a project that will investigate *Mental Health Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on British Columbia’s (BC) Indigenous Health Care Workers*.

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Dr. James Mandigo

Provost & VP Academic