

## MEMO

FROM: Dr. James Mandigo (he/him), Provost and VP Academic  
DATE: March 7, 2025  
SUBJECT: Senate Provost's Report

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Earlier this month, the Ministry of Post Secondary and Future Skills released its annual Labour Market Outlook for British Columbia. You can access the report [here](#). A couple of highlights from that report:

- Over the next decade (2024–2034), it is projected there will be 1,120,000 job openings in BC
  - 40% of job openings will be a result of economic growth
  - 60% of job openings specifically identify the requirement for a post-secondary credential
  - 67% of job openings will be in the Lower Mainland region of BC with an annual growth rate of 1.7 percent over this time period
  - The Top 5 areas forecasted to see job openings over this period are: 1) Health care and social assistance; 2) Professional, scientific and technical services; 3) Retail trade; 4) Construction; and, 5) Educational services
- An individual's lifetime earnings could increase by an additional \$172,300 to \$902,800 with an apprenticeship certificate or an undergraduate degree in arts and science
- Compared to participating OECD countries, B.C. ranked fourth in literacy (behind Finland, Japan and Sweden), seventh in numeracy (behind Finland, Japan, Sweden, Norway, Netherlands and Estonia) and fifth in adaptive problem solving (behind Finland, Japan, Sweden and Norway).

As we think about our SEM plan and how we are preparing our students to be successful once they leave UFV, we not only need to think about what programs we are offering, but also the evolving skills and competencies that students will need as they enter an everchanging workforce. For example, in the Labour Market Outlook report, they highlight a [study by Statistics Canada](#) that outlines the impact of Artificial Intelligence in the labour force. I was struck by the following statement in the original report: “employees with a bachelor's degree or higher were more likely to hold jobs that may be highly complementary with AI than those with an education below the bachelor's degree level, as long as the potential beneficiaries of AI possess the necessary skills.” As the efficacy of AI continues to evolve exponentially, it behooves us to continually explore the evolution of all program areas across the University on how we are preparing our students to utilize AI in effective and ethical ways.

To align my report with the Integrated Strategic Plan, I have organized 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.*

- Faculty research took centre stage on Thursday, February 13 at the research doubleheader event. Faculty Microlectures saw 24 presenters battle against the clock to highlight their research in two minutes or less. Immediately after, the Faculty Publication Celebration showcased published work from over 40 faculty members from the last two years over refreshments and networking.
- UFV is sharing in almost \$23 million in NSERC Lab to Market funding to help expand the National Invention to Innovation (i2I) Network, a program that aids Canadian STEM and healthcare researchers in their quest to solve global challenges.
- APR 2, from 10AM - Student Research Day | Student researchers take the spotlight in the cornerstone event of the research calendar. Featuring the research poster competition and student microlectures. Register by March 10 to take part, or March 21 to volunteer as a faculty judge. Everyone welcome!
- MAY 28, from 5:30pm, Evered Hall | 2025 Undergraduate Research Excellence (URE) Awards. Nominations are now open. Held annually, these \$1,000 awards recognize excellence in research done by individual undergraduate students as part of their degree programs for a challenging research project as part of a course, a self-directed research project, or as a research assistant working with a faculty researcher.
- Carpentry level 4 students completed the gazebo structure in the Sustainability Garden at the Abbotsford Campus, finishing the work of the level one students who poured the foundation for the gazebo over the summer.
- The School of Creative Arts (SoCA) presents William Shakespeare's *Macbeth* this March at the UFV Performance Studio and Chilliwack Cultural Centre. Directed by Associate Professor Bruce Kirkley, the production showcases UFV students, faculty, and staff in a dynamic collaboration of performance and design.
- In February, Paula Funk, Academic Advisor in the School of Creative Arts, and alumna Madeline Funk-Foster (BFA 2023) explore the intersections of ADHD and creativity in "Inner Sanctuary" - an immersive exhibition at the S'eliyemetaxwtexw Art Gallery. This interactive installation invites participants to reflect on the importance of safe spaces, hands-on creativity, and proactive strategies for finding stability in chaotic times.
- Leah Douglas and MSW student Miranda Rosehill presented their research at the Mental Health and Climate Change Summit held at Simon Fraser University on February 6.

- This month 98 Bachelor of Education candidates are headed out for a 12-week certifying practicum. Three of those candidates are headed to Haida Gwaii for the first time ever in the Bachelor of Education. Field experience coordinators Deidre DeGagné and Jonathan Ferris will be accompanying them at the start to make sure everything takes off in a good way. This Northern practicum is part of a grant project with the Ministry of Education and Childcare to increase the number of teachers in northern school districts.
- This month the ECE dual credit students are spending a Saturday at Á:Imélháwtxw Early Childcare Centre of the Stó:lō Nation to learn how to effectively integrate Indigenous knowledge, worldviews, and Halq'eméylem language into ECE practices, as well as hear from a panel discussion on ECE practices. Many thanks to Monique Belanger for organizing this special event.
- UFV welcomed first-ever ELAP-funded researchers:
  - Stephane BACHMANN from Brazil (supervised by Dr. Lauren ERLAND)
  - Luana SMITH TAY from Peru (supervised by Dr. Lucy LEE)
- Education Librarian, Heather Compeau, worked with Mission Library Technicians, Hal Ost and Serena Gearey, on the Kit Exploration session on January 28th, 2025. Each of them selected a variety of kits from the Kit Collection to highlight this unique collection and set them up for teacher candidates to explore and ask questions. They had support and suggestions from both TEP faculty and students on what worked and what to do differently next time. New to the Mission Library general collection is the Truth in Truth & Reconciliation Game, to learn how to play this game visit: [https://catalog.ufv.ca/uhtbin/cgisirsi/x/0/0/57/5?searchdata1=2937793{CKEY}&user\\_id=W EBSERVER](https://catalog.ufv.ca/uhtbin/cgisirsi/x/0/0/57/5?searchdata1=2937793{CKEY}&user_id=W EBSERVER)
- Collection Librarian, Martin Warkentin, provided specialized one-on-one instruction to two students who sought guidance on 3D printing technology. This engagement reflects the growing interest in the Library's makerspace, as word continues to spread about the innovative opportunities available for hands-on learning and creative exploration.
- Student Engagement Librarian, Samantha Gibbs, was invited by UFV International to host a STEP café for international students about the UFV Library, showcasing what students can do in the Library and how it can support them. This knowledge is integral for all students including international peers. UFV International is a valuable partner for UFV Library in supporting international students.

### **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.*

- Khyati Shetty visited the American University of RAK in the UAE as part of her Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) initiative. The visit advanced innovative teaching

practices and fostered new partnership discussions aimed at enriching the educational experience.

- A small delegation from Smart Girls Foundation Uganda visited our campus, Monday, Feb 24, 2025. Our Dean, Teresa Kisilevich, took them on a guided tour of the Trades & Technology Centre. As noted on the Segal Family Foundation website, "Smart Girls Uganda is a girl-centered social enterprise offering skills development programs equipping young girls and women to venture into male-dominated fields such as electrical engineering, automotive mechanics, plumbing, and (soon) construction."
- At the end of January, Dr. Noah Schwartz, Assistant Professor of Political Science, presented his research on guns and the Canada-U.S. border at the Center for the Study of Guns in Society's Inaugural Symposium at Arizona State University in Phoenix, Arizona. His talk, "The Gun Connection: Bridging the Divide Between the Study of Guns in Canada and the United States," highlighted the harm caused by illegal American guns fueling crime in Canada.
- Andrea Sator, Sessional Instructor in the Arts & Integrated Studies Department, received a \$58K award from the Ministry of Post-Secondary and Future Skills to explore digital tools, skills, and supports. This initiative will help the province better understand opportunities for shared IT and educational technology resources for learners and educators.
- Sheryl MacMath and Judy Larsen have formed a collaborative professional development project with two teachers from the Chilliwack School District. They are bringing together a secondary math class, middle school math class, and local Elders to look at weaving in math. They will be using a two-eyed seeing approach.

### **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.*

- Jason Campbell represented the school's division at the RCMP National Meeting for CNIAC and all ICAC members (March 3- March 5). This participation strengthened the school's network and connection to the community.
- Zubair Raja and Mark Breedveld organized an industry tour to Structure Craft. This industry tour connects the community with innovative builders and structural engineers specializing in timber-based construction.
- Rania Mohammed was selected as a Co-Chair for Geo-diversity for N2Women, IEEE Communications Society.
- Dr. Iris Lesser and UFV student research assistant Megan Filiatrault have released a new report sharing their findings from an initial series of workshops aimed at engaging new mothers in physical activity and presenting a realistic look at what their return to movement may look like. The full report is available on CHASI's blog.
- The Faculty of Applied & Technical Studies proudly sponsored The Farmer Miller Baker exhibit this year, organized by the Baking Association of Canada. As highlighted on their

website, participants from the baking industry gathered at TTC for a day of networking and knowledge-sharing. The event provided an opportunity to connect with fellow bakers and exchange insights on farming practices, grain processing, artisanal baking, and consumer engagement.

- UFV Chilliwack Campus welcomed prospective students from Trades & Technology, Health Sciences and Agriculture to explore exciting, career-focused opportunities and tour the facilities. Our guests met expert faculty and staff, attended live demonstrations, and experienced hands-on activities.
- Dr. Madison Pesowski, Assistant Professor of Psychology, is organizing Psych'd About Play, a free community event in early March at UFV Abbotsford. Open to families, the event explores different types of play, the psychology behind it, and its importance. It also provides psychology students with hands-on learning opportunities, allowing them to apply concepts from courses like Child Psychology (PSYC 351) and Lifespan Development (PSYC 250) while observing real-life interactions.
- Anushray Singh, LTA Instructor in Digital Photography, Media Arts, Filmmaking, and South Asian Studies, is organizing the South Asian Documentary Film Festival in partnership with the University of Windsor, York Centre for Asian Research, and Film SouthAsia. This annual online festival, shared with the UFV community, offers free access to high-quality documentaries exploring climate change and its impact. By connecting academic institutions, students, and artists, the festival provides a valuable educational resource for both South Asian and domestic students.
- Wendy Gracey was an invited panelist at the annual American Kinesiology Association workshop in Newport Beach, California. She along with administrative professionals from Penn State University and Auburn University were part of an expert panel who spoke about "Effective Tools for Promoting Staff Success."
- Student Engagement Librarian, Samantha Gibbs, and Library Technician, Pandora Sigankis, set up the Freedom to Read display, which highlights books that have been banned or challenged in libraries to support the Freedom to Read week (February 23 to March 1).
- UFV Agriculture department participated in the Pacific Agriculture Show at the Abbotsford Tradex Centre on January 23, 24, and 25. We showcased our programs and made many more contacts in the field. At the Pacific Ag Show, UFV's Chris Bodnar gave the opening plenary and participated in 2 panel discussions on agri-tech. UFV's Renee Prasad presented on her field of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) research (funded via the Canadian Agri-Science Cluster for Horticulture).

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