

MEMO

FROM: Tracy Ryder Glass, Provost & Vice President Academic
DATE: April 1, 2026
RE: Provost Report to Senate

This Report highlights a university community deeply committed to inclusive, experiential, and socially responsive learning. Across all faculties, UFV students and faculty are engaging in high-impact practices that connect teaching, research, and service: from undergraduate research presentations and applied theatre projects to micro credentials, hackathons, trades exploration, and interdisciplinary health training.

At the same time, the report underscores UFV's strong role as a community anchor and global partner. Faculty and students are extending UFV's impact through public scholarship, international research collaborations, community-based learning, and outreach to prospective learners across the region and beyond.

Together, these efforts illustrate a commitment to engaging learners, transforming lives and building community.

Please read on to learn more about the inspiring work our UFV community is collectively doing. And of course, a warm thank you to all who have engaged in this work and have contributed to this report.

Engaging Learners: Yoystexw ye totilthet

Provide inclusive learning environments for everyone.

Student Simosethu Mpofu (Bachelor of Arts, Global Development Studies) was selected to present research at the Canadian Undergraduate Research Conference (May 8–10, 2026). Her project focuses on reproductive health education approaches for youth in Ghana, highlighting applied global research experience.

The Psychology Department hosted a Brown Bag Talk with Dr. Molly Cairncross (Simon Fraser University), presenting research on recovery from traumatic brain injuries in children, connecting students with current developments in psychological research.

UFV Theatre presented *The Secret in the Wings* by Mary Zimmerman, directed by Anna Griffith, as part of the 2025–2026 season. The production provided students with hands-on experience in performance and production across two venues, including the Chilliwack Cultural Centre.

The Faculty of Applied and Technical Studies (ATS) hosted the Regional Skills Competitions at TTC, with approximately 70 secondary students competing across multiple trades. Winners will advance to Provincials in April.

ATS delivered Try-Tech-and-Trades, welcoming approximately 450 Grade 9 students to the Trades & Technology Centre. Students rotated through demonstrations, videos, and hands-on activities. New this year was a demonstration to the Powerline Technician Pre-apprenticeship program.

On 6th March, the Indigenous Student Centre welcomed a group of students from William Fraser Middle School to the Chilliwack campuses. Students toured the Trades building, enjoyed lunch at the SASET café, and visited Kinesiology and Nursing.

In recognition of International Women's Day, on March 9 Jelena Brcic (Business) hosted a Wild(erness) Women event featuring a panel of women in local Search and Rescue. The event was sponsored by the UFV Office of Sustainability and the School of Business.

Mandeep Pannu (Computing) is working closely with the Computing Student Association (CSA) Executive team to host a Cyber Strike Challenge, a hackathon focusing on Cyber Security and AI. This hackathon is unique because students will be placed in teams of varying experience, backgrounds, etc. to reinforce the importance of diversity and highlight the benefits of working with those who bring different skills to the table.

On March 19, Ismail El Sayad (Computing) hosted an online workshop for students entitled, "From Idea to Experiment: Designing Your First Research Study in the Age of AI."

On March 2 and 16, Drs. Rita Dhungel (Social Work) and Shelley Liebembuk (SOCA) worked with international students in an ongoing community-based project utilizing applied theatre. This initiative aimed to explore student experiences and challenges while fostering critical dialogue and reflective learning.

Along with this year's TASK cohort, students in Kinesiology 465: Adaptive Physical Activity went to Stitó:s Lá:lém Totí:lt Elementary / Middle School and led health and wellness stations for students there.

Stations included physical literacy, strength, mindfulness and more. This project was planned through a Teaching Inquiries into Pedagogical Practices (TIPP) grant. As part of this funding, a TASK student designed keychains which was given to all participating UFV students.

On February 17 and 18, more than 100 Indigenous students from SD 33 and Squiala School visited UFV's Abbotsford campus for a dynamic two-day Open House filled with exploration, hands-on activities, and connection. Beyond the sciences and ECE, students also engaged with the Business department and Environmental Studies & Planning. During their Halq'eméylem language session, they learned how to say their names and practiced simple phrases, adding a meaningful cultural learning moment to the day. It was inspiring to welcome so many Indigenous learners to campus, and we look forward to encouraging their next steps in education and community.

This past month, three third-year BSN students joined a CDA program's medical emergency training session, creating a valuable interdisciplinary learning opportunity. The session fostered collaboration between nursing and CDA students while reinforcing essential clinical skills.

International reports that Summer 2026 will represent the largest group of short-term, outbound mobility students in UFV's history. Many of these students were able to access considerable amounts of funding via our membership in the UMAP Consortium.

March sees our high schools on Spring Break which the Future Students Office uses to offer a series of on-campus tours and visits through formal and informal events. Over 200 prospective students are expected by the conclusion of the Break.

Nominations are open for this year's Undergraduate Research Excellence Awards on May 27. Faculty are encouraged to nominate outstanding students who are making waves in undergraduate research. Deadline for nominations: April 24.

The Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills awarded UFV's FAI with a one-time contribution of \$141,120 towards the development and delivery of micro-credentials. The Ministry will provide funding for the development of the following micro-credentials: \$70,560 for Future Food Systems (MC1), and \$70,560 for Innovation Systems Thinking (MC2), announced March 18, 2026.

'From Crisis to Capacity: Emergency Food Planning in the Fraser Valley' Hackathon launched on March 18th, the Hackathon was open to currently enrolled senior undergraduate students or graduate students, as part of SF4C's Innovation Mentorship initiative.

The UFV Library hosted its third annual Freedom to Read event on February 25 in the Library Atrium Rotunda. This year's event was the most well attended to-date, featuring 17 participants who read passages from challenged and banned books. The event was documented through photography, video, and interviews to further promote the importance of intellectual freedom and the Library's role in supporting open access to ideas and learning.

The Library Open Education Team (Janelle Sztuhar, Claire Hay, Shaun Sun, and Aashima Marwaha) planned and facilitated a variety of events for Open Education Week 2026 (Mar 2-6) which saw over 50 attendees.

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.

Dr. Michael Corman (Associate Professor, Sociology) delivered invited talks at multiple institutions, including the Alberta College of Paramedics, Learning Plus (Abbotsford), and NAIT (keynote). His presentations focused on paramedic education, sociological perspectives on health, and the hidden curriculum in professional training, contributing to broader public and professional discourse.

Faculty of Applied and Technical Studies saw the completion of a Stó:lō Aboriginal Skills & Employment Training (SASET) Carpentry foundation program, supporting learners from high school to mature students. The program provided practical skills and pathways into construction trades careers.

The School of Business Human Resources Student Association recently hosted a Human Resources networking event with CPHR while the Aviation Alliance hosted two events, a mental health seminar and a movie night. These events fostered leadership, provided experiential learning opportunities, and aided students on their educational journey.

The UFV Enactus team recently attended the regional competition in Vancouver on March 13 and were the runners-up for the Canadian Tire Environmental Sustainability Challenge.

Geographies of the Heart: Stories from Newcomers to Canada, edited by Dr. Wilbur (ADED) was awarded the Innovative Initiative Award at the Abbotsford Cultural Diversity Awards.

On March 11, Rita Dhungel presented “Centering Women’s Voices: Challenges and Resilience of Women Living with HIV in Nepal” at the CSW70 NGO Forum, organized by UN Women in New York.

Dr. Sameeha Jhetam’s publication (chick processing holding devices and novel down feather biomarkers) is the first study to be published assessing both the holding devices for chick processing machines at hatcheries and to identify a novel non-invasive method for measuring stress in newly hatched chicks by looking at inflammatory biomarkers and heat shock proteins in the down feathers of chicks. This provides a new avenue for measuring stress in chicks and understanding the stress response time when chicks experience various or compounding environmental stressors.

CHASI Faculty Associate Dr. Iris Lesser’s ongoing research on returns to movement for postpartum women continues to draw media attention: it was recently on CBC News to mark March’s designation as Women’s Health Research Month. [Link here.](#)

Anna Griffith (TLC) created and hosted a one-hour Eco-Anxiety workshop as part of March for Sustainability. Eco-anxiety is a complex emotional and physical response to the environmental crisis, often triggered by real-world events. This workshop explored, and unpacked climate emotions and offered several strategies to help us transform the eco-anxiety we feel into more constructive actions.

Padlet now has Padlet Arcade. It allows you to create a game on a topic. Currently it is asynchronous and there is no live game option like Kahoot! but it does allow you to create multiple types of quizzes that could still be done in real time puts students on a leaderboard for the competition time.

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.

The School of Culture, Media, and Society hosted a roundtable on March 10 titled *The Role of Educators, Intellectuals, and Universities in Times of Genocide and Fascism*. Featuring UFV faculty, guest scholars, and Indigenous Elders, the event brought together 136 attendees for critical dialogue on the responsibilities of educators and institutions in times of global crisis.

The S'eliyemetaxwtexw Art Gallery is presenting *Aide-Memoire* (March 10–April 7, 2026), featuring work by Associate Professor Melanie Jones alongside student artists and alumni. The exhibition explores archival silences, identity, and queer lived experience, fostering community dialogue on representation and memory.

ATS welcomed approximately 400 community members to the Chilliwack Open House at TTC. Attendees participated in information sessions, tours of shops, labs, and kitchens, and connected with UFV service areas.

Dr. Faisal Naeem (Computing) launched The Ethical AI Lab for Kids initiative. This is an educational initiative that teaches children (ages 7-18) about AI and how to use it through online course/modules.

On March 3, Drs. Amea Wilbur and Brianna Strumm gave a presentation to Safe Haven, a program for refugees through the Immigrant Services Society of BC, titled "*Building Compassionate Learning Communities for Refugee Claimants through Trauma-Informed Teaching Practices*".

On Saturday, March 7, Monique Belanger and Elizabeth McWilliams-Hewitt (SoE), along with the staff from À:lmèlhàwtxw Early Education Centre, hosted a day of exploration and learning for ECE Dual Credit students from Chilliwack, Abbotsford, and Langley. The day concluded with singing, drumming, and a question-and-answer session that allowed students to reflect on the experience and learn more about a career in early childhood education.

On March 23, Drs. Allyson Jule and Awneet Sivia presented their paper, *Our Teaching University: A Focus on Practicum-based Programming at a Canadian University*, at the Oxford Educational Research Symposium. Their paper explores the formation of FECHD into four schools and the central role that practicum learning plays in FECHD program areas.

Dr. Lenore Newman Appeared on the CBC *Ideas* episode "*What if your favourite food became extinct?*" to discuss the growing threat of disappearing flavours as species and ecosystems decline.

Amanda Wurz (KIN) launched development of play-based exercise with West Coast Kids Cancer Foundation Summer 2026 camps.

In cooperation with the Indigenous Student Centre, the Future Students office attended the Gathering Our Voice Indigenous Youth Conference from March 17 to 19. This is a large gathering of indigenous high school students who participate in cultural ceremonies and educational workshops to empower and inspire them to continue their education.

The Future Students Office supported the UFV Debate Club in running their first debate competition for local high school students on March 7. The event was very successful, and we look forward to this being an annual event.

On March 15, 2026, the South Asian Studies Institute (SASI) presented a micro-exhibit at the Dr. Ambedkar Symposium on Emancipation at SFU Harbour Centre, Vancouver. Curated from the Chandra Bodalia Collection, the display featured a selection of photographs and archival materials documenting the longstanding history of the Chetna Association of Canada in community activism.

UFV Teaching & Learning is thrilled to host ConnectED 2026 on April 29 — a full day dedicated to building connections, engaging in transformative teaching and learning experiences, and creating opportunities for transforming education, one conversation, idea, and action at a time. Registration is now open <https://www.ufv.ca/connected/>

UFV advanced its long-standing partnership with Panjab University (Chandigarh, India) through the development of a dual degree pathway in Business Administration. This initiative highlights UFV's commitment to transnational education grounded in quality assurance, reciprocity, and long-term academic alignment.