

MEMO

FROM: Tracy Ryder Glass, Acting Provost & Vice President Academic
DATE: February 6, 2026
RE: Provost Report to Senate

This month's report highlights examples of academic engagement, community impact, and student success across UFV. Faculty and students showcased leadership at the Pacific Agriculture Show, the Global Game Jam, and had the opportunity to participate in Community Service-Learning projects, interdisciplinary hackathons, and career-connected educational opportunities.

Also highlighted are examples of building inclusive, connected communities both on campus and beyond. Outreach initiatives welcomed Indigenous youth and secondary students to campus, supported food security and public health, strengthened relationships with industry and community organizations, and amplified UFV voices on issues of public concern. Events such as Campus Connect, the upcoming Arts Showcase and Expo Week, networking breakfasts, and community-engaged partnerships illustrate UFV's ongoing 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.

Dr. María Eugenia De Luna (MOLA) led a Community Service-Learning project in Advanced Oral Spanish, supported by CEWIL Canada's iHub program and UFV's Centre for Experiential and Career Education. Thirteen students partnered with local organizations supporting Mexican seasonal agricultural workers, applying their Spanish skills through translation, outreach, and community communication.

The College of Arts is planning the Arts Showcase and Expo Week, scheduled for March 31–April 2, 2026 (Building K). The three-day event will feature panels, student presentations, and exhibitions of student work, alongside collaborative initiative with Academic Advising to support undeclared students in exploring majors and career pathways.

UFV is hosted the Global Game Jam at the Abbotsford campus. The event brought together students and community members to design and build games in 48 hours, with technical support from faculty in Media Arts, Game Design and Development, and Computer Information Systems.

Industry Services and the Welding Department are offering booth rentals for students who want to practice and refine their skills for a variety of purposes. This initiative supports a welcoming environment for past, current, and prospective students to connect with UFV and access the supports they need to advance their careers.

Saeed Rahman's student (School of Business), Yash Pandey, has won the Best-Strategy Invitational (BSI) World Championship held in December 2025 with the highest overall score across all industries. He achieved the highest game score recorded in the last three years of the BSI.

Dr. Lynn Kleinveldt (DIS) and Dr. Rexwhite Tega Enakrire (University of Johannesburg) have been approved to begin a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) project. This two-year project will offer students the opportunity to work together virtually to explore professional, interdisciplinary, curricular, and intercultural perspectives related to library, information and knowledge management.

The School of Education hosted "Campus Connect" at Clearbrook campus for CE students taking courses and programs in the Winter 2026 term.

Dr. Emilio Landolfi presented on "scientific literacy" at the International Conference on Education (Honolulu, Hawaii) in January.

Dr. Jason Brandenburg: "Heart rate responses and acute functional performance changes in response to skinny singles and doubles pickleball" was accepted for presentation at the European Group for Research on Aging and Physical Activity Conference in June 2026.

UFV International assisted in the development of a partnership with IMPACT: *Indigenous Movement for Peace Advancement and Conflict Transformation*, an organization based in Kenya.

Dr. Lenore Newman, Director of the Food and Agriculture Institute (FAI), recently presented at the Distinguished Lecturer Series, 'The Coming Agricultural Singularity: Technology, Policy and the Future of Food', University of Toronto, January 13 and as a panelist at ECO Canada's event, Crop Talk: Career, Stories & Networking at BCIT, January 22, 2026.

Students Mwenda Dyck and Jason Lighton (Agriculture) joined some of the brightest young minds in western Canada, tasked with brainstorming sustainable agriculture solutions, the only undergrads participating in the hackathon event.

The BERRI Lab hosted a Research Showcase on December 3 where students in the AGRI 323 Fruit Production Class, and Research Students in the BERRI Lab presented their research for the semester in a poster session in the H Building Atrium at CEP Campus. Agriculture faculty, community partners and our

On Friday 23rd January, the Indigenous Student Centre welcomed students from Fraser Middle School to the Abbotsford campus for the day. Students were given a tour of campus, a sneak peek at a UFV Cascades basketball game, and an overview of the services and supports that the Indigenous Student Centre provides to Indigenous 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.

Dr. Wade Deisman, Associate Dean of Social Sciences, was interviewed by several media outlets addressing extortion-related crime and public safety issues in British Columbia, contributing expert analysis across Global News, CBC, 730 CKNW, and Omni News.

Dr. Noah Schwartz, Assistant Professor of Political Science, was featured in multiple national media outlets discussing gun policy and public safety, including CBC News, Global National, CanadaLand, and the UFV podcast Conversations with Dr. David Dobson. His commentary contributed to national public discourse on firearms legislation and policy evaluation.

Industry Services launched a culinary class in partnership with Stó:Lō Aboriginal Skills & Employment Training (SASET). Students of all ages are participating in a pre-trades culinary arts course to build new skills. The class will be providing lunches, similar to the Core Kitchen, on Thursdays and Fridays through March.

Dr. Prachee Sehgal (Faculty of Business & Computing) recently published a paper titled *"Sometimes there's space . . . and sometimes there's just not": (Un)learning from Indigenous students' experiences of liminal decolonization and Indigenization.*" The paper examines Indigenous students' experiences of decolonization and Indigenization through the lens of (un)learning and liminality.

Congratulations to Dr. Jas Uppal (SoE) and Dr. Marina Turlakis (Biology) on their Collaborative Inquiry, *Bridging Science Learning Between High School and Post-Secondary*. Through dialogue and co-design, teacher candidates in UFV's Bachelor of Education program will develop high school science units that integrate evidence-based practices, Two-Eyed Seeing, and locally relevant contexts, including Fraser Valley climate impacts.

Dr. Iris Lesser (Kinesiology) published an article in the Journal of Health Psychology titled: "MomBod: Exploring body-related perceptions and the influence of physical activity imagery among postpartum women" with Dr. Amanda Wurz, Dr. Taniya Nagpal and senior kinesiology student Megan Filiatrault.

Dr. Anna Griffith and Sabine Decamp (Teaching and Learning) are co-leading the AI Community of Practice. The goal is to explore what faculty are currently doing/experiencing with AI in their courses at UFV.

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.

Dr. Nawal Musleh-Motut, Assistant Professor - School of Culture, Media, and Society, appeared as a guest on the Ignite My Voice: Becoming Unstoppable podcast, discussing genocide, privilege, and public learning through two episodes focused on Gaza and global justice. The episodes were titled:

"Understanding Genocide: Privilege and Perception and Gaza" and "Genocide Part 2: The Unfiltered Truth About Privilege and Learning".

Dr. Edward Akuffo, Department Head and Associate Professor of Political Science, contributed to a Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade report advocating for Africa as a strategic priority for Canadian foreign and trade policy. His work builds on earlier House of Commons testimony and supports stronger Africa–Canada partnerships.

Grade 11 and 12 students from GW Graham Secondary School are participating in a two-week welding cohort through Industry Services.

Mark Breedveld (Faculty of Business & Computing) hosted a Sales Careers Networking Breakfast on November 14. The event connected students with local employers such as the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce, Devry Greenhouses, and PepsiCo.

Karen Natho (Kinesiology) has been elected for a two-year term as Vice-Chair of Active Abilities Canada (formerly Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability).

Dr. Luisa Giles received two community grants (total approx. \$6500) to support measuring radon in daycares. Most daycares are in the Fraser Valley; therefore, this builds community with the daycares and grant providers and stands to have a positive public health impact.

Our Future Students Office welcomed some school groups on campus, for a tour and presentation. One group was from Lalme' Iwesawtexw (Seabird Island Community School), a community school that falls under First Nations Education Jurisdiction located in Agassiz. Another group was from Connex Alternative School in Maple Ridge, which is a part-time transitional program for students 15-19 years old who have been out of school or are at risk of being out of school.