

MEMO

FROM: Tracy Ryder Glass, Provost & Vice President Academic
DATE: April 24, 2026
RE: Provost Report to Senate

The emphasis on student learning that includes inclusive, experiential, and high-impact learning opportunities is evident across disciplines as reflected in this report.

The report is rich with examples of students actively involved in research, scholarly communication, and applied learning. Some highlights include: English honours students presented original research at the Honours Colloquium, political science and sociology students co-authored policy-relevant research and conference presentations with faculty, and more than 130 students participated in UFV's largest-ever Student Research Day.

Hands-on learning is also highlighted in applied programs, with students exploring trades through Women in Trades and Indigenous-focused programs, competing successfully at Skills Canada BC, and presenting technology capstone projects to the broader community.

Students and alumni were recognized through awards, grants, and leadership honours, while faculty secured significant external funding (e.g., NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR) that directly involved students as research assistants and trainees. And student voices and experiences were amplified through public-facing scholarship such as ELS student writing published in local media.

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.

The English Department hosted its annual Honours Colloquium (Dr. Amy Tang) where honours students (Triniti Browne, Makenna Brar, Anna McCausland, and Willa Ter Haar) presented their research projects to peers, faculty, and the broader UFV community.

Dr. Noah Schwartz (Political Science), co-authored a policy paper with student research assistants, Ella Duncan, and Korian Deseron, published by the Macdonald-Laurier Institute examining gun violence prevention strategies in Canada.

The College of Arts Showcase 2026 brought together students, faculty, and community partners for dynamic presentations, panels, and applied learning experiences highlighting the breadth of Humanities and Social Sciences at UFV. A highlight was the attendance of Mayor Ross Siemens (City of Abbotsford), at the Social Justice Networking event.

The Women in Trades Sampler (WIT) began on March 23 at the Trades and Technology Centre. The program provides an inclusive, hands-on learning environment where participants explore a variety of skilled trades.

Explore Trades with Seabird Island Community School continues to provide Indigenous students with the opportunity to explore a variety of trades to gain practical experience and earn certifications that enhance employability and support future career options in the trades.

Skills Canada BC Provincial Competition was held on April 15 at TradeX. Congratulations to medal winners: Mabel Young (Gold in Architectural Drafting); Adria Hauser (Silver in Architectural Drafting); Zach Wergeland (Gold in Carpentry); and Aiden Reitsema (Silver in Electrical Wiring).

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 through UFV membership in the UMAP Consortium.

The Research Office hosted its largest ever Student Research Day event with 130 poster entries, 24 microlectures, and 60 volunteer faculty judges.

Dr. Lenore Newman, Director of the Food and Agriculture Institute was interviewed for Eco Canada's program Advancing Women to Leadership Roles 'In Their Words,' asking women leaders to share their experiences with systematic barriers in the workplace, leadership, and the work of real change.

On April 11-12, Dr. Cindy Jardine, together with Indigenous community research assistants Casadaya Marty and Shaun Anderson, conducted a grant planning workshop with First Nations youth from Tus-tuk-EE-SKAWS High School in Frog Lake First Nation. These youth provided invaluable ideas and direction for the development of a research program they have named "Theatre for Us: Dawn of Indigenous Youth Voices" that will allow them to expand the program for their school and other Indigenous schools through the CIHR Funding Opportunity Team Grant: Healthy Youth.

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.

Trevor Forrest (ATS) is working with Correctional Service of Canada to provide Introduction to Carpentry Training at Ford Mountain. The training includes foundational woodworking skills, tool use, and workplace safety to support skill development and future employment opportunities.

17 Trades & Technology students were selected to receive a Coast Capital Leadership Award in recognition of their leadership and contributions.

David Dobson (Business) was recently spotlighted by the Administrative Sciences Association of Canada, along with his fellow Co-Chair, highlighting their roles as Marketing Divisional Co-Chairs and the value of building a multidisciplinary, collaborative research community.

MSW student Jenna Rahn (supervised by Dr. Leah Douglas) was the winner of the FECHD Dean's award for her research poster, titled *Refugee Women's Equitable Access to Perinatal Mental Health Care*.

Dr. Rita Dhungel (SWHS) was awarded a SSHRC Insight Grant(\$124,000) for the study, *"Overcoming Roadblocks to the Prosecution of Human Trafficking: Trauma-Informed and Community-Led Approaches."* Dr. Dhungel is the Principal Investigator, and she will be working with researchers from the University of Calgary, as well as researchers from universities and community-based organizations in Nepal.

School of Education partnered with Xwóxwelá:lhq Yale First Nation to deliver a customized 21-hour Office Skills Training Program for 14 participants, providing inclusive, hands-on instruction in Microsoft Office applications (Outlook, Word, Excel, PowerPoint) that built digital competencies, confidence, and workplace readiness through practical, real-world tasks directly applicable to participants' roles and community work.

Dr. Cynthia Thomson is currently leading a project, "Collaborative Implementation Planning to support the introduction of the biopsychosocial model of pain" with interdisciplinary interest holders from Quebec, Ontario, Alberta, and BC. (Funded by a CIHR Planning grant; Part 3 in a series of projects called "Let's talk about pain"). Student involvement on the project: Michael Brand (Kinesiology student)

The agriculture department hosted a weekly mentoring lunch event during March (Mentoring March). Each week mentors presented on a different theme. To mark International Women's Day and the International Year of the Woman Farmer, Arzeena Hamir, food security advocate, politician, agrologist, and farmer presented on her career journey.

Dr. Jessica Wang (Science), together with Dr. Tomohiro Hamaoka and Akiko Sato from Asahi Biosciences are working on a fee-for-service project to evaluate probiotic feed additives in livestock production. Focused on Fraser Valley farms, this work aims to enhance animal gut health, reduce pathogenic bacteria, and support sustainable production systems.

Anna Griffith (TLC), together with David Thompson (School of Communication) created the Beginner AI Skills Workshop series being offered on May 13 & 20; A hands-on workshop series focused on building foundational AI literacy, strengthening prompting skills, and applying AI effectively in your workflow.

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 of Media and Communication Studies (School of Culture, Media, and Society) was appointed Research Associate with the [Centre for Comparative Muslim Studies](#) at Simon Fraser University, strengthening institutional partnerships and contributing to interdisciplinary research networks.

Ethan Lombard led a Welding Training Workshop at Westerra Equipment. The workshop provided technicians with instruction in Gas Metal Arc Welding and Shielded Metal Arc Welding.

Xwexwílmexwawt's Indigenization, Decolonization and Reconciliation course began at the end of March and runs until June. Co-facilitated by Betty Peters and Eric Davis, this 13-week course grounds members of the UFV community in IDR through a combination of academic study and learning in-community and on the land. This year 18 students, drawn from across the UFV community, are taking the course.

Mark Breedveld and Nathan Arney recently hosted their Sales Management Research Exhibition & Mixer on April 2 where students presented their research posters to judges. Over one hundred people attended. Multiple community members and businesses attended and networked with students.

On March 27, multiple Business Student Clubs hosted the Business Olympics event with competition, connection, and pure fun where students from Marketing, Human Resources, Aviation, Accounting, Sales, and Enactus go head-to-head in exciting business-themed challenges.

Opeyemi Adesina (Computing) participated as a panelist at the 2026 Tech Panel event of the Canadian Innovation Network (CINET) in Delta on March 26. Theme: "AI in Product-Market Fit: Using AI Insights to Validate and Scale Faster."

As part of a UUP-TASK and kinesiology collaboration, [this video](#) was created with the help of UFV community engagement to highlight student success and learning. One student shared in the video that "many task students are different...what I have mostly learned from them is how brilliant some can be."

Dr. David Harper was a guest on CBC Radio's *On The Coast*, with Gloria Makarenko, discussing how he has adapted his classes to use artificial intelligence to enhance his students' learning experience.

Super Science Club, delivered in partnership with Science World, is engaging students in hands-on science learning this month across several schools in Abbotsford. Sessions provided students with interactive, inquiry-based experiences that spark curiosity and build enthusiasm for science.

The Math & Stats department hosted seventy local students and their parents for the 2026 Canadian Math Kangaroo Contest for Grades 1-12 administered nationally by the Canadian Mathematical Society.

April 9th: Launch of newly designed Tenure & Promotion website: <https://www.ufv.ca/tenure-promotion/>