

MEMO

FROM: Tracy Ryder Glass, Provost & Vice President Academic
DATE: September 2, 2026
RE: Provost Report to Senate

I start this report by extending a very warm ‘Welcome back’ to our many faculty, students and staff that have been enjoying their summer break. There have also been many people hard at work on campus over the summer, and this report highlights the depth and breadth of this work as we head into fall.

Across all Faculties/College, students and faculty continued to engage in high-impact learning, research, and scholarship, from international conference presentations and major research funding awards to hands-on trades training and curriculum innovation. In addition, UFV's global partnerships expanded significantly over the summer, with new and renewed agreements spanning Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, Istanbul, and beyond. And if you stopped by our new residence over the summer, you may have also noticed some students visiting from Japan; another initiative of visiting students from our International office.

At the same time, our community continued to deepen its commitment to reconciliation, equity, and public scholarship, through the completion of the Indigenization, Decolonization and Reconciliation program, new Truth and Reconciliation programming this fall, and faculty research reaching national and international media audiences. Internally, work continued to advance key enabling initiatives, including the launch of EndPoint IQ as UFV's new Electronic Research Administration platform replacing the existing ROMEO System, a modernized approach to microcredential development, the approval of UFV's Medical Laboratory Assistant program by the BC Society of Laboratory Science, official Ministry approval of the Master of Science in Computing, and continued investment in teaching and learning support across all faculties.

And we are pleased to see our President receive well-earned recognition from Minister Sunner for his work as Co-Chair of the Steering Committee for the Overdose Prevention & Response Guidelines for BCs Post Secondary Sector an example of meaningful action to protect the safety and well-being of students, staff, and campus communities across the Province.

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 contributed to this report.

Engaging Learners: Yoostexw ye totilthet

Provide inclusive learning environments for everyone.

Spanish and linguistics instructor María De Luna (Arts) presented at the 62nd Annual Congress of the Canadian Association of Hispanists at the University of Salamanca, Spain, examining the structural challenges facing Spanish programs at Canadian universities and strategies for sustaining language programs.

Dr. Shawn Geniole (Psychology) secured five years of NSERC funding (\$202,500) for research on the perceptual, biological, and cognitive mechanisms underlying threat processing and decision-making, supporting equipment purchases and student researchers, including conference travel.

The inaugural UFV International Summer Program (ISP) concluded successfully, with at least three additional institutions expressing interest in participating in 2027. UFV International also completed development of a SOAR (Student Orientation and Academic Readiness) pre-arrival mini course for international students, covering academic strategies, classroom expectations, assessment, and time management; SOAR will be piloted in January 2027.

As of August 20, UFV welcomed 281 new and 835 returning international students, plus 19 returning alumni, for a total of 1,135 international students for Fall 2026.

The Program Development and Quality Assurance Office (PDQA) supported the MSc in Computer Science through approval in July, with a recommendation to develop a graduate supervision mentorship program ahead of the program's Fall 2027 launch and advanced a consolidated approach to microcredential development and approval, including a new proposal template, process, and playbook.

Research and Graduate Studies (RGS) is implementing EndPoint IQ as UFV's new electronic research administration (eRAS) platform, replacing the existing ROMEO system.

Dr. Hassan Javid (Sociology) has been appointed Interim Director of the South Asian Studies Institute (SASI)

The 2026 CHASI Hub Social Sciences and the Art of Changemaking Summer Camp gave high school students an opportunity to explore social sciences, research, and community issues.

The Food and Agriculture Institute (FAI) presented its Indigenous Engagement Toolkit, developed with a Stó:lō Community Advisory Council, at a Genome BC Indigenous Research Ethics Webinar.

Dr. Dave Harper (Kinesiology) delivered a keynote to nearly 1,000 attendees at the 79th Annual American Meat Science Association meeting in Amarillo, Texas.

Dr. Gillian Hatfield (kin) co-organized the World Congress of Biomechanics, which drew over 3,000 delegates to Vancouver in July.

RGS and the Centre for Experiential and Career Education will host the Graduate Studies Fair on September 15, connecting students and alumni with post-graduate options at UFV and beyond.

Science students and research assistants from the BERRi Lab presented widely at national and provincial conferences this summer, including Grounded Innovation 3.0, the BC Protected Areas Research Forum, and Plant Biology 2026, with one student researcher's team taking first place at the "From Crisis to Capacity" Hackathon.

Faculty of Science researchers advanced international profile through invited presentations on astrocyte and immune biology at national neuroscience and immunology conferences.

Teaching and Learning (TLC) Learning Designers and Specialists provided one-on-one online course support to 107 instructors and staff. TLC also launched a new self-enrollment Brightspace Training course along with

AI-focused and Indigenous language and reconciliation-focused workshops, plus the new Launch Sprint microcredential program for faculty.

The Faculty of Applied and Technical Studies (ATS) delivered a Youth Baking Camp and an additional summer cohort of the SASET Explore Trades program, giving young participants hands-on experience preparing baked goods and exploring pathways into the trades.

Three faculty members in the Faculty of Education, Community and Human Development (FECHD) received SSHRC funding this summer. FECHD's School of Continuing Education launched Extended Learning, a new online registration system that logged 743 registrations in its first two weeks and had its Medical Laboratory Assistant Certificate approved by the BC Society of Laboratory Science, the first externally certified program offered by UFV Continuing Education.

FECHD's School of Education hosted its August orientation for incoming Bachelor of Education students, and the Workplace TASK program held a Meet and Greet on August 24 for new students and supporters.

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. Kristina Gicas (Psychology), with co-investigators from UBC and SFU, was awarded \$1.7 million from CIHR for research on clinical risk states and neurostructural consequences of community non-fatal opioid overdoses, aimed at improving post-overdose follow-up and support.

Computing faculty published new peer-reviewed work: Opeyemi Adesina and a former student on evaluating LLMs for psychological assessment (AI in Healthcare Conference, Imperial College London, August); and Mandeep Pannu with Richard Frank on a zero-trust IoT security framework using explainable AI and blockchain (IEEE CCECE, Montréal, May).

UFV International and TLC collaborated to secure a faculty exchange with partner institution Yeditepe University in Istanbul Türkiye. Two UFV Learning Specialists delivered several workshops on culturally responsive teaching and Collaborative Online Intercultural Learning (COIL) at Yeditepe University.

UFV International completed a wave of new and renewed institutional agreements, including new partnerships with Maple Bear Brazil, Chinook Helicopters, Northern Lights College, Kansai University, Medhavi Skills University (India), Coburg University, East Delta University (Bangladesh), and Petra Christian University (Indonesia).

International recruitment efforts supported new enrolment from across Latin America and six African countries for Fall 2026, alongside an 85% study permit approval rate for LATAM applicants and a newly developed international scholarship application process.

Acting University Librarian Kenley Neufeld and a Library colleague graduated from UFV's Indigenization, Decolonization and Reconciliation (IDR) professional development program, marked by a blanketing ceremony at Ch'íyáqtel Smokehouse in Chilliwack guided by Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

The Library advanced its *Teaching and Learning Strategy* and began a Respectful Terminology and Classification project piloting a dotted classification approach for its Education collection in partnership with Mission Library staff.

PDQA is working with the Office of the Registrar to implement Coursedog, a curriculum and calendar management system that will automate program development, suspension, reinstatement, and discontinuance processes, with completion expected in early 2027.

The FAI released a new Genome Canada-funded report, *Agricultural Just Transitions: Putting Labour and Livelihoods into Conversation with Emerging Alternative Protein*, and its Director was featured on CBC's Cravings series and will keynote the APRU Food Security & Agritech Conference in October.

The Centre for Justice, Equity, and Sustainable Action (JESA) is partnering with BCCIC to host a September 3 event on civic leadership and children's rights in Surrey.

Dr. Cynthia Thomson (Kinesiology) is leading a national advisory panel developing guides, tools, and clinician training in chronic pain care, and was featured in the UFV Today blog for her patient-to-researcher journey; Dr. Iris Lesser and Dr. Amanda Wurz (Kinesiology/CHASI) published new research on physical activity guidance for perimenopausal and postpartum women.

Kinesiology faculty published new work this summer, including a commentary on GLP-1 medications and active postpartum leisure, a study on entrepreneurial pathways among retired elite athletes, a discourse analysis of disability representation on Canadian kinesiology program websites, and an accepted manuscript on blueberry supplementation and trail running performance.

BSN faculty and students contributed to community-based transforming-lives work this summer, including vocational skills training in emergency and trauma care delivered with Rotary International and Desea Peru to isolated communities in the remote Andes, and featured community-based "What's in a Place Name" work.

Biology's first post-COVID field school took 24 upper-level students to Tofino, BC for 12 days of hands-on learning across the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region, and a recent Math & Statistics graduate had a journal article accepted in the Canadian Mathematical Bulletin arising from undergraduate research supervision.

TLC's Supported Learning Groups program will support 24 courses across 43 sections in Fall 2026. TLC and the Library also launched UFV's new Open Education website.

The SD34 Electrical cohort and the Professional Cook program both began the new term at ATS, providing students with a positive start to their training in the electrical and culinary trades.

All FECHD Bachelor of Education graduates from June 2026 have been hired, with many beginning full-time teaching positions this September. UFV BEd and MEd alumni are increasingly moving into school district leadership roles. Two recent graduates of FECHD's Workplace TASK program were also profiled on the EKTA podcast, produced by TLC, sharing how the program helped them build accountability and connection in the classroom.

FECHD's Dr. Brianna Strumm (SWHS) and Amea Wilbur (SAILL) facilitated a Trauma-Informed Teaching workshop for UUP instructors in June.

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.

Instructor Chris Friesen's public art course unveiled five new works at the City of Mission's 2nd Avenue "Culture Hub," giving students hands-on experience in public art and planning careers.

The School of Business partnered with the Aldergrove Legion and other community organizations on events supporting the Aviation program, and the School of Computing held a hybrid spring meeting with its External Program Advisory Committee focused on ABET accreditation; its Director was certified as an ABET Program Evaluator this summer.

UFV International reports students from 75 countries registered for Fall 2026. International will focus on building new partnerships with German and Japanese institutions at the upcoming EAIE Conference in Glasgow.

The Library prepared a Welcoming Students Back event alongside continued participation in campus health, safety, and cultural initiatives, including the Coqualeetza Cultural Experience.

PDQA continues to support new program development across faculties, including an MSc in Biotechnology and Sustainability, an English Language Learner Teacher Teachership certificate, four welding microcredentials, an Animal Sciences major, and a Linguistic and Language Studies associate certificate.

The Peace and Reconciliation Centre's *Xwelítem Siyáya: Allyship and Reconciliation Building Program* returns this fall with a renewed structure and will premiere the documentary *Legacy of a Lynching — Creating A Resting Heart* on September 23, exploring the 1884 lynching of Louie Sam, a 15-year-old Stó:lō boy.

UFV will mark the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30 with Stetís ímexstowx (“walk beside us”), joining civic organizations at Thunderbird Square and Civic Plaza, alongside TLC's own Truth and Reconciliation Day of Learning on campus on September 29, featuring the Stó:lō toti:lt (Stó:lō Learning Principles).

The FAI partnered with Archway Food Justice on a Vietnamese spring roll cultural cooking workshop in August, and the Centre for Education and Research on Aging will host its fourth annual CERA Day on September 25.

Dr. Dave Harper (Kinesiology) is an invited delegate to the “All In 2026” AI and technology conference in Montreal, and Dr. Luisa Giles was interviewed by Global TV on exercising during wildfire smoke, receiving a Fraser Valley Regional District grant to research indoor air quality.

Faculty of Science outreach continued to connect UFV with local schools and communities this summer: a decolonized, Indigenous-centred plant curriculum was developed and piloted with the Abbotsford School District through the Super Science Club, practicum students presented a strategic literature review to Lytton, BC's City Council, and Biology hosted the North American Comparative Immunology Workshop.

TLC's AVP met with all six Faculty Deans and Associate Deans on priorities for the coming year and will present to all six Faculty Councils this fall. TLC continued development of the COIL microcredential program with PDQA.

ATS welcomed more than 750 visitors to its booth at the Chilliwack Fair (August 7–9) and provided attendees with information about UFV's trades programs.

FECHD's School of Continuing Education continued its partnership with Métis Nation British Columbia, delivering a customized Management Skills leadership program praised for strengthening managers' confidence and ability to lead diverse teams; a new cohort begins September 1.

FECHD's English Language Studies program saw strong renewed demand following its reinstatement, with more than 120 new students registered between January and June and the first cohort set to graduate with an Associate Certificate in English Language Studies at Convocation in 2027; an AI-in-teaching workshop series drew 287 registrants across seven offerings, and Dr. Brianna Strumm (SWHS) received UFV's 2025/26 Teaching Excellence Award.