



Report to Senate  
March 6, 2019  
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## Report to Senate of the Vice President, Research

### 1. Research Grants Update

February and March are a particularly active time for research grants. On one February day alone, ORS staff submitted 5 CFI-JELF applications, 10 NFRF grant applications, 2 SSHRC PG applications with Brock Primary Investigators, requesting \$2.5 million each, with 2 more PGs going in with Brock researchers as formal collaborators, and 45 NSERC USRAs. February also saw the submission of a Transatlantic Platform grant application, Mitacs applications, and OCE proposals, among others.

#### *Know your research acronyms:*

- CFI-JELF: Canada Foundation for Innovation - John Evans Leadership Fund (formerly the Leaders Opportunity Fund).
- NFRF: New Frontiers in Research Fund - a Tri-Agency grants program unveiled in December 2018, projected to have a series of targeted special calls.
- OCE: Ontario Centres of Excellence - provincial program supporting a range of academic-industry collaboration and entrepreneurship grants.
- PG: Partnership Grant - SSHRC's largest collaborative grant program.
- USRA: Undergraduate Student Research Award (NSERC program).

### 2. CFI-IF internal call

At the time of writing, an internal call for CFI Innovation Fund proposals was being prepared. The CFI-IF program supports larger investments than the JELF program. We anticipate that the Foundation will soon be announcing a new Innovation Fund application round.

### 3. Match of Minds

Submissions for the 2019 Match of Minds program closed on March 1. Following ORS review for eligibility, applications have been sent to Faculties for evaluation and ranking. Notices of award are anticipated in the first week of April. This represents the inaugural run of the program under the revised process that entrusts the evaluations to the Faculty of the applicants. Updated guidelines for the Match of Minds program are posted at:

<https://brocku.ca/research-at-brock/wp-content/uploads/sites/73/Match-of-Minds-Program-Guide-2019-Updated-Jan-31-2019.pdf>

#### **4. Research outputs at all-time high**

Brock University researchers had 670 academic publications in 2018 according to early data from SciVal. This measure is an incomplete picture of research, because it does not capture some forms of scholarly and creative output. (SciVal also does not assign 95% confidence to the measure until June.) However, for what it does reflect, this represents an all-time high in research intensity for Brock University.

#### **5. Strategic Plan implementations**

##### *Faculty consultations*

I have been meeting with Faculty Chairs and Directors groups to review the research components of the Strategic Plan, and to share ideas and information regarding the implementation of the Plan in specific Faculties. I have found this a valuable and illuminating set of consultations.

##### *CRC/CFI Strategic Research Plan*

As noted in Strategic Plan discussions and documents, the Canada Research Chairs secretariat and Canada Foundation for Innovation require institutions to have a “Strategic Research Plan” satisfying certain technical criteria, that indicates the outcomes and priorities that the CRC and CFI programs will be used to support. Brock University’s existing plan was filed in 2006, and requires immediate update. The Associate Deans Research of each Faculty have reviewed a set of themes for an updated document, which will be drafted in the coming weeks.

#### **6. BrockLINC**

Faculties have been asked to designate a LINC Liaison, who will work with the LINC Operations Group to ensure full opportunity for every Faculty to participate in and contribute to BrockLINC programming.

#### **7. Brock graduate researchers in NSERC *Science, Action!* program**

Five Brock University students currently have research presentation videos in the top 40 finalists of the NSERC *Science, Action!* competition. This is an excellent opportunity to publicize the excellence of Brock graduate students; last year Brock M.Sc student Taylor Lidster placed third nationally in this program. I encourage colleagues to view these videos and vote to support them on the NSERC website: [http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/ScienceAction/index\\_eng.asp](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/ScienceAction/index_eng.asp)

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