

VPR Report to Senate #692 - September 15, 2021

Colleagues, somehow the summer always seems too short. But even by the standards of short summers, I doubt that I am alone in finding that this summer was far too short! Fortunately, I am very much looking forward to seeing many new and ongoing research initiatives unfolding at Brock over the coming academic year. For this first report of the fall term, I will primarily note some developments that took place over the summer, with links to further information where relevant.

1. Chancellor's Chair for Research Excellence

It was a great pleasure to announce earlier this summer that Dr. Dawn Trussell, Associate Professor in the Department of Sport Management, has been selected as the 2021 Brock University Chancellor's Chair for Research Excellence. This award provides \$20,000 in annual funding for Dr. Trussell's work for the next three years. The project will include a public presentation by Dr. Trussell on her research.

Dr. Trussell is an influential researcher in the fields of Recreation, Leisure, and Sport Management, whose work focuses on aspects of identity, play, and family roles in community sport. Her work has been published in some of the most prestigious journals in her field, and presented by invitation in both academic and public venues. In addition to being a prolific scholar with a track record of external funding through competitive grant programs, Dr. Trussell is an accomplished mentor at the graduate and undergraduate levels. More information on her research program is available on [her professional website](#).

The work she will undertake in her capacity as Chancellor's Chair builds on that research program, focusing in particular on the role that allyship and activism play for inclusivity in the community sport sector.

2. CFI-IF call and details

Early this summer, the Canada Foundation for Innovation announced a call for the Innovation Fund. Eligible costs of an Innovation Fund project include the acquisition or development of research infrastructure to increase research capacity and enable world-class research. Construction costs to build new space or to renovate existing space (including fitting out existing space) are eligible.

Brock University's allocation of the CFI-IF 2023 funding pool will be \$3.5M. Given that CFI will fund a maximum of 40% of total project costs, Brock is able to submit proposals with combined total costs of \$8.75M.

The current [call for expressions of interest](#) is for projects having total costs falling within one of two possible, non-overlapping ranges (Bin A and Bin B):

- Bin A consists of projects with total costs between \$2.5M and \$3.5M
- Bin B consists of projects with total costs between \$5.25M and \$6.25M

The 'bin' approach allows for various permutations of projects to be considered while maximizing the utilization Brock's CFI-IF allocation.

3. Canada Research Chairs

An internal [call for proposals](#) to appoint a scholar to be nominated for a Canada Research Chair was released early in the summer. The call was for a Tier II chair in any of the three main Tri-Council division, and is dedicated to be filled by a scholar who self-identifies as First Nations, Métis and/or Inuit. An information session on the call for proposals was held on July 13.

4. Brock LINC incubator launch

The inaugural call for participants in the [Brock LINC](#) start-up incubator, the LINCubator, was released in August. The program has an anticipated start date of November 1, 2021.

5. Birds Canada and MOTUS Network

As part of Brock University's support for the MOTUS wildlife-tracking research network, a bird-tracking radar has now been installed on the roof of Plaza Building, in cooperation with Birds Canada. This is an important collaboration with the national and international research partners, supported by a significant number of researchers at Brock. I would like to thank our colleagues in Facilities Management and Information Technology Services for their excellent support of this research infrastructure and partnership.

6. Ongoing projects and developments

A significant number of new projects, improvements, and updates in the research enterprise are planned or in progress for the coming year. I look forward to updating Senate on progress in these areas over the Fall and Winter terms. These items fall into a range of categories, including policy work; operational and programming updates; funding and resourcing opportunities; Brock LINC programming; improvements to research space use; events and external research representation; and strategic opportunities.

T. Kenyon, Vice-President, Research