

November 8, 2021

Report to Senate #694 - November 17, 2021

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1. VPR Canada Games Grants program launched

The third round of the [VPR Canada Games Grants program](#) is now open. These grants exist to help researchers take advantage of the unique opportunity to integrate research with a major national event being hosted on the Brock campus in 2022. This includes the chance to study the athletic, economic, political, social and cultural impacts that hosting a major sport event such as a Canada Games have on the immediate community and surrounding area.

Grants are valued up to \$7,000 per single project, and enable Brock University researchers and scholars from all departments and faculties at Brock to undertake research or a creative activity in any discipline and on any topic that relates to the Canada Games. [Here](#) is a sample of the research projects funded in the first two rounds, showing the remarkable creativity and breadth that Brock scholars have brought to this program.

2. Building Better Research Series

The Brock University Building Better Research Series has now been announced. Speakers and topics can be found [here](#). This is an outstanding resource for knowledge and know-how related to research at various levels of focus; please feel free to share the link far and wide.

3. Procurement processes for research equipment and contracts

Why are major research equipment and contract purchases required to go through the University's procurement process, even when they have already been approved as part of a grant budget? To help researchers understand how these issues interact, I wrote an [explanation](#) discussing the connections between provincial law, the research grant sphere, and our procurement policies.

4. VLS Research module update

As was reported to Senate in May 2021, Brock University is one of the core contributors to a multi-university microcredential for research training on Knowledge Management and Communication, supported by a grant from eCampus Ontario. Institutional partners include University of Guelph, Ryerson University, Queens University, Wilfrid Laurier University, and Trent University. Coordinated through Brock LINC, a team of expert research staff from the Institute for Lifespan Development Research, the Social Justice Research Institute, and the Office of Research Services contributed to the Brock-sourced elements of the Virtual Learning Strategy. The VLS has now been drafted, and is being piloted with community partners for their feedback, before being finalized.

5. External and outreach activities

- On November 4, Associate Vice-President Research Dr. Michelle McGinn delivered a presentation to the Canadian Association of Research Ethics Boards, "How to Review a Protocol in the Social Sciences and Humanities".

- On October 22, I was pleased to welcome Minister for Citizenship and Multiculturalism Parm Gill to Brock for a tour of Brock LINC, and to moderate a roundtable discussion between Brock University international students and Minister Gill, with remarks from Dr. Camille Rutherford, Vice-Provost, Strategic Partnerships and International, and Ken Chan, Vice-President Administration. The students on the panel shared deep and important observations about the experience of international study in Ontario, the effects of the pandemic on their work and learning, and the role of the province and the university in supporting their studies, research, and long-term plans. They were outstanding advocates for international studies and for Brock as well; I was grateful for their generous contributions.
- On November 8, Interim President Wells and I met with Dr. Ted Hewitt, President of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, to discuss SSHRC support of Brock University researchers and related issues.

T. Kenyon, Vice-President, Research