



February 7, 2024

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Celebrating Women in Science

As we approach International Day of Women and Girls in Science (February 11), I want to acknowledge the phenomenal work undertaken by Brock researchers, educators, and students who are advancing their scientific fields and contributing to the next generations of scientists. In particular, I extend my sincere congratulations to Rebecca MacPherson, recipient of the 2023 Chancellor's Chair for Research Excellence for her research examining how menopause relates to Alzheimer's disease. It seems particularly fitting at this time of year to celebrate a woman scientist studying a sex-based research topic. I hope that you have all had the opportunity to read the [Brock News](#) announcement.

This year, two Brock scholars, both women, have been accepted as delegates for the 2024 edition of [Science Meets Parliament](#): Julia Baird, Canada Research Chair in Human Dimensions of Water Resources and Water Resilience, and Danielle Sirianni Molnar, Canada Research Chair in Adjustment and Well-Being in Children and Youth. This program, launched by the Canadian Science Policy Centre and the Office of the Chief Science Advisor, connects scientists and politicians to facilitate evidence-based decision making, science communication, and Parliamentary policy-making.

On the topic of celebrating women in science, my office is supporting the new [Women in STEM Graduate Leadership Award](#) to recognize the advocacy and leadership of graduate students in advancing women and under-represented groups in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). I extend thanks to colleagues in the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs who have brought this idea to fruition. The first recipient will be announced on International Women's Day (March 8). Applications must be submitted by February 25.

USRA Program Open

The 2024-2025 Undergraduate Student Research Award program is now open on the ORS SharePoint site. This is a long-standing program to support undergraduate student research experiences in the natural sciences and engineering. Last year, the program was expanded to support a small number of self-identified Black student applicants in social sciences, humanities, or health research fields. The identified supervisor must have an active research account to supplement the Agency award. Please invite promising future researchers to apply. Deadline: Monday, February 26, 2024, 5 p.m. EST.

New LINCubator Cohort

The Brock LINC recently welcomed 12 businesses to its third cohort of the LINCubator business incubation program, which provides support for early-stage startups. Over the course of six months, participants in the LINCubator review their business goals and develop a growth plan by the end of the program. Participating businesses have access to specialized workshops, coaching and mentorship support, dedicated desk space in the Brock LINC Co-Working Space, and other incubation services during the program.

Ontario Minister Nina Tangri Visit

On February 1, the Brock LINC welcomed Ontario's Associate Minister of Small Business Nina Tangri to learn about the entrepreneurial supports at Brock, and to meet a selection of student entrepreneurs.

Brock LINC & Campus Store Contest Launch

The Brock LINC and Campus Store are partnering again to launch the Brock Campus Store Contest. This contest offers Brock University student entrepreneurs the chance to win dedicated retail space for their products at the Campus Store and the Campus Store website for the 2024-2025 academic year. Applications are open until February 15.

New Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern

The new [Government of Canada Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern](#) comes into effect in early 2024. For any grant application that aims to advance a [Sensitive Technology Research Area](#), research team members involved in the activities supported by the grant must not be affiliated with, or in receipt of funding or in-kind support, from a university, research institution, or laboratory connected to military, national defence, or state security entities that could pose a risk to Canada's national security (see [Named Research Organizations](#)). For such applications, applicants will also be required to attest to their compliance with the policy. Consult the [FAQ](#) for information. If you have questions about the policy or its implications for your research, contact orsdirector@brocku.ca.

Bfit Centre Grand Opening

Brock University marked the official grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Brock Functional Inclusive Training (Bfit) Centre on January 24 at the Walker Sports and Abilities Centre at Canada Games Park.

Members of the Brock and Bfit community came together with representatives from industry, community partners, and all levels of government to learn more about the state-of-the-art, 13,000-square-foot facility and how its supervised community exercise programs help to improve the health and quality of life for older adults, cancer patients and survivors, cardiac patients, and individuals living with spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, amputations, or Parkinson's disease, while also contributing to innovative multi-disciplinary research and offering experiential learning.

HREO Panel - Redressing Anti-Black Racism & Fostering Black Inclusion at Brock

On February 5, 2024, I had the honour of joining a Fireside Conversation alongside colleagues Bradley Clarke (Associate Vice-President Students) and Kirsty Spence (Associate Dean, Applied Health Sciences) with moderation by Melissa Wilson (Director, Human Rights and Equity Office). This panel provided a platform for senior administrators at Brock University to discuss challenges and achievements in enacting the University's commitments to the [Scarborough Charter](#) and to Brock's Black, African, and Caribbean communities. This panel was one of many events organized throughout the month by the Black History Month/African Heritage Month Working Group.

Staffing Announcements

It is with the utmost pleasure that I announce two key appointments within our Research Enterprise team. Ivano Labricciosa joined us on January 30 as the Business Director for the Brock-Niagara Validation, Prototyping, and Manufacturing Institute (VPMI). With an impressive 30-year career as an executive leader in the utility industry, Ivano brings invaluable expertise in engineering, business development, and strategic planning, coupled with international experience in alternative and renewable energy. He is extremely well placed to lead the next phase of VPMI development through strengthened industry partnerships and strategic business opportunities aligned with VPMI's scientific expertise and equipment.

Agata D'Innocenzo has been appointed as Director of Research Services, a role that she has fulfilled on an acting basis since September 2022. Agata has been instrumental in the growth and development of Brock's Research Enterprise since she first joined us in 2019 as Research Officer- Institutional Grants and Awards and subsequently as Manager of Sponsored Research and Internal Programs. As a seasoned research administrator, she demonstrates exemplary leadership, dedication, and a solutions-oriented approach that is much appreciated within the Office of Research Services and across the rest of the Research Enterprise team and Brock's research community.

M. McGinn

Acting Vice-President, Research