

Report to Senate of the Provost & Vice-President, Academic

November 12, 2025

Dear Senators,

I am pleased to provide the report of the Provost & Vice-President, Academic to Senate. As you will note, the structure of this report and its content are focused on Brock's [academic plan](#).

As Senate is responsible for the educational policy of the University, it is critically important that we keep the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the academic plan in mind. I have framed this report accordingly around the priorities outlined in the academic plan, with an eye to the specific actions identified within each that we've committed to as an institution. I would also like to use this report as an opportunity to celebrate our progress and achievements on the plan so far.

Thank you, and I look forward to our continued discussions.

Priority 1: High-Quality and Meaningful

- Following up to a question raised at the last Senate meeting: Through the work of the Centre for Co-op, Career and Experiential Education (CCEE), the 4F90 and 4F91 thesis option in the Faculty of Mathematics and Science will benefit from the inclusion of additional industry partners who provide input, advice, and opportunities for students to understand potential connections between academic and industry research. CCEE and the Dean's Office at the Faculty are available to provide more information upon request.
- From Student Life and Success (SLS): engagement with academic supports are up by 10% from this time last year, with students seeking on-demand, peer-facilitated academic support in Learning Services' drop-in sessions. Subjects supported include Math, Physics, Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Health Sciences, and PSYCH 2F23.
- Also from SLS, the coordinated First Six Weeks strategy sustained momentum beyond Orientation, reaching 4,200 new undergraduates weekly, achieving an average 59% open rate and 323 unique clicks per message. There has been high engagement with content related to Orientation, academic support, and co-curricular opportunities.
- SLS also supported Alternative Reading Week (ARW), in which 32 students participated in community-based experiential learning projects with local partners including Birchway Niagara and Habitat for Humanity Niagara, providing accessible opportunities for reflection, skill development, and civic engagement for students remaining in Niagara.
- The Centre for Pedagogical Innovation (CPI) continues to offer faculty and teaching assistant sessions online, in person, and hybrid. More details are [available online here](#).
- CPI is also delighted to announce the 2025 recipient of the [Distinguished Teaching Award](#) is Dr. Pauli Gardner, who gave an address at the [fall convocation](#). The award will be conferred on December 4 at CPI's annual [Tribute to Teaching](#) event, along with the other [Brock-wide teaching awards](#).

- On October 20, Professional and Continuing Studies (PCS) received notice from the Ontario College of Teachers that five programs were being recommended for accreditation to the registrar, demonstrating the continued development and commitment PCS has to offering high-quality teacher professional development through Additional Qualification and Additional Basic Qualification courses.
- As well, on October 8, PCS was named a Centre of Excellence in Logistics Learning by CITT, Canada's Logistics Association. This coincided with the launch of [the Professional Certificate in Logistics and Supply Chain Management](#).
- CCEE Student of the Year Awards are now open! These awards celebrate the outstanding achievements of Brock students, employers, and community partners who make experiential learning and career readiness possible. Each year, we recognize how collaboration transforms classrooms into workplaces, knowledge into practice, and experiences into future-ready skills. Nominations are now open for the [Co-op, Plus, and Experiential Student of the Year Awards](#) until December 1, 2025.

Priority 2: Accessible, Flexible, and Customizable

- The application deadline for Faculty Fellows in Accessibility has been extended. This Fellows program is designed to provide structure and space for faculty who are interested in exploring pedagogical innovations and/or [SoTL research](#) that relates to accessible pedagogy in their discipline. More information is available on the [CPI website](#).
- At PCS, the Late Fall Session on October 6 welcomed 290 participants into online Continuing Teacher Education and micro-credential programs.
- At CCEE, 16 Med Plus alumni returned to mentor Level 3 students through breakout sessions focused on professional school applications. In small group discussions and Q&A sessions, alumni shared insights on applications, interviews, and life in professional programs. The event highlighted Career Education's commitment to mentorship and alumni engagement - connecting students with real-world perspectives while fostering collaboration across program levels.

Priority 3: Supportive and Student-Centred

- At SLS, the Stride program (an academic success program for students placed on probation) has supported 76 students this fall. Students participating in Stride work 1:1 with a Learning Skills Specialist through Learning Services to improve their grades and get back on track following their notice of probation.
- SLS also supports MentorLink, which is a campus-wide mentorship program paired over 50 first-year students with trained upper-year mentors, providing individualized academic and social transition support. Feedback from mentors indicates that participation strengthened students' confidence, sense of belonging, and help-seeking behaviours, with referrals most often directed to Learning Services and Academic Advising.
- Supported by a full-time embedded Wellness Navigator from Student Wellness & Accessibility, the Jason Pearson Wellness Program in Brock Sports & Recreation, launched into its second year with 22 peer mental health champions trained and embedded into

varsity and varsity club programs to support student-athletes. The program includes initiating two mental health training days and 8 Team Up sessions to support varsity teams with navigating through mental health supports.

- Pleased to share that the Brock men's rowing team won its 5th back-to-back Ontario Universities Athletics (OUA) championship title. A historic first for Badger rowing!
- CPI would like to remind instructors that the [course outline template](#) provides suggested language regarding policies. Of note, the [Student Absence Self-Declaration Form](#) can be used by students once per course per term. CPI has [documentation](#) to support instructors in tracking usage and is available to provide course consultations for instructors wishing to proactively design with Brock policies in mind.
- At CCEE, the first Year 1 Co-op Resource Mix and Mingle took place in October, designed to help new co-op students begin building meaningful experiences they can later showcase on their resumes. Students connected with 11 campus and community partners offering volunteer roles, on-campus jobs, and club opportunities, laying a foundation of transferable skills to prepare them for future co-op job searches.
- Brock International is resuming pre-departure training for all Brock-sanctioned abroad activities. New guidelines are expected early in the new year, and CCEE will collaborate to promote and reinforce these practices for any curricular experiential learning abroad
- With the opening of the Burlington campus, CCEE is working with the Faculty of Education to expand career programming, strengthen employer partnerships in the region, and explore new models for cross-campus career engagement.

Priority 4: Equitable, Diverse, Inclusive

- Last month, the [October Community Cook Along](#), hosted by International Student Ambassadors, created inclusive spaces for intercultural learning and peer connection through shared volunteerism and meal preparation. Programming emphasized accessibility and belonging for both international and domestic students through collaborative, community-based experiences.
- This Fall, the Black Student Success Centre (BSSC) was pleased to host an information session and guided tour for teams within the Office of the Interim Vice-President, External. Departments and units across campus interested in visiting the Centre, learning more about our services, and exploring opportunities for collaboration that support Black student success are encouraged to reach out to BSSC at bssc@brocku.ca.
- Also at the BSSC, the *You First* initiative is a welcoming engagement series designed to address the fundamental needs of students by offering free hair and body care products. As part of this initiative, the BSSC hosted a Cultural Pay-What-You-Can Market in October, which welcomed approximately 50 students to access culturally relevant foods & snacks, connect with peers, and celebrate identity.
- In partnership with Hadiya'dagénhahs First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Centre, Brock Sports & Recreation held its third annual Orange Shirt Day on September 30 on Alumni Field with Brock Badgers vs U of T Blues in honour of Truth & Reconciliation Day.

- Professor Leanne Taylor, a [2025 3M National Teaching Fellow](#) and Chancellor's Chair for Teaching Excellence, received the Senior Leader Diversity Champion award at the [Greater Golden Horseshoe Diversity Awards](#) on October 29 in Hamilton. The awards ceremony honoured the high impact work of leaders and changemakers advancing equity, diversity and inclusion in community through education and advocacy in the Greater Golden Horseshoe area. Congratulations, Leanne.
- Rajiv Jhangiani, Vice-Provost, Teaching & Learning, facilitated a panel at eCampusOntario's pre-conference Technology Education Seminar and Showcase with Karen Louise Smith, CPCF, Matt Clare, CPI, and Chelsea Takalo, HRE to discuss Brock's Senate approved [Ethical Framework for Educational Technologies](#).
- CPI is partnering with the Black History African Ancestry Month committee and Professor Shannon Kerwin of from Sports Management to expand the successful course integration initiatives from years past. The course integration events are designed to heighten the profile, accomplishments and contributions of Black individuals in related disciplines as part of the university's broader celebrations of throughout the month of February. For more information contact cpi@brocku.ca.
- In partnership with Brock International, PCS participated in the CALDO Consortium of Universities mission to Mexico in October 2025. This mission consisted of visiting international partner universities and other international institutions to identify opportunities for collaboration, short-term study abroad programs, including ESL, and student recruitment.
- At CCEE, Students from Med Plus and Law Plus joined forces to prepare and serve dinner at Southridge Shelter, many experiencing a shelter environment for the first time. The initiative fostered empathy, teamwork, and social awareness which are key skills for their future professions. This collaboration reflects Brock's ongoing commitment to civic engagement and experiential learning that extends beyond the classroom.

Priority 5: Future-Oriented

- PCS, along with ITS, has begun discussions with the Lifelong Learning Extended Education (Destiny One) team, around potential system improvements to improve learner experience during the registration process. This project is intended to simplify the course registration process and make it easier for learners to engage with Brock University for Professional, Continuing and Executive Education offerings moving forward.
- At the Regional WIL Conversation Day hosted by CEWIL Canada at the University of Guelph, over 100 WIL leaders from Ontario post-secondary institutions gathered to explore findings from [Navigating New Ground: Perspectives from Canada's WIL Ecosystem \(2024\)](#). The discussion underscored how much the landscape has shifted in just one year, as institutions continue to navigate budgetary constraints while seeking sustainable, student-centered models for work-integrated learning. These conversations reaffirm the importance of collaboration and innovation in preparing students for the future world of work.
- Excited to share that two significant robotics competitions will be happening here at Brock next year, organized by the Faculty of Mathematics and Science (FMS). Following the

successful signing of a Collaborative Agreement with FIRST Robotics Canada and a rental contract with Canada Games Park, the University will welcome students, mentors, and families from across Ontario and around the world to campus for two very special events:

- The 2026 FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Provincial Championships (Feb 21-22)
- The 2026 Canada Cup of Robotics (June 13-20)

The FTC Provincial Championships is being hosted at Brock for the second time next year and will include teams of students from across the province in grades 7-12. In June, the Canada Cup of Robotics is an international tournament that will bring together thousands of students, mentors and families from across Canada and around the world. Held over eight days, the events are expected to draw more than 5,000 participants and spectators – many of whom will be accommodated on campus during for the week. More information can be found on the [FMS Robotics page here](#).

Be sure to mark your calendars!

As I am unfortunately not able to join Senate today—and Brian Power has graciously agreed to speak to this report on my behalf—I would like to make note of the document I have included as an appendix. It is the most recent version a Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) Strategy for Brock. As I outline in the foreword, it is a framework and toolkit for managing our enrolment in a strategic and sustainable manner to 2030 and beyond. It is also a document that is meant to evolve, and will be updated to reflect new insights, trends, and learnings in the future.

The SEM Strategy remains in draft form at this stage. In addition to Senate, it will also be shared it with Board of Trustees towards the end of this month. I would welcome feedback, thoughts, and/or comments on the draft at this stage. These may be shared by email to provost@brocku.ca.

Following this, we'll be finalizing the SEM Strategy and making it widely available to members of our community and beyond.

Sincerely,

Arja Vainio-Mattila
Provost & Vice-President, Academic

Enclosure: [Strategic Enrolment Management Strategy – Draft](#)