



Report to the **Board of Governors**

June 2025



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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE CHANCELLOR

Events

In addition to my regular administrative and governance engagements, the following activities are of note since the last meeting.

On May 30th I was very pleased and honored to meet with incoming president Dr. Bruce Choy at the Waterfront campus of George Brown College to start the transition process.



On May 31 I was pleased to chair a session at the preconference workshop spotlighting Canada's Colleges at the Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education at the Federation of Humanities and Social Sciences Congress and on June 2 I co-presented a session on the impact of remote work: "Reshaping Higher Education Leadership in the Era of the Flexible Workplace".

On June 3 I was pleased to attend the unveiling of a newly commissioned Indigenous art piece by renowned artist Pam Baker in the Arbutus building at KPU Surrey.

On June 4, I was pleased to attend the West Coast Excellence Award celebration of Dr. Lee Beavington: the first KPU instructor to be so honored.

On June 9 to 11 I chaired a virtual quality process audit for Georgian College in Ontario, and from June 10 to 13 we hosted our wonderful summer convocation ceremonies.

I attended the regular virtual meeting of the Ontario College Quality Assurance Management Board on June 17 and on June 18 I joined the virtual meeting of the Council of Presidents of the Association of Governing Boards.

Indigenous Student Services

Open Doors, Open Minds 2025

On April 30th, KPU welcomed nearly 90 Indigenous high school students from across the Lower Mainland for our annual **Open Doors, Open Minds** event. This inspiring day empowers Indigenous youth to envision their post-secondary journey through interactive mock classes, powerful words from Elders and keynote speaker, and enriching cultural performances.

KPU Elder in Residence, Lekeyten and Kwantlen First Nation Elder, Sqwayeten, shared thoughtful words and sang their beautiful *Heart Beat* song. Our keynote speaker was Justin Rain, a proud Plains Cree actor and member of the Zagimē Anishinabēk Nation in South Saskatchewan. With over 70 television appearances, Justin shared his inspiring journey through the creative arts, which he views as a form of survival, transformation, and reclamation of identity. His message encouraged students to embrace self-expression as a powerful tool to find their voice and purpose. In addition, students witnessed a Jingle Dress healing dance performed by Nyla Bedard, who emcee'd the event and her daughter, Bonnie followed by students joining in a vibrant friendship dance.

Several Hershel backpacks were gifted to students, and every student received a \$50 gift certificate for participating in the event. This event was made possible through a collaboration between Indigenous Student Services and the Future Students Office.



Justin Rain, Keynote Speaker

New Moon Gala

The second annual **New Moon Gala**, held on May 22, 2025, was a vibrant celebration hosted by Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) in collaboration with Indigenous Student Services. This special evening brought together KPU staff, Indigenous leaders, and members of the Surrey community for a night of cultural connection and celebration.

Guests were treated to an engaging lineup of entertainment, including soulful country and folk music by **Shawn Bullshields**, a powerful keynote address by **Melanie Mark**, and a captivating cultural performance by **Laura Grizzlypaws** of the **Lil'wat First Nation**.



Laura Grizzlypaws, Lil'wat Nation

A highlight of the evening was a heartfelt tribute by **AVP Gayle Bedard**, who presented **President Alan Davis** with a **cedar feather and ceremonial box** in recognition of his dedicated service as KPU President and his ongoing commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action.



New Moon Gala con't

Indigenous Student Services received generations donations from renowned Indigenous artists, including **Haida artist and Master Carver Robert Davidson, Tahltan artist Grant Pauls, Haida Artist Bill Bedard, and Greg Falys (Agate Inspirations)**. The attendees participated in a friendly bidding war while enjoying a delicious buffet dinner catered by **5 Star Catering**.

Proceeds from the silent auction will go toward supporting Indigenous students at KPU. The final fundraising total is currently being calculated and will be announced soon.



Growing Wellness & Culture: The Indigenous Healing Garden Takes Root

Indigenous Services is excited to share the completion of the Indigenous Medicine Garden - a space dedicated to cultural education, mental health, and community connection.

This garden isn't just about plants, it is about planting the seeds of healing, understanding, and reconciliation. Inspired by Indigenous knowledge and wellness practices, the space is designed to offer a peaceful retreat where students, staff, and faculty can connect with nature, reflect, and take part in healing and educational activities.

A collaborative partnership between Facilities ensured the garden reflects authentic cultural traditions of Indigenous peoples, as well as the power of intuitional shared ideals and initiatives. There's been thoughtful discussion around educational

signage, plant choices, and ways to involve students in the design process as the garden evolves.

The layout has been carefully planned to make the most of natural sunlight while creating areas for quiet reflection and community gathering. Specific Indigenous medicines and plants were chosen to promote wellness and teachings and to provide Indigenous students with outdoor space that reflects cultural and land-based teachings.

This garden is also part of a broader vision to decolonize mental health services on campus. We're working on new resources and approaches that integrate Indigenous healing practices into existing counseling support, creating a more inclusive and culturally safe space for all.

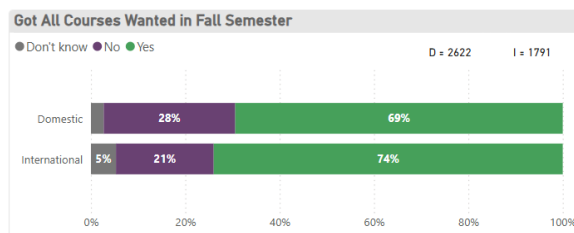
As the garden takes shape, we look forward to it becoming a living symbol of growth — not just of plants, but of shared respect, knowledge, and well-being.

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Experience

Student Experience

2024 Student Satisfaction Survey: This survey collects a broad range of information from students on their KPU experience to identify areas for improvement. Reporting in this period included results on the following topics, which are published in the 2024 Student Satisfaction Survey dashboard: educational experience, learning and campus life, KPU services, choices and admissions, student plans, course registration, delivery preferences, and results from all open-ended questions.



LPN to BSN Pathway: Completed a preliminary assessment of the academic performance of LPN to BSN Pathway students to understand early results of the pilot's effectiveness. The report was provided to the Dean, Faculty of Health.

HCAP Graduates Survey: This is an ongoing survey of recent graduates from the Health Care Assistant Program, designed to provide feedback on the program and report on their health-related work experience and readiness for practice. The survey included two cohorts and was open in December 2024 and March 2025. A report was delivered to the HCAP program on May 6.

BSN Program Completion Survey: This is a recurring survey for students about to graduate from the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. Students provide feedback about the program including their development of professional competencies and overall satisfaction. The survey of Spring 2025

graduates ran from March 17 to April 6, and results were reported to the program on May 6.

GNIE Graduate Survey: This survey provides feedback from recent graduates of the Graduate Nurse Internationally Educated Re-Entry program regarding the program's strengths and weaknesses as well as the extent to which their education prepared them for nursing practice in Canada. The survey included graduates from three cohorts, and a combined report of the results was delivered to the GNIE program on March 27.

Employee Experience

2024 Employee Engagement Survey: This survey covered three main areas: employee engagement, health and well-being, and diversity and equity. It was sent out to all employees on November 6 and closed on December 4. During this reporting period, the overall report of the closed-ended results was posted on OPA's SharePoint site, accessible to all employees, and divisional reports of closed-ended were completed and provided to Human Resources for distribution to division leads.

Faculty and Researcher Feedback Survey: This survey collected feedback from faculty members and researchers on relevant areas of their work, including teaching and learning, scholarship and research, the library, Senate, and their KPU communication preferences. It was open February 5 to March 9, and a report of the teaching and learning-related results was delivered to the AVP, Teaching & Learning on April 29.

Microsoft Copilot Pilot Project: Administered a survey to all KPU employees that participated in the Microsoft Copilot Pilot Project to understand participants' use of Copilot, its effectiveness, and employee experiences in the pilot project more generally. A report of the findings was delivered to IT project administrators on April 1.

Sustainability

Integrated Planning

Annual Program Reports: A new initiative, started in Spring 2025, was the launch of annual program reports to support informed decisions about the health of our programs. The reports provide key information on enrolments by program, discipline and year of study within the discipline, student success and retention rates, graduation rates and number of graduates, and outcomes of program graduates. There is one report for each limited-intake program, one for each open-intake discipline, and reports for each subject area that is not part of a program. The reports have been provided to Deans, Associate Deans, Chairs and coordinators and all faculty.

Support on using Annual Program Reports: Presentations have been made to the Faculties of Arts and Science, that the School of Business on factors to consider when reading the reports. Additional support is provided to faculty in addressing issues in the programs, and follow-up information is provided on request.

Leaver Analysis: One of the results in the program reports (see above) is that leaver rates—that is students who leave KPU without graduating—for domestic students in open intake programs is high. To try to learn more about leavers and their reasons for leaving preliminary analysis was conducted coming domestic leavers with domestic non-leavers in how they answered questions on the 2022 Student Satisfaction survey while they were still students. More research will be conducted to expand this analysis.

New Dashboards: Published the BC Enrolments by Discipline and BC Graduates by Discipline dashboards. These dashboards provide headcount enrolments and graduation headcounts, respectively, for every public institution in BC from 2013/14 to 2022/23, the most recent year available in the source data.

Student Profiles: Completed segmentation analysis of domestic students using the 2024 Student Satisfaction Survey data. This led to the development of several student 'personas', based on shared

characteristics, which can help KPU in its recruitment efforts by more easily understanding the motivations and goals of different segments of the student body.

Supported the Future Students' Office (FSO) by publishing in Power BI the High School Applicant dashboard for the exclusive use of FSO in their recruitment efforts. This dashboard provides headcounts and applicant information by name of high school. It is used by FSO for applicant follow-up.

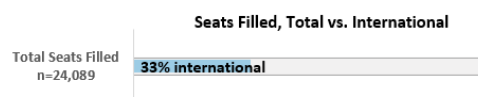
Completed research and provided a report to the Faculty of Science about the home cities of students taking Science courses in Richmond in general, and in particular those taking the Engineering Certificate program.

Ongoing enhancements and updates of OPA Power BI dashboards: Academic Standing, Grade Distribution, Credential, Applicant Funnel, Enrolment Tracking, Current Enrolment, Enrolment by Year, Over-Enrolment, Seats, Employee, Retention Overview, Limited-Intake Retention, and others.

Enrolment Planning

Provided weekly updates on enrolments for Summer 2025, from the end of the first week of the registration period to the stable enrolment date. These updates include an assessment of enrolments compared to projects for Summer 2025 and are distributed to program chairs and academic and administrative leaders.

Developed and distributed an infographic fact sheet that provides an overview of enrolment (e.g., headcounts, FTEs, and international student seat utilization) for the most recent semester and academic year for KPU decision-makers. In this reporting period, a fact sheet was produced for Summer 2025. Fact sheets are produced each term following the stable enrolment date and are published on OPA's SharePoint site.



Applicant Funnel dashboards: Applicant funnels for summer 2025, fall 2025, and spring 2026 are currently

running and dashboards are updated weekly. The dashboards provide information on the number of applicants and their conversion through each step in the application process to qualified, offered, admitted, and ultimately enrolled. The dashboards also include information on country of origin of international applicants.

Applicant Tracking Reports: Provides weekly updates during the final six months of the applicant cycle on expected conversions of applicants to admitted, and admitted to enrolled. Once registration begins, the report also includes the number of admitted who actually registered in courses. The weekly updates for summer 2025, fall 2025, and spring 2026 are ongoing.

Creativity

Research, Scholarship and Innovation Partnerships

A demographic survey was conducted in order to meet research grant EDI requirements. This survey was sent to student researchers in the Wilson School of Design, launching on March 10 and closing on March 30. A report of the results was sent to the Dean's Office on April 9, for submission to the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.

Quality

Continuous Improvement

Program Review: OPA's Quality Assurance (QA) team supports the Program Review process, from planning to data collection to coordination with the Senate Standing Committee on Program Review (SSCPR). The work the QA team supported this reporting period includes:

Organized and hosted the External Review site visit for NGO and Nonprofit Studies on March 12 & 13, 2025.

Administrative Data reports were prepared and delivered to three programs; student, alumni, faculty, and discipline/sector surveys were conducted, and reports of results were provided to three programs; and student, alumni, faculty, and discipline/sector surveys were developed for four programs.

The SSCPR approved 4 reports since March 2025 as follows:

- Environmental Protection Technology Self-Study Report
- Marketing External Review Report
- Economics External Review Report
- Product Design Third Annual Follow-Up Report

Course feedback: Course Feedback surveys for spring 2025 were conducted for 1,787 sections. The Quality Assurance Team prepared and delivered 836 reports to instructors. In addition, 101 aggregated reports were delivered to post-probationary instructors. Deans received the reports for probationary instructors and aggregate reports for post-probationary instructors. We continued to use social media and incentives (chance to win a \$200 gift card) to promote the course feedback surveys and increase response rates. The response rate for spring 2025 was 28%, which is slightly lower than the 32% response rate for spring 2024.

Nursing Simulations Pilot Surveys: These surveys were administered to two cohorts of Bachelor of Science in Nursing students, who were provided with additional simulation experiences prior to their clinical practice placements. Feedback focused on the helpfulness of the simulations, confidence in using skills learned, and gaps that should be filled in future simulations. The surveys were run in April, and the final reports of the results were delivered to the Faculty of Health Simulation Lead on May 1 to help determine potential continuation of the pilot.

Holding each other Responsible for Promises and Expectations

Provided HR with the list of instructors and classes with over-enrolment due to Last Class to Graduate (LCG) in spring 2025 and summer 2025 for providing to KFA in compliance with article 11.02.a of the KPU-KFA Collective Agreement.

Provided HR (and Payroll) with the spring 2025 Final Over-enrolment Report due to LOU #11 (Over-enrollment Process) and Article 11.02 (LCG).

Accountability and Transparency to Friends,
Communities, Partners and Governments

OPA has undertaken the following activities during this period to support accountability to government and partners:

Submitted KPU student data to the Ministry of Post-Secondary and Future Skills' (PSFS) Central Data Warehouse (CDW).

Submitted the Final FY2024-25 Student FTE Report to the Ministry of PSFS.

Completed the IRCC Compliance Report by providing the status of 5,258 International students as of spring 2025.

Assisted the Ministry of PSFS in administering their Student Perceptions of Sexualized Violence Survey. The survey is conducted in accordance with the Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act and is designed to assess student perceptions on key issues related to the implementation of sexualized violence policies at public post-secondary institutions in BC. The overall response rate was 10% and the KPU response rate was 9%.

Submitted the KPU response to the 2025 Tuition and Living Allowance Survey conducted by Statistics Canada.

Submitted to the annual IR Data Collection of Polytechnics Canada. This includes Enrolment and Credential count summaries.

Provided data to support the Communications and Media Relations Office's submission to the 2026 Maclean's Colleges Questionnaire.

Supported the library by providing data on KPU headcounts and FTEs for the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL).

In coordination with Finance, provided data at the request of the audit team working on the financial statement audit of the Polytechnic Ink Publishing Society (PIPS), a non-profit society that governs KSA's publication (The Runner).

ACADEMIC PORTFOLIO

Policy and Academic Affairs

Progress on annual report (Academic Year 2024-2025)

Per Procedure GV2 Policy Protocol, the President will report annually to the Board and Senate on University policies developed and reviewed during an academic year (and the action taken or recommended after the review), including all Policies and Procedures that went through the clerical change process. Status updates of all existing policies and ongoing policy work have been consolidated; with the President's approval, they will be presented to the Senate Standing Committee on Policy, Senate, Board Governance Committee, and Board of Governors in May and June 2025 for information.

The Policy and Academic Affairs (PAA) unit continues to provide regular policy status reports and policy review requests to all Policy Sponsors in June, September, and January to ensure that Policy Sponsors are apprised of the progress on policies under their portfolios, and that policies are reviewed and acted upon in a timely manner.

The PAA unit has created a real-time PowerBI dashboard and [policy status report](#) for the internal KPU community. Please visit the [Policy and Academic Affairs SharePoint site](#) and find the status report under the "Reports" section.

The PAA unit would like to thank the Senate Standing Committee on Policy for their ongoing support and guidance on policy development at KPU, as well as governance bodies and the University community for their engagement and participation in policy consultation over the course of this academic year.

AC15 Micro-credentials

Draft Policy and Procedure AC15 Digital Credentials (Non-Credit) have completed the Phase Two Posting on the KPU Policy Blog as of March 27, 2025. During the Phase Two Posting period, **Josephine Chan** and the PAA unit, along with **Dr. Nishan Perera**, consulted with the Senate Standing Committees on Teaching

and Learning, Micro-credentials, Policy, Curriculum, and the Digital Badge Committee, and Deans Council for further feedback. Josephine and PAA have completed the revision on the drafts to reflect the additional suggestions and feedback received during the Phase Two Posting. The final draft Policy and Procedure will be sent to the Digital Badge Committee for endorsement, and to the Senate Standing Committees on Policy, Micro-credentials, Curriculum, and Teaching and Learning for motion and recommendation to Senate (June 2025) and Board of Governors (October 2025) for final approval.

In the coming months, the Curriculum Support unit, Teaching and Learning Commons, Office of the Registrar, Continuing and Professional Studies and Vice Chair of Senate will be meeting to discuss key issues and operational considerations in preparation for a January 1, 2026 implementation.

Graduate Studies

The Graduate Studies Council continues to conduct business items in support of future graduate studies at KPU, including the review of the council's by-laws, draft policy and regulations framework, and discussion on future master's programming at KPU. The PAA unit continues to conduct sector scans and internal consultations on other relevant topics of general regulations including minimum admission requirements, academic progress, and leave of absence. PAA will continue to support the council on proposing and recommending general regulations that support graduate studies at KPU.

On May 13, 2025, the Senate Standing Committee on Policy passed a motion to recommend that Senate approve an omnibus approach to Policy/Procedure revision to support graduate studies at KPU. If approved by Senate on May 26, 2025, PAA will begin this work in accordance with GV2 Policy Protocol.

The council recently concluded its work on KPU's first set of graduate studies general regulation on master's capstone project or thesis dialogue. At its recent meeting on May 1, 2025, the council moved to recommend the draft regulation to Senate for approval. The draft regulation has also been

submitted to the June 4th Senate Standing Committee on Curriculum meeting for recommendation to Senate for approval as well. This will be the first graduate studies general regulation at KPU, and it provides a set of guidelines that outline the principles of the Dialogue, and aspects of a capstone project or thesis in a master's program at KPU.

Updates on the work of the Graduate Studies Council and its by-laws, as well as the meeting schedule and correspondences, are located on the [website](#) and [SharePoint](#) of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Updates to Enhance Accessibility on Policy Development at KPU

The PAA unit is working to make policies and policymaking process more accessible at KPU. Currently, the unit is working with Marketing to revamp the KPU Policy Development website and, importantly, to offer HTML versions of existing KPU policies. This means that KPU policies will be displayed in simple text format and be compatible with screen readers and other accessibility tools. In the meantime, we are redesigning the formats of Policy and Procedure documents to improve accessibility. The HTML versions of existing KPU policies will reflect the updated, more accessible formats.

In parallel to the website update, PAA is working on a Policy Developer Guidelines document. This document will provide an overview of the policy development, revision, and elimination processes, address frequently asked questions, provide tips on consultation best practices, and offer guidance on plain language policy writing. We hope this document will help the University community understand how policy development works at KPU and encourage Policy Developers to write policies in more accessible ways. The PAA team will provide a draft of the Policy Developer Guidelines to the Senate Standing Committee on Policy at its June 3, 2025 meeting for their feedback.

[KPU Policy Blog, Policies under Consultation](#)

Please visit the following link for a current list of Phase One and Phase Two postings on the KPU Policy Blog: [Policy Blog – Phase One and Two Postings](#)

Please visit the following link for a list of Policies and Procedures currently in consultation and amendment stage (between Phase One and Phase Two):

[Policies Currently Under Consultation \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

Policy and Academic Affairs SharePoint site

PAA continues to work on updating its SharePoint site that will allow for more accessible sharing of relevant information and resources, including real-time policy status dashboard for Policy Sponsors, Policy Developers, and the KPU community.

[Policy and Academic Affairs SharePoint](#)

Communication and ongoing feedback

Questions and feedback can be directed to policy@kpu.ca (policy and academic initiatives) or graduatestudies@kpu.ca (graduate studies).

Flexible Learning Office

The Flexible Learning Office is actively working to strengthen flexible learning at KPU through several initiatives:

- (1) Improving internal systems and operations related to Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR), in collaboration with the Office of the Registrar, to ensure more streamlined and effective processes.
- (2) Raising awareness and interest in flexible learning through targeted outreach to alumni, current students, industry partners, and the broader community.
- (3) Engaging with leading PLAR experts to support the continued development and alignment of PLAR policy and practices.
- (4) Collecting and analyzing PLAR-related data, with support from the Office of Planning and Accountability, to better understand the students KPU has supported through PLAR over the years and to inform evidence-based policy revision.
- (5) Reviewing Policy AC6 on Recognition of Prior Learning to streamline procedures and ensure alignment with KPU's institutional goals and its

commitment to flexible, accessible, and student-centered education.

Curricular Support

CourseLeaf

An upgrade to the new operating system for this software is planned for late Summer 2025. Testing will be performed by teams within IT, the Office of the Registrar and the Office of the Provost. No action will be required by end users and plans are in place to back up all data before the transition. The Office of the Provost will develop updated training materials that will be available when the software transitions to the new version.

Generative AI

A webpage that centralizes and consolidates Generative AI resources at the university is currently under development and will be published early in the summer. Five new courses have been approved by Senate for implementation in September 2025 that will give students an introduction to Generative AI related to their discipline of study.

Micro-credentials

Nine Micro-credentials embedded in academic courses have been approved by Senate. These short, competency-based offerings will be represented by Digital Open Badges that display a design created by the Marketing team and are verifiable, shareable, and portable digital tokens. Students who earn a KPU Digital Badge by successfully completing the criteria defined for the Micro-credential may add it to their e-portfolio, share it on their social media accounts, or embed it in their resume.

Academic Integrity

The Academic Integrity Unit has been involved in many events to promote and share academic integrity resources, including the Long Night Against Procrastination on April 10, 2025, International Live Virtual Orientation on April 24, 2025, and multiple orientation events on various campuses during the first few weeks of May 2025.

The unit presented to Chairs Circle on May 1, 2025. Presentations for faculty on Draft Coach were delivered in collaboration with the Teaching & Learning Commons on May 14 and 15, 2025.

The unit also invited **Dr. Sarah Elaine Eaton** from the University of Calgary who presented virtually for KPU on March 24, 2025 to over 80 attendees on Academic Integrity, Student Success, and Human Rights in a Post-Plagiarism Era.

Restorative Justice

Dr. Alana Abramson facilitated a full day in-person workshop on Restorative Justice and Academic Integrity on April 10, 2025. Revisions are also being made to the Restorative Approaches to Academic Integrity Breaches Moodle course based on the feedback and questions received.

Continuing Professional Studies

The Continuing and Professional Studies team is now offering summer courses and are excited about the launch of three new Youth summer camps later this summer – Trades Sampler Summer Camp, World Rhythm Summer Camp, and Singing Camp. These are in addition to two already existing youth camps - Hand Embroidery and Summer Design Foundation Academy. This is an exciting opportunity as CPS is expanding offerings for youth to get an introduction of the KPU student experience.

Work Integrated Learning

Lead Advisor on Work Integrated Learning

Dr. Larissa Petrillo

The close student-faculty connection for Work-Integrated Learning allows for deepened collaborations with essential partners and lasting results for students from across the university. The following success stories showcase the ways in which these experiences can have lasting effects for our students:

- KPU History student, **Natasha McConnell**, took part in the Arts practicum at the Chinatown Storytelling Centre. The organization then went on

to offer her a job. Later, she was accepted into both the UBC History and UBC Archival Studies Master's programs. She's now teaching her own undergraduate students in tutorials as a History MA student, and was awarded highly competitive SSHRC funding to support her studies and career trajectory.

- In a unique paid position, KPU Physics for Modern Technology student, **George Tso**, spent seven months at the National Research Council's Herzberg Astronomy and Astrophysics (HAA) Research Centre in Victoria, BC. Initially a four-month position, it was extended due to his excellent work. Under the supervision of **Tim Hardy**, George worked on developing electronics and instrumentation for the Gemini Infrared Multi-Object Spectrograph, which will be installed at the Gemini Observatory at the summit of Mauna Kea in Hawai'i. He also worked on assembling a cryostat camera for one of the HAA's own telescopes.

With nearly 50 Service Learning Assistants this past year, we have ensured that this group of students serves an important paid role, while building on their own learning experiences with Work-Integrated Learning at KPU. The following provides a snapshot of the role of one Service Learning Assistant, **Lina Osore**, in the Music program:

- **Lina Osore**, the Service Learning Assistant in Music, assisted the students in MUSI 3500, who learn how to run a music festival. She has learned how to use a lighting system that was donated to KPU Music by the estate of **Brian Najiwan**. Lina taught herself how to use the lights and program lighting software, and then created learning materials to teach the students how to program the lights for the entire festival. Together, Lina and the students of MUSI 3500 ran the successful music festival - KPU's [Wake Up Social Justice Music Festival](#), which celebrates and promotes social and climate justice through BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour) and Queer musicians.

Including All Citizens

Lead Advisor on Disability, Accessibility and Inclusion

Dr. Fiona Whittington-Walsh

Various workstreams are currently underway to support the work of Including All Citizens Pathway (IACP).

- We concluded our interviews with IACP applicants for fall 2025 intake. We are welcoming 8 new students to join KPU in the pathway.
- We interviewed two new instructors to be mentored starting in fall 2025 to teach two new Arts courses in Spring 2026.
- This month the Lead Advisor will have an IACP table at the Teen Transition Fair hosted by Services to Adults with Developmental Disabilities (STADD) from the Ministry of Children and Family Development, sharing information about the pathway.
- The Lead Advisor continues to collaborate in monthly meetings with Skills Trade BC, Social Research and Demonstration Company (SRDC), and UNITI, to bring IACP into Trades and Technology for a pilot in Fall 2026. The project is funded by a grant from Community Living BC (CLBC).

The Lead Advisor is participating in numerous KPU events to celebrate National AccessAbility Week (May 25-31, 2025) including (1) presenting a second virtual workshop on Academic Ableism with **Trina Prince**, Office of Equity & Inclusion Communities (OEIC) and **Lisa Gedak**; (2) a full in-person presentation on her research on Transforming Services for Post-Secondary Students with Disabilities.

In addition to co-chairing KPU's Accessibility Committee and being a member of the Accessibility Consultation Committee and the University's Diversity and Equity Committee, **Dr. Whittington-Walsh** continues to participate in provincial and national committees including being the vice-chair of New Society Institute (formerly IRIS) Board of Directors.

Dr. Whittington-Walsh was awarded a Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) award for her disability justice work at KPU, particularly the transformative work of IACP.

KPU Climate Strategy Development Update

The draft KPU Climate Strategy: Vision, Values, and Strategic Priorities, is now posted online at <https://wordpress.kpu.ca/climatestrategy/>

This document articulates a KPU position on climate change, that climate change is a serious issue that intersects with all matters of social justice, and that KPU is determined to embrace a leadership role on the subject. It articulates two Strategic Priorities that include a pledge to meet existing emissions reduction targets, while embracing an all-of-institution approach to achieving a maximal ranking under the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating system (STARS). All KPU community members are encouraged to review and provide feedback on the draft.

Dr. Brett Favaro (Climate Strategy Lead) has hosted consultation workshops on every campus and online (10 workshops total) in May 2025, and will present at every faculty council or equivalent meeting. Additional 1:1 or small group sessions can be requested by reaching out to brett.favaro@kpu.ca.

Additionally, anyone who wishes to follow along with the development of the Strategy can request updates through the “subscribe” button on <https://wordpress.kpu.ca/climatestrategy/>

PEOPLE

Faculty of Academic and Career Preparation

- Associate Dean, **Mitra Gorjipour**, Faculty of Academic & Career Preparation, temporarily acted as Dean to cover Dean **Aimee Begalka's** vacation, from March 12 to April 8, 2025.

Office of the Provost

- **Nadine Siriban**, formerly interim Divisional Business Manager, Continuing Professional

Studies, has been appointed as Manager, in the newly created Flexible Learning Office, effective March 4, 2025.

NOTABLE MEETINGS AND EVENTS ATTENDED BY THE PROVOST:

- “Faculty Connect”, an event held at the Richmond campus, aiming to broaden faculties’ community at KPU and build connections, February 20, 2025
- KPU’s Convocation ceremonies, held the week of February 24-28, 2025
- Post-Secondary Learning Working Group, Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (PSFS), February 24, 2025
- Hosted a tour of KPU Civic Plaza with representatives of NVIT (Nicola Valley Institute of Technology), March 4, 2025
- KPU Virtual Townhall meeting (Finance & Enrollment), March 4, 2025
- WestVAC/WestPVR Conference, Victoria, BC, March 5-7, 2025
- The 2025 KPU Leadership Conference and dinner with guest presenter **Lisa Taylor**, March 10, 2025
- The Provost gave an interview with CBC producer **Renee Lukacs** regarding KPU’s layoffs, on March 12, 2025 and another interview with City News on March 14, 2025
- Coffee with the Provost, an in-person session, held at Grassroots Café, March 13, 2025
- KPU’s Wake Up Social Justice Music Festival, March 13, 2025
- Muster station organized by Human Resources, KPU, offering support to faculty and colleagues, Surrey campus, March 14, 2025
- Arts Speaker Series: “Why Poetry Now?” **Dr. Aislinn Hunter**, March 20, 2025
- Attended the Arts Faculty Council meeting, held on March 21, 2025
- KPU’s Third Annual Anti-Racism Symposium, March 21, 2025
- Academic Integrity presentation, **Dr. Sarah Eaton**, March 24, 2025
- President’s Dialogue with **Gwynne Dyer**, Historian and Journalist, March 27, 2025

- “Ask the Dean” session at the Richmond campus on March 31, 2025
- The Third Annual South Asian Arts Festival which was held at the Surrey campus on April 9 & 11, 2025
- BC Campus Steering Committee meeting, April 10, 2025
- Creative Writing Year End Celebration, April 10, 2025
- The Provost hosted a “Provost Presents” zoom webinar, with **Dr. Michael Byers**, titled “Elon Musk, President of Mars?”, April 11, 2025
- The Fine Arts Exhibition Opening and Awards Ceremony at KPU Surrey on April 11, 2025
- British Columbia Association of Institutes and Universities (BCAIU) Meeting in Victoria, BC on April 15 & 16, 2025
- Meeting with **Amos Kambere**, President of Umoja and KPU’s honorary degree recipient, April 17, 2025
- Biology & Health Science (BIOL/HSCI) Senior Research Student Final Presentations, KPU Surrey, April 23, 2025
- KPU Wilson School of Design Grad Show at KPU Wilson School of Design in Richmond, BC, April 24, 2025
- President’s Dialogue Series on April 29, 2025, featuring **Dr. Gervan Fearon**, President of George Brown College, at KPU Surrey
- Participated in the Spring Chairs Circle event, which celebrates the work of our Program Chairs, at KPU Surrey on May 1, 2025
- MSoB Student Pitch Competition, KPU Surrey, May 1, 2025
- KPU Day Celebration, KPU Richmond, May 2, 2025
- President’s Dialogue Series, with **Dr. Alan Mandell**, President, SUNY Empire State University, held on May 6, 2025
- Hosted a “Provost Presents” event titled, “Indigenous PLAR at TRU” with guest speaker **Susan Forseille**, Director, Prior Learning and Assessment, Recognition, Thompson Rivers University (TRU), May 7, 2025
- The Faculty of Academic and Career Preparation, ACP Faculty Council meeting May 9, 2025
- The Alliance of Acupuncture & Chinese Medicine of Canada International Academic Conference 2025, Richmond Campus, May 10, 2025
- Enjoyed Science Rendezvous, Langley Campus, May 10, 2025
- Vice President, Academics meeting, held in Red River College, Winnipeg, MB, May 13, 2025
- Polytechnics Canada Annual Conference: Propelling Canada’s Productivity, Winnipeg, MB, May 13-15, 2025
- BC Campus Steering Committee, May 22, 2025

EVENTS

Faculty of Arts

“The Death Tour Watch Party”, Richmond campus, ENTA lobby, **(March 11, 2025)**. Presented by Sonya Ballantyne, KPU's Indigenous Writer and Filmmaker in Residence. The event, organized by Mary Quinn and Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CECs)

Reporting on Indigenous Communities by Robert Jago, KPU Indigenous Journalist in Residence, online **(March 11, 2025)**. Organized by Mary Quinn (Faculty of Arts CEC).

Autobiography Writing Workshop by Sonya Ballantyne, KPU's Indigenous Writer and Filmmaker in Residence, Surrey campus **(March 19, 2025)**. Organized by Mary Quinn (Faculty of Arts CEC)

Faculty of Arts Authors Event, Surrey campus **(March, 2025)**. Organized by Mary Quinn (Faculty of Arts CEC)

Dodgeball Tournament, Surrey campus Gymnasium **(March, 2025)**: Organized by Mary Quinn and KPU Sport & Recreation

Easter Social, Surrey campus, A2400 **(April 8, 2025)**: Organized by Mary Quinn and Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CECs)

Third Annual South Asian Arts Festival, Surrey campus, Cedar Conference Centre and Gymnasium **(April 9 - 11, 2025)**. Collaborative event led by Asma Sayed, The Canada Research Chair in South Asian Literary and Cultural Studies. The event was organized by Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CEC)

The Truth Behind Land Acknowledgements by Robert Jago, KPU Indigenous Journalist in Residence, Surrey campus, A1780 **(May 12, 2025)**. Organized by Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CEC)

Creating for Social Change by Sonya Ballantyne, KPU's Indigenous Writer and Filmmaker in Residence, Surrey campus, The Gathering Place **(May 20, 2025)**. Organized by Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CEC).

What Does Indigenization Mean? by Robert Jago, KPU Indigenous Journalist in Residence, Surrey campus, The Gathering Place **(May 22, 2025)**. Organized by Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CEC).

Work in Progress - A Reading by Sonya Ballantyne KPU's Indigenous Writer and Filmmaker in Residence, Surrey campus, The Gathering Place **(May 27, 2025)**. Organized by Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CEC).

Indigenous & Entertainment Arts Panel, Richmond campus, WSOD 4900 **(May 29, 2025)**. Organized by Diego Hernandez De la Rocha (ENTA Foundation Program Coordinator) and Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CEC).

Arts Speaker Series:

Talks: This series was initiated by **Aaron Goodman (JRNL)**, **Fabricio Telo (SOCI)**, and **Holly Longair (PHIL)**, organized **Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CEC)**, and conducted online or in a hybrid format.

March 5, 2025: *“Just Electric Vehicles (EVs) for solving the Climate Crisis? How Private EVs Won't Address Urban & Regional Mobility and Climate Injustices”*: Dr. David Sadoway, Geography and the Environment, Policy Studies, Advising Faculty to the KPU Climate+ Challenge, Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

March 12, 2025: *“From Canvas to Screen: My Artistic Evolution”* by Alvaro Rodriguez, Entertainment Arts, Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

March 20, 2025: *“Why Poetry Now? (Because All the Important Conversations are Happening in Poems)”* by Dr. Aislinn Hunter, Creative Writing, Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

April 9, 2025: *“The effects of (mis)fit on people at work and beyond.”* By Dr. Lucy (Liudmila) Jdanova, Psychology, Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

April 16, 2025: *“Everyday Nonviolence: Transforming Classrooms in a Chaotic World”* by Dr. Ying Ma, Educational Studies, Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

May 14, 2025: *“Pausing to Process Unprecedented: Climate Change and Social Justice through Theatre Enactments”* by Renée Sarojini Saklikar, Creative Writing, Douglas College; Dr. Dale Tracy, English, KPU.

May 28, 2025: *“Fictionalizing Lived Experience”* by Dr. Aaron Goodman, Journalism and Communication Studies, KPU

ENTA

Game Development Workshop & Gaming Event, Richmond campus, WSOD 4900 and ENTA labs **(March 22, 2025)**. Organized by Dasha Khon (Faculty of Arts CEC). It was a Future Student Recruitment Event.

Enter the Volume: The World of Entertainment Arts at KPU, KPU Richmond, Melville Centre for Dialogue **(March 29, 2025)**. Organized by Dasha Khon (Faculty of Arts CEC).

Grad Show, KPU Richmond, WSOD 4900 (April 15, 2025): Organized by Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CEC).

Field Trip to Burnaby Village Museum (May, 2025): A Creative Field Trip Led by Instructor Yilin Wang.

ENGL

First Program Advisory Committee meeting,

(April 30, 2025): PAC chair Deb Blenkhorn and Department chair Heather Cyr and Dean Shelley Boyd welcomed members from: Immigrant Services Society of BC, Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary, Langara English Department, Youth Roots), Coastal First Nations' Great Bear Initiative), Langley Fine Arts.

Professional development session on AIBs and Restorative Justice by Dr. Alana Abramson Criminology (May 5, 2025).

FINA

BFA Graduate Exhibition (April 11-24, 2025): Held at Spruce Gallery, Spruce Atrium & Arbutus Gallery.

Drawing Mock Class (Feb.21, 2025): Fine Arts Faculty member Sean Alward taught a mock class in Drawing for high school students participating in Discovery Days.

EDST

SSHRC Insight Grant Adjudication Committee (March-June 2025): Invited by SSHRC to serve on the Insight Grant Adjudication Committee.

LANC

LANC Sings! (March 13, 2025): Department hosted its second multilingual singing event at the Grassroots Café, Surrey campus.

AGM of the Canadian Teaching Chinese as a Second Language Association (May 3, 2025): Organized the 2025 AGM of the Canadian Teaching Chinese as a Second Language Association & the 24th TCSL Conference.

Annual Mandarin Speech (April 19, 2025): Adjudicated the 2025 Annual Mandarin Speech/Singing Contest for BC University Students as one of the adjudicators (online and Chinese Consulate General).

HIST

Spring PAC meeting (Spring 2025): members in attendance: Kyle Jackson, Bob Fuhr, Kari North.

Land-based learning initiative (Spring 2025): Participated in a land-based learning initiative organized by KPU CRIM that will take place at Tsawwassen First Nation.

PHIL

Philosophy Colloquium Talk: "God and the Multiverse" (Spring 2025): Dr. Klass Kray (Toronto Metropolitan University). March 21, 2025, Surrey Fir 142.

POST

Know Your Rights Workshop (March 13, 2025): Hosted Know Your Rights workshop led by the Workers Solidarity Network (WSN) in November 2024, the Policy Studies Department, with Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CEC) organized a university-wide event on March 13, 2025.

PSYC

Connecting Minds Undergraduate Research Conference (May 30, 2025). Student-led event.. KPU student presentations can be viewed here: <https://www.kpu.ca/ConnectingMinds/program>

Articulation meeting, Richmond Campus (May 1-2, 2025).

PRESENTATIONS/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

FINA:

Wright, Jason: Juror - Port Kells Public Art Jury and Juror Surrey Art Gallery, ARTS 2025 Exhibition.

Majano, Paulo (March 27 -April 27, 2025): Participating Artist in the Glacier National Park Residency Exhibition Revelstoke Art Gallery.

Majano, Paulo (Spring 2025): Exhibiting Artist. CulturHub Virtual Art House (VAH) organized by Art House Turku, Finland. Virtual Art Residency Feb – May 2025. VR and Live exhibition June 1 to Dec 1, 2025.

Chuang, Ying-Yueh (April 5 - June 8, 2025): Exhibition – "A Tangled Thicket" at Surrey Art Gallery by the Z.inc Artist Collective.

Dorothy Barendscott (May 22-23, 2025): Conference Presentation: "Savage Capitalism: Hypermodern Kitsch, Contemporary Art and the Billionaire Class" at Neoliberalism and the Capitalists Conference, University of Lausanne, Switzerland.

ENGL:

Student Mixer (May 29, 2025): to celebrate ENGL graduating students and to introduce current students to: the BA Major program changes and the new BA Honors in English program launching this Fall.

IDEA:

Peters, Byron (Spring 2025): a KPU Teaching and Learning Commons "Generative AI Champion,"

developing new tools for practical instruction to protect our inspiring artists and image-makers at KPU.

Ibrahim, Zainab (Spring 2025): “Gathering Wisdom & Weaving Knowledge Together,” bringing Indigenous Guest Speakers and integrating powerful community knowledge-sharing events into IDEA courses, with financial support from Indigenous Student Services.

Peters, Byron (Spring 2025): Offered a workshop “**Deep Listening: A Creative Journey Through Sound**” for Indigenous Highschool Students at Open Doors, Open Minds 2025, organized by Indigenous Student Services.

Peters, Byron (Spring 2025): Created an educational mathematics game, “Proof!”, in collaboration with Sajdeep Soomal (University of Toronto) and China Stepter (Stanford University).

NGO and Non-Profit Studies:

Think Global Link Local (March 7, 2025): Networking event co-hosted by KPU’s NGO and Non-Profit Studies and the United Nations Association, Vancouver.

HIST:

Hayes, Jack (March 2025): Introduction & Discussion, presentation by Dr. Jeremy Wallace, “Competitive Decarbonization: A Political Economy Analysis of US, Chinese & European Industrial Policy”, Institute of Asian Research and Centre for Chinese Research, UBC

Hayes, Jack (April 2025): “China’s History and Policy World post-1949”, Fundamentals of China Course, Canadian School of Public Service and Canadian National Security Program (Ottawa/online).

Knickerbocker, Maddie (Spring 2025): BC Studies Conference, University of British Columbia, presentation on McKenna-McBride photographs.

Martin, Eryk (March 20, 2025): Invited presentation to SFU History department colloquium.

Martin, Eryk (Spring 2025): Chaired two panels at the BC Studies Conference, University of British Columbia.

LANC:

Qu, Yanfeng (May 9, 2025): Presented the Annual Institution Report on behalf of KPU to SCOLA.

Qu, Yanfeng (Spring 2025): Re-elected as a Board Members of the Canadian Teaching Chinese as a Second Language Association.

PHIL:

Longair, Holly (Spring 2025): Arts Book Launch: Holly Longair on Gaslighting Philosophical Approaches.

POST:

Pond, Ellen, Surrey campus (April 30, 2025): Policy Studies faculty member and co-chair of the department of Horticulture. Presentation on advancing climate action in post-secondary institutions at the meeting of the Sustainability Hub.

PSYC:

Dr. MacLean’s Carla conference presentations (KPU students in bold):

Bidawid, N. & MacLean, C. L. (May 31, 2025). Cognitive bias and blindness: A survey of professional workplace investigators Poster presentation at the Connecting Minds Conference, Richmond.

Boparai, S. & MacLean, C. L. (May 31, 2025). Scoping the Evidence: The Effect of Expectation Congruency in Workplace Investigations. Paper presented at the Connecting Minds Conference, Richmond.

MacLean, C. L. (May 13, 2025). Like goes with like: Congruency as a source of bias in investigation. Paper presented at the KPU Research Day Showcase Conference, Richmond.

Boparai, S. & MacLean, C. L. (May 9 -10, 2025). Scoping the Evidence: “The Effect of Expectation Congruency in Workplace Investigations”. Paper presented at the NorthWest Cognition and Memory (NOWCAM) 2025 Conference, Victoria.

MacLean, C. L. (April 2025). “The Science of Cognitive Bias and Judicial Decision Making”. Invited presenter at the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice (CIAJ) and National Judicial Institute (NJI) Spring conference

Champion, A. R. (May 2025). Invited presentation, “Grade distribution as a function of course delivery: Face to face vs. fully online.” The BC Psychology Articulation Meeting. KPU, Richmond campus.

MAJOR EVENTS:

Open Doors, Open Minds –Two ENTA Mock Classes & POST Mock Class “More Than Sustainability: The Four Pillars of a Just Future”, Surrey campus (April 30, 2025). Organized by Diego Hernandez De la Rocha (ENTA Foundation Program Coordinator), Dr. Shiva Olyaei (POST Chair) and Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CEC).

Science RendezVous – ENTA Booth, Langley campus (May 10, 2025). Organized by Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CEC).

KPU Research Showcase –ENTA Booth & EDST Panel Participation, Surrey, Cedar Conference Centre (May 13,

2025). Organized by Diego Hernandez De la Rocha (ENTA Foundation Program Coordinator) and Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CEC).

Promotional Booth at the Wilson School of Design Grad Show, Richmond, Atrium (**April 25, 2025**). Organized by Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CEC).

KPU Community Day, Surrey, Atrium and ENTA spaces (**May 24, 2025**). Faculty of Arts department's booths organized by Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CEC).

KPU Kickoff event (May 26, 2025): Faculty of Arts department booths organized by Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CEC) and Naomi Ben-Yehuda (Faculty of Arts Advisor).

Declaration Day, Surrey campus, Arbutus building (**May 28, 2025**): Naomi Ben-Yehuda and Aysha Haq (Faculty of Arts Advisors) were at the Arts booth.

ANTH:

Fessenden, Sarah (March 27, 2025): Panelist, "Wildlife Management as Sociocultural Practice: Exploring the Anthropological Dimensions of Human-Wildlife Interactions." Annual Meeting for the Society for Applied Anthropology.

FINA:

Bowering, Scott (May 8, 2024): Co-authored a scholarly article -. Postdigital Process Philosophy,

ENGL:

Dr. Tso, Ann: Dr.: a book contract with Routledge for her new volume, *Crises in Literature and Film: Literary Urban Studies in Hong Kong and Related Cities*.

Dr. Doyle, Kelly: Dr.: invited to Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey as a visiting faculty member to conduct research on Turkish horror.

Dr. Weber, Steve: Educational Leave for Summer 2025 for translation work on novels by Algerian writer Kateb Yacine.

Dr. Tso, Ann and Dr. Tracy, Dale: received 0.6 awards for their research.

Dr. Seatter, Lindsey: Dr.: 0.6-sponsored research - monograph on Jane Austen. Research trip to Chawton House in the UK.

Dr. Seatter, Lindsey and Dr. Pasquini, Robert: Presented a paper "Toward a Canon of Skills: Proposing & Designing a Public Digital Humanities Course" at the College English Association Conference in Philadelphia on March 28, 2025.

HIST:

Martin, Eryk (April 2025): in collaboration, edited an article submission to BC Studies.

EDST:

Marzouk, Z., & Winne, P. H. (2025): "Recall or transfer? "How assessment types drive text-marking behavior.

PHIL:

Longair, Holly (March 1, 2025): Gaslighting: Philosophical Approaches edited by Kelly Oliver, Hanna Gunn and Holly Longair.

Smolkin, Dora, Findler, Patrick and Bourgeois, Warren (April 22, 2025): Debating Health Care Ethics.

PSYC:

Dr. Pedersen, Cory L. publication (KPU students in bold):

- **Jensen-Fogt, T., & Pedersen, C. L. (2025).** Exploring attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) symptomatology in relation to women's orgasmic consistency.
- Oswald, F., Champion, A., **Pearson, S., & Pedersen, C. L. (2025).** Intersectional perspectives on technology-facilitated sexualized violence.

Champion, Amanda R. publication (KPU students in bold):

Oswald, F., Champion, A. R., **Pearson, S., & Pedersen, C. L. (2025).** Intersectional perspectives on technology-facilitated sexualized violence.

Dr. Bernstein, Daniel service and other scholarly activities:

- Senate Standing Committee on APP; Member.
- Research Data Management Committee, Member.

THESIS COMMITTEES AND STUDENT SUPERVISION:

Knickerbocker, Maddie (HIS): thesis approval and committee membership:

- Carmen Watson's MA thesis at UBC (3rd reader).
- Nadja Lepojevic's honor's thesis in CRIM at KPU.

Dr. Lymburner, Jocelyn (PSYC) student supervision:

- Alisha Arora (B.A., Honours Psychology) KPU, 2024-2025; supervisor.
- Hailey Russell (B.A., Honours Psychology) KPU, 2024-2025; supervisor.

Dr. Trujillo-Pisanty, Ivan & Dr. Dastur, Farhad (PSYC) student supervision:

- Tanisha Bali (B.A., Honours Psychology) KPU, 2024-2025; supervisor.

Dr. MacLean, Carla (PSYC) student supervision:

- Surveer Boparai (B.A., Honours Psychology) KPU, 2024-2025; supervisor.

Dr. Pedersen, Cory (PSYC): student supervision:

- Camille Bedard (B.A., Honours Psychology) KPU, 2024-2025; co-supervisor with Amanda R. Champion.
- Amy Rabidoux (B.A., Honours Psychology) KPU, 2024-2025; supervisor.

Champion, Amanda (PSYC) student supervision:

- Camille Bedard (B.A., Honours Psychology) KPU, 2024-2025; co-supervisor with Dr. Cory L. Pedersen.

Dr. Minosky, Shayna PSYC) student supervision:

- Rose Kajal (B.A., Honours Psychology) KPU, 2024-2025; supervisor.
- Kajal Virk (B.A., Honours Psychology) KPU, 2024-2025; supervisor.

Dr. Bernstein, Daniel (PSYC) student supervision:

- Aidan Sammel (B.A., Honours Psychology) KPU, 2024-2025; supervisor.

Dr. Dukewich, Kristie (PSYC) student supervision:

- Katie Schmidt (B.A., Honours Psychology) KPU, 2024-2025; supervisor.

AD HOC REVIEWS:

Champion, Amanda (PSYC) ad hoc reviews:

- Manuscript: Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 2025 May.
- Manuscript: Journal of Sex Research, 2025 May (completed with KPU students/KPU alumni).

Dr. Pedersen, Cory L. (PSYC) ad hoc reviews

(completed with KPU students/KPU alumni):

- Manuscript: Journal of Sex Research, 2025 May

PROGRAM/POLICIES/INITIATIVES/ACTIVITIES:

HIST:

Knickerbocker, Maddie and Jackson Kyle: As part of our decolonizing work, Maddie and Kyle attended Robert Jago's presentation "The Truth Behind Land Acknowledgements".

STUDENT SUCCESS:

ANTH:

Kurta, Mackenzie (March 27, 2025): Panelist, "Wildlife Management as Sociocultural Practice: Exploring the Anthropological Dimensions of Human-Wildlife Interactions." Meeting for the Society for Applied Anthropology.

FINA:

Fraser Valley Potters Guild 50th Anniversary 2025

Juried Exhibition (May 3- June 8, 2025): Participants - *Student/ Guild Members:* **Claudia Shen, Eloisa Uy, Duncan Ryans, Eva Ediger, Jennifer Russell, Louisana Herry, Alexandra Claasen, Diva Liang, Ira Espita, Michelle Yang. *Instructor / Guild Member:* Ying-Yueh Chuang.**

Fraser Valley Potters Guild 50th Anniversary 2025

Juried Exhibition Awards: Student Guild Member Category - *Award of Merit:* **Claudia Shen.** *Honourable Mention:* **Eloisa Uy.** *Honourable Mention:* **Duncan Ryans.**

Arts Council of Surrey Presents Arts 2025 (May 3 - July

26, 2025): Juried Exhibition of Visual Art at Surrey Art Gallery. Participant Student: **Claudia Shen.** Award Received: 3rd Place in Sculptures and Fibre Art Category.

Youth Exhibition: A Group Exhibition Presented by the Langley Arts Council at Main Hall Gallery, Aldergrove, BC (April 19 - May 31, 2025): Participant Student: **Claudia Shen.**

Eloisa Uy (March 26-29, 2025): received a Student Educational Enhancement Fund SEEF to attend the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA's 59th Annual Conference, Formation), in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA.

Duncan Ryans (May 2 - 30, 2025): Duncan is currently attending the One-Month Student Award Medalta International Ceramic Artist Residency, Medicine Hat, Alberta. May 2 to 30, 2025.

Duncan Ryans (April 2025): Student received the Helmy Louwe Younker Memorial Endowment Post-Secondary Scholarship from North-West Ceramics Foundation.

Anna Polkovnichenko: 2nd Place Digital and New Media Arts Category Arts 2025. Surrey Art Gallery.

ENGL:

Montana Finn, graduating English Major, will attend UBC Education in the Fall.

Annie Mitchell, graduating English Major, will attend UBC Education in the Fall.

Alyssa Laboucan, graduating Major, will attend the University of Alberta MA in English Program in the Fall.

Jordan Redekop-Jones, recent English Major graduate, will attend SFU's MA in English Program in the Fall.

Jordan Andrews, recent English Major graduate, will attend UBC's MFA in Creative Writing Program in the Fall.

IDEA:

IDEA Students participated in the Lionsgate Production Inclusion Coalition (LG PIC) to work on major feature films, with 1-on-1 supports crafted to suit each participant's passions, goals, and needs within the world of film production.

HIST:

Natasha McConnell (grad 2024) accepted to History Master's Degree Program with full SHRCC (UBC).

Lucas Akai (grad 2024) accepted to Archival Studies Master's Degree Program (UBC).

PSYC:

Alisha Arora, Tanisha Bali, Surveer Boparai, Camille Bedard, Rose Kajal, Amy Rabidoux, Hailey Russell, Aidan Sammel, Katie Schmidt, and Kajal Virk, successfully defended their honors thesis, annual honors thesis defenses April 28th, 2025, in the Surrey Conference Center. For more details, see: <https://www.kpu.ca/arts/psychology/thesis-defenses>

KPU students presented their research and coursework at the 10th biennial Connecting Minds Undergraduate research conference in May 202. presentations can be found:

<https://www.kpu.ca/ConnectingMinds/program>

Hayley McLeary (KPU alumni) accepted into the Master of Library and Information Studies program, University of Alberta.

Liam Ruel (KPU alumni and honors class of 2023-2024) accepted an offer to SFU's M.A. in Sociology.

Pearl Meredith and Hanna Erceg (KPU alumni), accepted into SFU's Clinical Psychology program and awarded CGS-M funding to support their graduate research. Pearl Meredith delivered an address to graduands during the Spring convocation.

Malacha Croy (KPU alumni) has accepted an offer to the University of Toronto's Master of Education program.

Dr. Evan Lopes and Dr. Deborah Mater's Clinical Lab student, Mehreen Mundi, accepted to the Master's degree in Counselling Psychology program, at University of Victoria.

ALUMNI STORIES:

FINA:

Mishel Arrieta, KPU BFA alumnus is currently doing the Artist in Residence Studio program (AIRS), 2024/2025. <https://airsprogram.org/current-artists> .

SPOTLIGHTS/GRANTS/AWARDS:

FINA:

Wright, Jason (June 2025): Greywood Arts Artist Residency in Killeagh, Ireland.

Chuang, Yueh - Ceramics Instructor (Spring 2025):

Fraser Valley Potters Guild 50th Anniversary 2025

Juried Exhibition Awards: **Guild Member Category - Honorable Mention.**

Barenscoth, Dorothy - Funding Awarded (March 2025):

Dorothy was awarded a 0.6% Faculty Professional Development award to make two international conference presentations on her research -contemporary art and neoliberalism.

Barenscoth, Dorothy – MIF (March 2025): Dorothy was awarded a **Mobility for Internationalization Fund (MIF)** grant to attend a strategic planning meeting with the EAHN Urban Representations Interest Group in Palermo, Italy this September 11-16, 2025.

IDEA

Ibrahim, Zainab (Spring 2025): one-time funding from the Indigenous Student Services office for "Gathering Wisdom & Weaving Knowledge Together" series.

HIST:

Jackson, Kyle (March 13, 2025): Honorable Mention, 2025 Bernard S. Cohn Book Prize (Association for Asian Studies) for The Mizo Discovery of the British Raj

Knickerbocker, Maddie (March 2025): Received a 0.6 award used for one course release.

PSYC:

Dr. Dastur, Farhad (Spring 2025): The 2025 recipient of the Dean of Arts Teaching Award.

Dr. Bernstein, Daniel (2024-2028): KPU Research Chair.

Dr. Balakrishnan, Anjana, Dr. Coburn, Patricia, Hesse, Dr. Dukewich, Kristie, Dr. Azad, Tanjeem and Dr. Bernstein, Daniel (April 2025): the Psychology Department participated in a Teaching Excellence workshop organized by the Psychology Department's Indigenization Committee.

Dr. Dukewich, Kristie (Spring 2025): Led the development of psychology-focused micro credentials.

MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS:

FINA:

Barenscoth, Dorothy (March 2025): was interviewed by B.C. filmmaker Daniel Conrad about his BC Arts Council-funded film, Turning the Canvas.

Faculty of Academic and Career Preparation (ACP)

Initiatives/Activities

The Learning Centre (TLC)

- Spring 2025 Academic Skills Workshops exceeded last semester with a 13% growth in participation. Most popular workshops included: Writing in Biology, Time Management Strategies, Conversations and Connections, Reading Text and Taking Notes, Exam Preparation Strategies, PebblePad Basics, and many others. For a full list of Summer offerings, please see: <https://www.kpu.ca/learningcentres/workshops/complete-list>.
- As part of our Academic Orientation to KPU, the Learning Centre offered 7 cohorts of KPU100 to welcome students, including specialized offerings for Pathway Students and the Melville Post-Bac Program.
- Two sessions of the Returning International Undergraduate Students (RSSD Program) were offered in collaboration with International Advising. This program assists international students who have been required to withdraw by providing them with learning strategies, such as time management and study skills, and the chance to reflect on past practices and future changes to support their reinstatement at KPU. Two sessions were offered this semester to accommodate changes affecting international students and to better align with the current timelines set by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).
 - January 2025 for Summer 2025: 26 enrolled, 16 completed
 - April 2025 for Fall 2025: 24 enrolled, 17 completed
- KPU101 Thriving in Action: This special program ran for 6 weeks in Spring 2025. It provides students with strategies to support their learning through the relationship between positive psychology and effective learning strategies. It has been demonstrated to enhance student well-being, confidence, and competence

in managing university studies successfully. It also cultivates motivation, agency, and resilience to improve the lives of students.

- Peer Tutoring in the Gathering Place: Three peer tutors are now available in the KPU Gathering Place to support students with science and writing courses. We are grateful to KPU's Indigenous Student Services for providing the Learning Centres with funding to offer this initiative and for their time planning this delivery.
- TLC hosted a Writing Lab mixer in collaboration with the English Department.
- On May 5th the TLC Team met for their semesterly PD & Strategic Planning day, reflecting on their mandate and program planning for the coming year.

Employment & Community Studies Program (EACS)

- On April 9th, the Employment & Community Studies (EACS) Entrepreneurship students shared their final small business projects with the KPU community. Displays of their entrepreneurial work were available along with a student panel, sharing what they had learned and what their plans are for the future.



ACP Dean's Office

- The ACP Dean's office staff have been working hard to build a social media presence for each of our departments. With advice from KPU's Marketing Services experts, the ACP

Communications team has focused its efforts on Facebook and Instagram. Both the English Upgrading department and the Access Programs department for Employment & Community Studies (EACS) program have accounts connecting them to the community. The English Language Studies department already has a faculty member supporting its media presence.

- See [the attached short video link](#) showing our presence at the Richmond Community Day on May 24th.

Publications/Scholarly Activity

- May 20th-21st, Simon Driver and Kari MacDougall of EACS presented on Accessibility and Entrepreneurship at the 2025 Accessible Education and Training (AET) Articulation meeting at Camosun College (Victoria BC).
- Vytasek, J., Spalding, E., Macpherson, A., Ginter, E., Gorjipour, M., Kaur, M., & Rayat, M. (2025, May). *Equipping Peer Tutors for the AI Era: A Collaborative Training Framework*. Learning Specialists Association of Canada National Conference, Centennial College, Toronto, Canada.
- Vytasek, J. & Page, C. (2025, June). *Conversations with Students on Self-Regulated Learning with GAI*. Association for Learning Development in Higher Education Conference, University of Greenwich, Greenwich, UK.
- Beavington, L. (2025). Becoming a wild researcher through Goethean science, Indigenous philosophy, and creative response. *Australian Journal of Environmental Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/aee.2025.9>

Presentations/Community Activities

- KPU Wild Spaces co-hosted an Indigenous Speaker Series:
Feb. 25 – Senaqwila señaḱw Wyss
Mar. 4 – Elder Lekeyten
Mar. 5. – Jared Qwustenuxun Williams (online)
Mar. 26 – Robert Jago

- KPU Wild Spaces is hosting a summer speaker series:

May 8 – Sonya Ballantyne (The Three Times Bono Saved my Life)

May 29 – Shannon Leddy (Indigenous Pedagogies)

June 4 – Kristen Penhall (Pollinator Walk)

- Beavington, L. (2025). Teaching and place-based learning. Sustainability Hub meeting. April 30, KPU.
- Beavington, L. (2025). Transformative territorial acknowledgements. Criminology Department meeting. March 28, KPU.
- Beavington, L. (2025). Water is a storyteller (guest lecture for ARTS 3000, Amazon Field School). March 8, KPU.
- On May 1st Joseph Logan, student of the Employment & Community Studies (EACS) Program, competed in the inaugural KPU Pitch Competition, facilitated by the Melville School of Business. Joseph competed against students from the Wilson School of Design, the Melville School of Business and the Faculty of Fine Arts. Joseph's pitch was a plant adoption program. Joseph received excellent feedback and secured in-kind support in growing his web presence. Way to go, Joseph!
- Melissa Swanink attended the Languages Canada in Ottawa, Feb 19-22. Languages Canada is an association that promotes and advocates for quality language education in Canada. The conference included presentations by IRCC, Global Affairs, LanguageCert, and representatives from member universities and colleges.
- Four ELS instructors attended the IATEFL Conference in Edinburgh, April 8-12. IATEFL is one of the largest conferences for English language teachers and other professionals.



Student Success

- The English Upgrading (EU) Department faculty are consistent supporters of student awards. In addition to the previously created Academic and Career Preparation Endowed Award and the Bev Krieger Memorial Award, EU faculty are currently contributing to another endowed award. To date, \$8453 has been contributed to the new English Upgrading Endowed Award at a rate of \$2860 annually. When the award fund reaches \$20,000, the department will be able to recognize a deserving student each year with a \$1000 award.



- May 6th, EACS Entrepreneurship Alumni, Jess Thibeault, Joe Logan and Ayden Gagnon now have their product for sale in the KPU bookstore. Jess has developed a line of custom buttons, Joe has grown dwarf plants from seed, and Ayden has created a variety of 3D prints. Please pop into the KPU Surrey Bookstore to check out their handywork. This was made possible through the hard work of Kathy Wood (Operations Manager, KPU Bookstore), Shelley Strimbold (Division Business Manager of ACP) and Leland Dieno (Director of Marketing and Digital Strategy).
- Over April through May 2025, EACS students Veeral Goradia and Waqas Ahmed took part in a four-week collaboration with students from the Melville School of Business to co-create a workshop that will support the development of work placements for students in the EACS program. The workshop will be delivered in the Fall and was funded by UDEC.

- Student Assistant, Kai Barcellos-Roy, received a JEDI award at KPU Day.



- In April, EACS Entrepreneurship Alumni Jessica Cooper was nominated for a Fraser Valley Cultural Diversity Award. The ceremony took place in April. We will miss you, Jessica Cooper! The EACS program wishes our alumni and all around KPU champion all the best as she moves on to the next stage of her professional journey. Jessica graduated from the EACS program in 2023 and returned to complete the ENT pilot in the same year. Jessica was hired by the Future Students Office in 2023 and extended her contract into 2025. Jessica's kind heart, entrepreneurial spirit and dedication to inclusion and accessibility will be missed here on campus. We know great things are in store! Please stay connected, Jessica.



- In May, EACS Entrepreneurship student, Joseph Loga, completed his restoration of the Polytechnic Memorial Garden at our Surrey campus. This 2-month long process was supported by KPU Facilities, Offices of EDI, and the Canadian Western Bank.



experience teaching communication and language skills to nursing and medical doctors. She holds an EdD from the University of Calgary and an MA in English Language and Linguistics from the University of Arizona.

Staffing



Dr. Lee Beavington received the British Columbia Teaching and Learning Council (BCTLC) 2025 West Coast Teaching Excellence Award for his excellence in post-

secondary teaching. This is the first time a KPU instructor has received the award. Dr. Beavington is the founder of [KPU Wild Spaces](#), an interdisciplinary teaching and learning hub that focuses on ecological place-based education in post-secondary, recently spearheaded the launch of the [Decolonizing Educational Practices website](#), and co-taught, with Anthony Fernandes, a new KPU course, **INDG/BIOL 1492: Indigenous Perspectives in Biology**.

- The English Language Studies Department is pleased to welcome Angela Unger Waigand, who will be teaching Introduction to Professional Communication for Internationally Educated Nurses. Angela brings a wealth of

Pinning Ceremonies

We had another successful term of Pinning Ceremonies within the Faculty of Health to congratulate our students as they reach such an incredible milestone. Completing their program in the Faculty of Health is a testament to their dedication, hard work, resilience and passion for making a difference in the world. We had the honour of gifting each student a customized pin to symbolize their journey at KPU in the following programs:

BSN Pinning Ceremony—The Bachelor of Science in Nursing students celebrated their pinning celebration on March 21, 2025. Associate Dean, Sarah Beasleigh and instructor Cheryl Burnstein spoke with students to congratulate them on completing their program.

HCAP Pinning Ceremony – During the Health Care Assistant Program pinning celebration on April 4, 2025, we had speeches from our Associate Dean, Carlo Tala, Alumni Affairs as well as the Chair of the program– Sonayna Rana. We also heard from stand-out student, Lissette Quijano-Flores. This intimate ceremony marked their successful transition into the healthcare workforce.

GNIE Pinning Ceremony – The GNIE pinning celebration was held on April 15, 2025. Our Associate Dean, Carlo Tala, Alumni Affairs as well as program Chair, Herraj Sandhu spoke with students to celebrate their achievement.



Guided Indigenous Nature Walk

Members of the Faculty of Health joined Karen Gabriel on a guided Traditional Plants Nature Walk on April 26, 2025 at Campbell Valley Park. She spoke about local edible, medicinal and toxic plants.

TCM International Conference

The Faculty of Health partnered with the Alliance of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine of Canada (AACMC) to host an international conference at our Richmond campus. Centered around the theme "Prevention and Treatment of Metabolic Diseases and Pain Disorders," the event brought together experts and practitioners from traditional Chinese Medicine backgrounds to share knowledge and best practices. The multi-day conference featured a dynamic lineup of workshops, presentations, and specialized training courses, providing attendees with both theoretical insights and practical tools. KPU Acupuncture Program students attended the conference to enhance their learning.



Staffing

Congratulations are in order as we welcome new faculty members:

- Chao (Frank) Feng - TCM
- Dania Khader - BSN
- Jasmin Mooker - GNIE
- Jessica Stapleton - BSN
- Parivash Enghiad - BSN
- Soniya Chech Mathew - BSN
- Sukhwinder Mundi (Sukh) – BSN

Sonayna Rana was elected Chair of the HCAP Program on May 1, 2025, bringing strong leadership to guide the program's continued development. We also recognized the retirement of Sharon Joss-Leitch, whose contributions over the years were instrumental in advancing care practices for older adult populations.

In support of faculty development, Theresa Speirs was awarded 0.6 FTE release time to further instructional innovation and lead professional development efforts in the HCAP program.

Presentations / Community Activities

The Faculty of Health lab team welcomed Vanguard Secondary students for a tour of our labs on April 3. The tour showcased our variety of nursing programs and allowed students to see first-hand our simulation equipment.

BSN Chair, Connie Klimek, presented to grade 11 and 12 students at Langley Fundamental Secondary School on April 7. She covered topics about careers in healthcare and the opportunities within our nursing programs at KPU.

On April 16, 2025 our Traditional Chinese Medicine program welcomed Langley School District students for a tour of our student clinic and TCM demos to showcase treatment options TCM can offer.

On April 22, 2025 the Faculty of Health welcomed Monica McAlduff for a Teams presentation on the topic of Jordan's Principle and its vital role in improving health outcomes for Indigenous patients and families. She shared insights on how Jordan's Principle offers a powerful framework for ensuring that no child is left behind, empowering healthcare

professionals to advocate for and transform health outcomes for Indigenous families.

The Dean's office has continued the initiative called "Lunch and Learn". Every other month a guest is invited to present to Faculty of Health members on a range of topics. For the month of May, Jenna Breuer, the Director of Indigenous Programs at Atira Women's Resource Society spoke on being an Indigenous learner of clinical systems. She spoke from an anti-oppressive lens and provided insight into the impact of post-secondary education and instructors on Indigenous students.

The Open Doors, Open Minds Conference was held on April 30, 2025 on the Surrey campus. Instructor Katie Kozlowski presented a mock class to students. She was able to showcase one of our high-fidelity mannequins and how our nursing students get a hands-on learning experience at KPU.

Science Rendezvous-- The Faculty of Health joined the annual Science Rendezvous event on May 10 with a large booth highlighting our healthcare programs. The booth included one of our high-fidelity mannequins, a blood pressure station, HCAP sensory station and fun games with prizes. This event gave our faculty, staff and students an excellent opportunity to showcase the critical role of nurses and healthcare assistants while showcasing our continued commitment to community engagement and public education.



Publications / Scholarly Activity

Dean Sharmen Lee, Dr. John Yang, TCM Department Chair, and Acupuncture student Caldwell Lever provided a presentation at the Polytechnics Canada Showcase on May 14, 2025 in Winnipeg https://polytechnicscanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2025-Polytechnic-Showcase-Program_Feb-24.pdf. The presentation, titled “Finding Your Niche in a Crowded PSE Market” provided a conceptual model and used the Bachelor of TCM as a case study which provided an opportunity to share knowledge with other post-secondary institutions and to showcase our new bachelor program.

Initiatives / Activities

The HCAP program received Senate approval for HCAP credit conversation to undergraduate status. This will enable HCAP graduates to use completed courses towards meeting admission requirements of the BSN and BPN programs.

“LPN into BSN” pilot initiative cohort 1 has completed the second of four terms of the BSN program. Pilot cohort 2 completed their admission requirement courses in April 2025 and will be starting their first of four terms of the BSN program in May 2025.

Student Successes

Arjun, a 2024 HCAP graduate, is now enrolled in the Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing (BPN) program. He credits HCAP for providing the foundational support and preparation needed for his continued academic success.

HCAP Spring 2025 graduates demonstrated strong post-graduation outcomes, with many securing employment with Fraser Health within one month. Notably, Lisette—a mother of six—was elected valedictorian by her peers, reflecting the perseverance and excellence of our student body.

We are proud to report that our Bachelor of Science in Nursing Advanced Entry (BSNAE) program graduates who took the NCLEX during the 2023 - 2024 testing period achieved a 100% first-time pass rate. In addition to this remarkable accomplishment,

the BSNAE cohort was ranked #1 across Canada and the United States for NCLEX performance during the same timeframe. This outstanding result reflects the exceptional quality of our program, faculty, and students, and reinforces our commitment to excellence in nursing education.



FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Presentations & Community Activities

Over 1,500 guests attended the 12th annual **KPU Science Rendezvous** on May 10 at KPU Langley for a fun-filled day of hands-on science, live demos, and interactive exhibits. Families explored more than 25 activities, from insect encounters and button-making to math games, robotics, and beekeeping. Indoors, departments showcased engaging experiences like slime-making, electric shocks, memory games, and game design. Highlights included the Dancing Flame Show, brewery tours, and the Big Bang Finale.



The Faculty of Science hosted both the **South Fraser Regional Science Fair (SFRSF)** and the **Surrey School District Science & Innovation Fair** at KPU Surrey. For the SFRSF, faculty members served as judges, evaluating innovative projects from students in grades 7 to 12. Participating students also had the opportunity to tour KPU's state-of-the-art science labs, offering them a firsthand look at university-level research and facilities. Both fairs provided valuable opportunities to engage with young scientists and strengthen relationships with future students and educators.



On Saturday, April 26, Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems hosted an **Earth Day** event at the newly planted community food forest in Garden City Lands Park, located in Richmond's Agricultural Land Reserve. The initiative integrates urban agriculture, ecological restoration, and community engagement. Participants had a hands-on opportunity to work with edible native plants and learn about their vital role in supporting local ecosystems and diverse wildlife, including humans. Activities included planting seeds, exploring the food forest design, and learning about the chosen plant species. The event highlighted the importance of sustainable practices and community involvement in fostering a resilient, biodiverse environment.

Canadian Math Kangaroo Contest: KPU Mathematics partnered with the Canadian Math Kangaroo Contest (CMKC) to host this national mathematics competition for the first time at KPU Surrey, welcoming students in Grades 1–12.

On Apr. 30, instructor Michael Miller (BREW) attended a **Full Barrel Home Brew Club** meeting in Langley to promote the KPU Brewing program and invite members to do a collaboration beer with KPU.

The **KPU Plant Sale**, hosted by the KPU School of Horticulture, attracted record crowds this year. This highly attended event provided students with valuable hands-on experience in plant production, sales, and customer service. Proceeds from the sale support important program initiatives. Dedicated volunteers played a key role in ensuring the event ran smoothly and created a welcoming environment for attendees. Photo of volunteers below:



The annual **KPU Brewing Career & Networking Fair** was held at the Langley Campus on Mar. 5 with 18 companies and 60 participants, including 32 employers (7 were alumni) and 22 students. The event featured an industry speakers' panel, one-on-one 'speed dating' interview sessions between employers and students, and a social networking hour.



Dr. Layne Myhre, (BIOL) presented at the Coquitlam River Watershed Society Committee Meeting, May 14. Dr. Myhre shared updates on the watershed toxicity testing project in the Coquitlam River in collaboration with the kʷikʷəłəm First Nation.

From March through May, the **Learning Farm at KPU Richmond** was a hub of activity and community involvement. Volunteers contributed 147 hours helping with farm tasks and maintaining the Learning Garden.

On May 3, Dr. Mike Bomford grew and sold vegetable seedlings to support the Richmond Garden Club fundraiser. A week later, volunteer Helen Zhang led Cloverbuds children and their parents on a scavenger hunt and tour of the Learning Garden. On May 13, Dr. Bomford guided an evening tour focused on bog vegetation. Finally, on May 30, two Surrey elementary classes visited to plant bean seeds they had started at school and helped build trellises, engaging hands-on with the garden.

On Mar. 7, KPU Brewing launched their **2025 Pink Boots Collaboration beer** — Coastal Breeze West Coast IPA — at the KPU Brew Lab and Mar. 8 at Farm Country Brewing during an International Women's Day Tap Takeover. Instructors Nancy More and Michael Miller attended with first-year Brewing students Maria Yun, Helia Xiang, and Jay Ku. Coastal Breeze was created by instructor Olga Mikova and alumna Emily Kokonas (Four Winds Beach House & Brewery), with support from Nancy More.



Publications & Scholarly Work

Dr. Kelsie Doering: Manuscript “Genetic dissection reveals new components of the NHR-49 multi-stress resistance and longevity pathway” accepted in Aging Biology, nearing publication.

Dr. Barnabe Assogba & student Ishan Vashishat: “COVID in Space” published, showcasing student-faculty collaboration at KPU.

Ishan Vashishat, Eddie Han, & Dr. Assogba: Published a preprint on COVID-19 risks in space (bioRxiv, <https://doi.org/10.1101/2025.04.23.650113>). Abstract submitted to ABRCMS 2025; Ishan and Dr. Assogba will attend in November (San Antonio).

Dr. Assogba & Eddie Han: Secured SRIG Stream 1 funding. Eddie’s project investigates vesicle expression in human splenic fibroblasts, with implications for gene therapy.

Dr. Marjorie Sorenson (co-author): “Functional connectivity of animal-dispersed plant communities...” published in Proceedings B (292:20242995).

Dr. Mehdi Salimi: Edited book Learning-Driven Game Theory for AI accepted by Elsevier (2025–2026 release). Served as PhD thesis referee (Dr. B. R. Ambedkar NIT, India) and appointed to MICAD 2025 committee (London, Nov 2025).

Lulu Sukawati (B.Sc. Honours, Biology): Conducting research on biocontrol fungi toxicity using zebrafish embryos under Dr. Layne Myhre.

Siddhant Saigal (B.Sc., Biology): Also under Dr. Myhre's supervision, studying the ecological impact of Caprylyl glycol using zebrafish embryos.

Drs. Assogba, Adams, and Taylor (AGC): Mentored secondary school student Sreya Karup, who earned multiple awards at the South Fraser Regional Science Fair and will represent BC at the Canada-Wide Science Fair.

Guntas Kochar (B.Sc. Honours, Biology): Presented award-winning poster on antimicrobial compound toxicity at the NW Society for Developmental Biology Meeting (Anacortes, March 2025).

Manav Garg (B.Sc. Honours, Biology): Presented zebrafish PI15a gene mutation research at the same meeting.

Jazreet Badhesha (B.Sc. Honours, Biology): Presented comparative analysis on infectious diseases in dermatology at the North American Veterinary Dermatology Forum (Orlando, April 2025).

Initiatives & Activities

Alan’s Ale Pale Ale was released on May 2 at KPU Day in celebration of Dr. Alan Davis, KPU’s longest serving president. Dr. Davis helped choose the ingredients for this special beer which was brewed by the KPU Brewing department, led by instructor and program chair Dominic Bernard and supported by laboratory instructors Gonzalo Marquez and Michael Miller. The beer was released on tap and in cans, featuring a custom can label, coasters and stickers in honour of Dr. Davis.



Dr. Jane Shin (BIOL): Endowed a student award for the Faculty of Science HSCI program and a student bursary for the Faculty of Health, reflecting commitment to student success and access.

Raquel Cabral (MATH) participated in several professional development activities during May 2025. She attended the online workshop *"Draft Coach for Faculty"* on May 14, followed by the in-person *"Changing the Culture 2025"* conference at SFU-Vancouver on May 16, organized by the Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences. She also completed the *"Reflect and Redesign: Intentionality and Iterative Course Design"* online workshop series on May 22, 26, and 29. Additionally, she took part in the online workshop *"Breaking Down Barriers in the Classroom: What is Academic Ableism?"* on May 28, all hosted through tlevnts.kpu.ca.

The **Faculty of the Whole Meeting** brought together members of the Faculty of Science for a day of strategic updates, community engagement, and professional development. The event featured insightful presentations on enrolment reports and faculty business, including department chair introductions and employee celebrations. Attendees participated in a culturally enriching Indigenous dance session and chose from breakout workshops focused on accessibility in STEM, emergency response protocols, and naloxone training. The meeting fostered collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and a strengthened sense of community within the faculty. Photo from the event below:



Student Successes

The Biology and Health Science **student research presentations** were held on April 23. Five B.Sc. (four Honours) Major Health Science and seven B.Sc. (all Honours) Major Biology students presented the results of their senior research projects. Between students in the research course and those working independently with faculty on projects outside their regular coursework, there were twenty-four Student Research and Innovation Grant funded projects in the Department of Biological and Health Sciences this year. Many of these students also presented posters at the KPU Research Showcase on May 13.

Dr. Barnabe D. Assogba (BIOL) has been assisting **Kuldeep Singh** (HSCI), one of his research students, with his medical school application process. Kuldeep has been accepted to St. George's Medical School, starting in August 2025. The acceptance letter arrived on May 13. More importantly, he has also been awarded a scholarship of \$72,000.

KPU Brewing instructor Dominic Bernard, and student **Lucy Chang** were interviewed by OMNI TV on April 8th about the Brewing diploma program and Lucy's team's Signature Series beer, 桂Reverie, which was infused with Chinese flavours from Osmanthus flowers. The interview aired on April 9th and is available to watch on YouTube. Click [here](#) to watch the interview which is in Mandarin and English.

Ishan Vashishat (Biology): Co-authored a published research article, "COVID in Space," with Dr. Barnabe, demonstrating strong student involvement in faculty-led research.

Shahla Zahiri's summer student in Biol 1160, **Saje Allen** — for whom she provided a reference — has just been admitted to the Master's program in Physical Therapy at UBC, starting this September.

Our talented Horticulture students dominated the Landscaping competition at this year's **Skills BC Provincials**, held at TRADEX in Abbotsford this week. Kyle Kant (Bachelor of Horticulture Science, Plant Health) and David Cragg (Landscape Horticulture Systems) successfully defended their gold medal title—making them back-to-back champions. Meanwhile, Brett MacNeil and Aiden Murphy (Turf Management) earned a well-deserved bronze medal for their impressive work.



Also representing KPU with excellence, CADD Technologies student Charles Kim captured the bronze medal in the CADD Architectural category—congratulations, Charles!



Isbah Mahmood & Jasleen Randhawa: Supervised by Dr. Kelsie Doering, these Biology students presented research posters at the **KPU Research Showcase**. Isbah was awarded runner-up in the student poster competition.

Current EPT students learned about Environmental Drilling at **OMEGA Environmental and Geotechnical Drilling** in Maple Ridge on May 16. The event included numerous topics such as safety around drilling

equipment, subsurface utility locating, Hydrovac/Daylighting Services, Sonic and Auger Drilling, Rotary Drilling Techniques, Cone Penetration Testing, Environmental/Geotechnical Instrument Installations and Sampling Procedures. As in previous years, EPT faculty and students also had the pleasure of meeting up with EPT graduates at the event for some networking and catching up on their careers.

Programs, Policies & Initiatives

Three new **Biology** course outlines were approved by Senate in March and April. BIOL 1150 and BIOL 1250, Human Anatomy and Physiology I & II, were developed in collaboration with the Faculty of Health to better align with the needs of the B.Sc. Nursing program. These three-credit lecture courses incorporate experiential learning and offer a more efficient, cost-effective alternative to the current four-credit requirements. BIOL 3200, Applications of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Science, was supported by special funding from the Provost's office to address the growing demand for AI-focused curriculum. The course explores generative AI technologies and their scientific applications and is currently being piloted as BIOL 4900 Special Topics in Summer 2025.

Program changes were approved by Senate at the March meeting to reduce the number of courses required for students to declare into the B.Sc. Major Biology, B.Sc. (Honours) Major Biology, B.Sc. Major Health Science, and B.Sc. (Honours) Major Health Science. These changes will facilitate student access to the benefits of declared status (such as early enrolment and access to Faculty of Science program advisors) at an earlier stage in their degree path while providing more accurate data on program health and support for strategic planning.

Dr. Mehdi Salimi (MATH) secured several grants to support his academic and professional activities. He received \$7,000 from Global Affairs Canada through the Faculty Mobility for Partnership Building Program to support international partnership development. Additionally, he was awarded \$4,500 from KPU's International Projects and Partnerships under the Guard.me Mobility for Internationalization Fund to facilitate internationalization initiatives. Finally, he secured \$4,450 from KPU's 0.6% Faculty Professional Development Fund to support his ongoing professional development.

A new online Brewing **CPS** course 'Recipe Design for Beer Enthusiasts' (PBRW 9005) started on April 3. Taught by Brewing instructor Alek Egi, this six-week asynchronous course will be offered each term this year.

Horticulture Faculty and student volunteers participated at the **Parks Professionals Pathway Conference** held at the Cascades Casino in Langley. It's an educational conference for all of those in the community parks, feature gardens and sports fields. There are many KPU School of Horticulture alumni in attendance as employees and employers.

On March 27, Laura Flinn (PHYS), led a workshop at the **Richmond Public Library's** Minoru Gate location titled "**Light: Visible and Invisible.**" In the workshop, she explained how rain droplets after a storm can refract sunlight to produce rainbows, which show only the visible portion of light. She also discussed how the sun emits a much broader spectrum of light that is invisible to the human eye. Designed for children aged 8-12, the session provided hands-on activities to explore this invisible light and demonstrate how it can be made visible.

EVENTS

Spring Campus Coffee

On March 31, we hosted the Spring Community Campus Coffee. This event was well attended by faculty and staff from all areas of KPU Tech, with lots of cross-department conversation. Thank you to Karen Dumaresq for organizing this event!

Appliance Service Technician Career Day

On March 26, the Appliance Service department hosted its semi-annual Appliance Service Technician Career Day.

Twelve employers attended the event and made presentations to the students about their companies. The Appliance Service Technician Career Day has been a fixture at KPU for 23 years.

Employers made presentations on the benefits of the industry and the opportunity for graduates to continue to learn and grow in the field. The event helps meet industry needs and provides a means for contact between students and industry employers and representatives. Congratulations to instructors Dominic Andreone and David Fengstad for hosting another successful event.

Information Sessions

Information Sessions are one method we use to reach out to the community and interested potential students. Our information sessions are supported by the Future Students Office (FSO) and hosted by our faculty members. We held the following information sessions from November, 2024 to February 2025:

March 3: Construction Trades

March 3: Automotive Trades

March 7: Metal Trades

March 7: Millwright

April 7: Appliance Service Technician

April 10: Farrier Science

April 10: Learn All About the Trades

KPU Utilization Rates

We received the following statistics from SkilledTradesBC showing KPU's actual utilization numbers for our 2024/25 Foundation (OREG) and Apprenticeship (FOTT) intakes. As you can see, we exceeded the SkilledTradesBC targets. These amazing results are in large part thanks to the hard work of our Dean's Office team members in building relationships with students and filling the seats.

Program Types	Planned Seats	Funded Seats	Filled Seats	Utilization Targets	Utilization Actuals
Apprenticeship	768	937	888	83.4%	94.8%
Foundation	384	384	379	94.5%	98.7%
Refresher	0	3	3	N/A	100.0%
Totals	1,152	1,324	1,270	89.0%	95.9%

STAFFING

Welcome to Lisa Keeling

We welcomed Apprenticeship Service Officer (ASO) Lisa Keeling to the Faculty of Trades and Technology on March 31. Lisa comes to us from the KPU Bookstore.

Faculty Retirements

Four of our longtime faculty members chose to retire as of April 1 this year. We wish them well in their retirement.

- Brian McClinton
- David Riel
- Larry Rhodenizer
- Rob Wakulchik

PRESENTATIONS / COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Skills Canada Competition

On March 7, KPU Tech hosted the Skills Canada Regional Competition on our campus. Instructors Ed Miks (Carpentry), Wayne Andrews (Carpentry), Larry Rhodenizer (Automotive Service), and Grant Conversi (Automotive Service) supervised and judged the events. Martin Lim from Surrey Schools coordinated the event.

On April 18, the Faculty of Trades and Technology was represented at the Skills Canada BC Provincial Competition at the Abbotsford Trade and Exhibition Centre. The winners of the Provincials competitions are eligible to attend the Skills Canada Nationals Competition 2025, which will be held on May 29 and 30 at the Regina Exhibition Association Limited (REAL) District in Regina, Saskatchewan. KPU competitors at Skills Canada BC from the Millwright, Welding, and Plumbing programs took part in the competition. Tyler Douglas earned gold in the Millwright competition, and will be on his way to Regina to compete in the National competition. Curtis Dengler earned bronze in the Millwright competition.

The full list of medal winners can be found [here](#).

Invergarry Adult Education Career Fair

The Faculty of Trades and Technology took part in the Invergarry Adult Education Career Fair on May 21, 2025. The event focused on adult learners. The Faculty of Trades and Technology attended the event at the request of the FSO.

Faculty of Trades and Technology at 2025 Science Rendezvous

The Faculty of Trades and Technology returned to take part in the 2025 Science Rendezvous at the Langley Campus on May 10, 2025, to highlight science within our trades and technology programs.

Free Lunch and Naloxone Training for Tech Students

On April 22, the KPU Student Health Promotions team is partnered with Tailgate Toolkit (part of Vancouver Regional Construction Association) to bring lunch-and-learn workshops for trades students at KPU Tech. The workshop focused on building awareness regarding mental health, substance use, and pain management in the construction and trades industry. The session also included hands-on naloxone training to those who want to know how to reverse a drug poisoning.

SkilledTradesBC on KPU Tech Campus

The Faculty of Trades and Technology hosts the SkilledTradesBC Apprentice Advisor on our campus every Wednesday. This partnership helps our students connect with their apprenticeship advisors and keep track of their progress through their trade.

Youth Train in Trades Site Visit Day

On March 5, our school districts partners held a Youth Train in Trades site visit day for applicants. This is an opportunity for students to visit the campus and meet the faculty. The programs featured included Plumbing (Collin Warren), Metal Fabrication (Mike Rumpeltes), Millwright (Bob Davis), and Welding (Mike Lloyd).

INITIATIVES / ACTIVITIES

Journey to Success for Women Apprentices

Initiatives

The Faculty of Trades and Technology is partnering with the British Columbia Centre for Women in the Trades to promote a new initiative to support women apprentices in BC. Journey to Success for Women Apprentices provides fully funded training, mentorship, and community to help women apprentices complete their apprenticeship. This program is open to women apprentices living in BC who are registered in maintenance or construction skilled trades apprenticeships.

CPS Updates

Going into this new fiscal, FoTT signed new contracts with the Squamish First Nation to partner on four upcoming intakes: Introduction to Carpentry, Carpentry Level One, Carpentry level two and Plumbing Level One. All of these intakes are taught at the Squamish Nation Trades Training Centre in North Vancouver by KPU instructors.

The Shop Machinery Safety course is a new professionally developed course designed to equip educators with the knowledge and practical skills necessary to safely and effectively teach woodworking in a school environment. Whether participants are new to woodworking or seeking to enhance their existing expertise, the course emphasizes safety as a foundational principle in all instructional practices. We are excited to meet the need expressed from school districts for this type of training.

STUDENT SUCCESS

KSA Welcome Back Week

The KSA Welcome Back Event took place on the KPU Tech campus on May 12, 2025. It was a chance for our students to learn about the services provided by the Kwantlen Student Association.

Dean's Awards

Congratulations to the recipients of the Dean's Award for Outstanding Achievement for the months of November 2024 to February 2025. This award is based on the "3 A's": Academics, Attitude and Attendance. The presentation is made when the students reach the end of the Foundation intake and the final program level in the trade. Nine students were recipients of the award. The winner of the Dean's Award for a Foundation class also receives a cheque for \$250. There were ten recipients of the Deans awards in the months of the report.

Career Development

In conjunction with the Career Centre, the Faculty of Trades and Technology highlights key job postings in Career Connections using the headline "Career Services Jobs of the Week." Over the last three months, 32 job postings of interest to Faculty of Trades and Technology students have been highlighted. These have been from national, provincial, and regional employers in the public and private sector.

The jobs are posted every week and our faculty members are encouraged to share the postings with their students.

We have also been working to promote career advancement with the various community partners such as British Columbia Infrastructure Benefits (BCIB), Surrey Langley Sky Train Project Job Fair, and Skilled Trades Employment Program (STEP BC).

Promotion of External Scholarships

The Faculty of Trades and Technology is making an active effort to promote external scholarship opportunities for trades students and apprentices. Opportunities include Horatio Alger and Auto Retailers Foundation amongst others.

EVENTS

Student Pitch Competition

While the idea of the Student Pitch Competition had been in development for the last few terms, it needed focused leadership to bring it to reality, and this was achieved this May, led by Melville Faculty, Natasha Campbell.

Through the collaborative effort of several areas across KPU, including the Office of Research, Planning and Sustainability, the Wilson School of Design, and Advancement & Alumni Affairs, this first-of-its-kind event brought together students, faculty, staff and university leaders to create a meaningful experience in entrepreneurship. The initiative focused on fostering entrepreneurship by supporting students in bringing their ideas to life and creating practical solutions to real-world challenges.



Instructor, Natasha Campbell, the judges and winners

In the months leading up to the competition, several events were held to get students excited and involved. These included *Rising Women in Leadership*, featuring female entrepreneurs, boot camps led by Afshin Doustmohammadi, and the creation of a Student Ambassador team with Michael Shanz, which helped launch the KSA Entrepreneurial Club.

The final event run took place on May 1 where ten student teams competed in a full-day pitch event. They went through three rounds, starting with a 3-minute pitch to faculty, followed by a 5-minute pitch and Q&A with alumni, and ending with a 10-minute interactive presentation to an industry panel.

A total of \$9,000 in prizes was awarded:

- ForHarmony Packaging Solutions won first place and \$5,000
- Dyneema Speed Suit placed second and received \$2,500
- Scholarly came third and earned \$1,500

Guest speaker and judge, George Melville shared his experience building a business in Canada, inspiring students with real-world advice. Community partners like YWCA Power Up, the Surrey Board of Trade, and Pave Pal also offered support and resources.

The event was a strong celebration of student innovation, helping teams move their ideas forward and connect with the local business community.

Melville Faculty Strategy Forum

On Tuesday, May 6, the Melville School of Business leadership brought together faculty and key institutional stakeholders for a focused four-hour strategic planning session aimed at shaping the school's future direction. A key topic of discussion was the role of recognizing prior learning in attracting qualified students and enhancing student retention. The session featured collaborative break-out discussions, allowing attendees to explore actionable ways to engage at the departmental level and contribute to strategic initiatives.



As part of a broader effort to integrate faculty into KPU's student recruitment strategies, the session served as a platform for open dialogue on the university's enrollment goals and emphasized the

vital role of faculty in supporting student recruitment and success.

Melville Connect Event:

On Tuesday, April 1, students from PRLN 2120: PR Campaign and Event Management hosted **Melville Connect: An Evening of Inspiration and Growth** at the KPU Surrey Conference Centre. Sponsored by the Melville School of Business, the event welcomed 136 attendees, including students, alumni, industry professionals, faculty, and administrators for an inspiring evening featuring Melville alumni Wajeeha Rahman (BBA, Accounting), Tate Tham (BBA, Marketing Management), and Lilián Cazacu (Certificate, Legal Administrative Studies). The program included keynote speeches, a Q&A panel, networking, games, activities, and raffles.

Centered around the theme “Future Forward,” the event offered students valuable advice on maximizing their time at Melville and building successful careers.



Melville Connect was sponsored in part by CPRS Vancouver, the Black Women’s Business Network, The Real Canadian Superstore – Grandview Highway, Hello Rent, Cineplex – Brentwood, and Watson Gloves.

Konnect Round Table: CPA Public Service Recruitment Event.

With the goal of bridging classroom learning with real-world industry insights, the Melville School of Business, in collaboration with the Accounting Faculty and the Accounting Society of Kwantlen (ASK)

Student Club, hosted a dynamic recruitment-style Accounting event at the KPU Conference Centre on Wednesday, April 2. This initiative provided students with a valuable opportunity to engage directly with employers, explore career paths in accounting, and build professional connections with industry leaders.



Modelled after the well-established *Careers in Accounting* event held annually in November, this spring edition featured 15 participating firms and organizations, including CPA British Columbia (CPA BC). Each firm was stationed at an individual table, allowing students to circulate, ask questions, and learn more about career opportunities, internship programs, and the expectations of the accounting profession. This reinforces the Melville’s commitment to experiential learning and career development. Students appreciated the chance to engage in meaningful conversations with recruiters and industry professionals in a relaxed, yet professional, setting.

Plans are already underway to continue offering recruitment-focused events that support students in preparing for the transition from academic study to the workplace.

Mentorship: Inspiring Stories of Career Growth

On April 15 at KPU Civic Plaza Campus, the Student Success team, in partnership with the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade, hosted *Mentorship:*

Inspiring Stories of Career Growth, an engaging event focused on mentorship and professional development. These events align with the team's commitment to holistic student development by providing tools, resources, and relationships that help students build confidence, gain career clarity, and take actionable steps toward achieving their career goals.



The event introduced Melville's Student Mentor Volunteer program and a new peer coaching initiative, co-led by the Student Success Coaches and Melville faculty, Mike Ford. It also featured inspiring talks from keynote speaker Marie-Noelle Savoie, VP and Chief Compliance Officer at BCLC, Mental Fitness Coach Gregg Taylor, and Sam Thiara, SFU professor and founder of Ignite the Dream Coaching. These speakers shared their personal experiences and valuable career insights, providing actionable advice on networking, skill development, and navigating career challenges.

This event reinforces the Student Success Team's mission to create meaningful experiences that bridge the gap between education, employment and long-term career success for every KPU student.

Indigenous Artisan's Market

Associate Dean Suzanne Pearce and Indigenous Entrepreneur-in-Residence Senaqwila Wyss successfully hosted KPU's inaugural Indigenous Market on Saturday, May 10. Despite the overcast weather, the event drew a strong turnout of local Indigenous artisans and community members. The market featured a vibrant showcase of Indigenous creativity and craftsmanship, with works spanning a

range of traditional and contemporary mediums, including herbal teas, cedar weaving, intricate beadwork, hand-crafted apparel, culturally inspired stickers, and limited-edition prints. The event served as a meaningful platform to celebrate Indigenous entrepreneurship, art, and culture while fostering community connection and support.



The market supports the Melville School of Business's goal to strengthen ties with Indigenous communities and highlight opportunities in business education. By creating inclusive, community-focused events like this, Melville aims to inspire future Indigenous students to explore business programs and see themselves reflected in the field.

Melville Summer Orientation

On May 8, the Student Success Coaches team at the Melville School of Business hosted a dynamic and informative Orientation Day for newly admitted students in the Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Operations and Supply Chain Management program. Developed in collaboration with key campus partners, including KPU International, The Learning Centre, the Academic Integrity Team, the Kwantlen Student Association, student clubs, and the Surrey Library, the event was designed to welcome students and equip them with the knowledge and tools needed for academic and professional success.



A highlight of the day was the “Kickstart Your Career” workshop, which emphasized the importance of early career planning and introduced students to the many career development resources and programs available at KPU. By connecting students with essential support services and fostering a sense of community from day one, the goal is to ensure a smooth transition into academic life at KPU.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Marcello Machado: Process Development for Fraser Health

Under the instruction of Melville Faculty Marcelo Machado, a team of students on the graduate Business Diploma program, Karmina Alejandro, Arnaldo Castro, and Christine Sagirumba successfully completed a high-impact service-learning project on Fraser Health. This project was done as part of the BGP capstone course.

The students conducted a comprehensive analysis of the organization’s asset management system, identifying operational needs and evaluating existing processes. Their work included extensive research on technological solutions and culminated in a set of well-founded, actionable recommendations.

The Fraser Health team praised the students for their professionalism, depth of analysis, and the practical value of their findings, highlighting the caliber, readiness, and real-world impact of our graduates. This project not only strengthened community partnerships but also exemplified how Melville

students apply their learnings to drive meaningful change in complex, real-world environments.

Internship Opportunity – Diwali Fest

We are proud to highlight the success of two Melville School of Business students, Simran Sekhon (BUSI) and Aryan Doshi, who were hired by the Diwali Celebration Society in April to support the planning and execution of *Colour Fest*, a dynamic celebration of the South Asian Spring festivals, Holi and Vaisakhi.



Simran and Aryan served as Marketing and Events Coordinators, where they had the opportunity to apply the knowledge and practical skills gained through their coursework in business, marketing, and event management. Their responsibilities included recruiting and training volunteers, coordinating day-of logistics such as set-up and takedown, and supporting vendors and sponsors on site.

This internship is a strong example of how Melville’s experiential learning approach and industry-aligned curriculum prepare students for real-world success. It also reinforces the value of community partnerships in providing students with meaningful, hands-on opportunities that bridge classroom learning with professional impact.

STAFFING: DEAN’S OFFICE

The Dean’s office has undergone some major staff movement and new hires in the last 4 months. The most notable updates are outlined below:

- April 20 - Jaqueline Moreira and Georgie Cerbolles completed their term as Student Assistants.
- April 26 - Paris Robinson, Marketing Coop Student, gets extended for another term.
- May 1 - Gustavo Arruda joins the Dean's office as Director of Strategy and Business Development
- May 9 – Alysha Karpun leaves for another career opportunity outside KPU

INITIATIVES/ACTIVITIES

Andre Niosi: Presentation on Persuasion Quest

On March 17, ENTR instructor, Andrea Niosi presented her project, Persuasion Quest, an innovative initiative developed through her ENTR course, Persuasion & Influence. The project combines open pedagogy, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and community-based learning to engage students as active contributors in the creation of globally impactful educational resources. These tools are designed to help users build meaningful community partnerships in support of critical sustainability issues. The presentation was hosted online via Zoom as part of the Sustainability Mindset Working Group, a global network of educators and professionals committed to advancing sustainability-focused teaching and learning through regular virtual gatherings and knowledge exchange.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

John Shepherd: Community impact

Since assuming the role of Donations Chair for the North Delta Rotary Club in 2018, Melville Instructor, John Shepherd has successfully secured a total of \$494,900 in grant funding to support the club's community initiatives. Under his leadership, the club has significantly expanded its outreach and impact, with over \$200,000 invested this year alone in its two main programs. The Starfish Pack program delivers approximately 1.5 tons of food each week to 14 elementary schools across North Delta, providing weekend grocery packages to more than 600 food-insecure children. Complementing this initiative, the

Magic Pencil program supplies essential school materials to over 300 students in the Delta School District, ensuring they are equipped for academic success. The club is planning to launch a winter clothing program in autumn, aimed at providing warm apparel to elementary school children in need. This anticipated addition reflects the club's ongoing commitment to supporting vulnerable youth in the community through targeted, impactful programming.

Ulrich - Media Engagement

Between March 1 and June 1, BUSI instructor, Ulrich Paschen was interviewed as a subject matter expert on topics like tariffs, interprovincial trade, and supply chains. These interviews contributed to enhancing the public profile of KPU, with the university being consistently identified in all media coverage

Here's a breakdown of the media coverage:

- **2 interviews with the Canadian Press**, which were shared widely across more than 90 national and local news outlets, including **CTV News** and the **Toronto Star**, according to KPU's media monitoring.
- **2 interviews on CBC Radio One's *The Early Edition***, reaching a large audience across the region.
- **2 interviews with Black Press**, which were published in several of their local newspapers across B.C.

These interviews helped showcase KPU's expertise on important economic issues and showed the value of having knowledgeable faculty contributing to public discussions.

PUBLICATIONS/SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

International Teaching Exchange: Regensburg Germany (OTH)

As part of an international academic collaboration, Melville instructor Marcelo Machado is participating in a teaching exchange program this May with Ostbayerische Technische Hochschule (OTH) in

Regensburg, Germany. This initiative involves the delivery of a specialized course focused on the application of artificial intelligence (AI) in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The course is being delivered in partnership with Dr. Eva Svejdarova from Škoda Auto University in Czechia, highlighting cross-institutional and cross-border collaboration. The structure of the course includes three weeks of in-person instruction in Germany, followed by four weeks of remote teaching. The program will culminate in mid-June with a hands-on, applied project, enabling students to gain practical experience in implementing AI solutions within SME environments. This exchange supports ongoing efforts to internationalize the curriculum and strengthen academic partnerships across Europe.

Management Education (PRME) and uses the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) as benchmarks for evaluating program and course outcomes.

Amir Azaron: IFAC Conferences

Dr. Amir Azaron's research paper, "Designing Efficient Supply Chains with Unreliable Suppliers," has been accepted for presentation at the prestigious 11th IFAC Conference on Manufacturing Modelling, Management and Control (MIM 2025), to be held in Norway. IFAC conferences are highly selective scientific forums, with proceedings published in IFAC-PapersOnLine (Elsevier), a journal indexed by the Web of Science.

Publication: The Holistic Stewardship Framework: Revolutionizing Management Education

The research paper titled "The Holistic Stewardship Framework: Revolutionizing Management Education" has been accepted for publication in the European Journal of Sustainable Development and is scheduled for presentation at the 13th International Conference on Sustainable Development this September in Rome.

Co-authored by Dr. Marcelo Machado, Dr. Maryanne Eva, and Kavya Saikia, a student research assistant and soon-to-be graduate of the Green Business Diploma program, as well as a recipient of the SRIG from the Office of Research Services, the paper introduces the Holistic Stewardship Framework, a forward-thinking model for management education. Rooted in corporate sustainability, the framework integrates the United Nations Principles of Responsible

EVENTS

2025 Lulu Lecture Series

The Wilson School of Design, led by faculty members Carley Hodgkinson and Erin Ashenhurst, partnered with the City of Richmond in hosting the opening talk of the 2025 Lulu Lecture Series on March 13. The talk featured Josée Drouin-Brisebois, Director of National Engagement at the National Gallery of Canada, who discussed recent projects the gallery has developed in public spaces across Canada. The Lulu Series is an annual event highlighting Art in the City and its importance to establishing connections between citizens and their communities.



Lulu Lecture Series, Opening talk with Josée Drouin-Brisebois

Identity & Expression

Identity & Expression was a successful event organized by second-year Fashion Marketing students as part of their Fashion Events and Promotions course. The event took place on April 2 and celebrated individuality and creative expression through a series of runway shows featuring five local designers. The event successfully highlighted the students' ability to conceptualize, plan, and execute a professional-level fashion event.



Identity & Expression, Fashion Marketing students congratulating five local designers that showcased their collections on the runway.

2025 Grad Show

The Wilson School of Design was pleased to host the 2025 Grad Show on April 24 and 25. Our Industry Night welcomed over 900 attendees, including members of the local community, industry professionals, and advisory committee members who filled our spaces with energy, enthusiasm, and admiration for the work of our 130+ graduating students. On Friday, we welcomed over 300 high school students from 10 schools, giving the next generation of creatives a glimpse into the exceptional work happening here at the Wilson School of Design. Fourth year Graphic Design for Marketing students developed an engaging and cohesive event campaign titled 'Seeds of Innovation', which brought our campus to life and elevated the experience for all guests.



2025 Wilson School of Design Grad Show, Guests interacting with graduates and viewing their project displays

PRESENTATIONS/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

WSD Research and Design at the 2025 KPU Research Showcase

Graphic Design for Marketing Chair Carley Hodgkinson and Product Design instructor Victor Martinez took part in the KPU Research Showcase on May 13. Carley was one of three panelists and presented on the possibilities for creative recombination using generative AI tools, and about the next-gen use of sensory data to address holistic healthcare. Victor presented a lighting talk titled 'Resilient and Thriving, Vancouver Island Food Future'.

Our Research and Design team was also able to feature a variety of recent and on-going research projects at their booth. Emma Juhala, Fashion & Technology fourth year student and SRIG recipient, won the student poster presentation award for her women's motorcycle gear research poster.



KPU Research Showcase Poster Presentation Winner, Emma Juhala with her women's motorcycle gear research poster.

Graphic Design Instructor Attends RGD Conferences

Erin Ashenhurst was very grateful for the opportunity to attend the Association of Registered Graphic Designers (RGD) Design Thinkers and Design Educators conferences from May 12-15, 2025. The week began with a day of studio tours where she visited award-winning 2024 Graphic Design for Marketing alumnus Elias Lemke at Lost and Found studio, followed by the all-alumni team at creative agency ZAK, including our award-winning 2024 grad, Bella Sanchez. Two days of speakers and workshops at

the Vancouver Playhouse covered themes including the power of play, ethical AI, branding innovation, meaningful data visualization, and design futures. A day at the Design Educators conference, hosted at Capilano University's Shipyards campus, finished up the week with thought-provoking presentations on the future of design education and leading with authenticity.



Speaker at RGD Design Thinkers Conference

PUBLICATIONS/SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

Product Design Project added to SCiO Database

Product Design instructor, Victor Martinez submitted a student project developed in his Studio Design for Systemic Change course to the Systems and Complexity Organization (SCiO), a UK-based professional body for Systems Thinking Practitioners with international reach. Produced by three Product Design students, Brian Patterson, Klara Joubert, and Fiona Yu, the project titled "[Why Vancouver's healthcare system won't save us and what we should do about it](#)" was added to the SCiO database of resources as a case study.

INITIATIVES/ACTIVITIES

Andhra Goundrey Recognized with Jedi Award

Wilson School of Design Dean, Andhra Goundrey was awarded a KPU Jedi Award for her transformative leadership in promoting equity, diversity, inclusion and justice through initiatives such as leading the Wilson School of Design to gold certification from the Rick Hansen Foundation and securing funding for the Indigenous Designer in Residence program. Her tireless advocacy on the Anti-Racism Task Force, dedication to student mental health with the Mindful Campus initiative, and commitment to decolonizing the curriculum have made a profound and lasting impact on KPU.



Jedi Awards, Dean Andhra Goundrey receives award from President Alan Davis

ALUMNI STORIES

Grad Featured in KPU Alumni Magazine

Jade Crabbe, 2020 Interior Design alumna, was featured in the 8th issue of the KPU Alumna Magazine. The article details her journey from entering KPU's Interior Design program to the founding her own firm GreenJade Interiors, which merges traditional Indigenous knowledge with modern design principles. Crabbe remains actively engaged with KPU and the Wilson School of Design, mentoring students and hiring fellow alumni.



Interior Design Alumna, Jade Crabbe

BMO Marathon Medals Feature Grad Artwork

As in-house designer at the Vancouver International Marathon Society RUNVAN, Christina Tran's illustrations are featured in the 2025 BMO Vancouver Marathon medals for the 42.2km, 21.1km, 8km, and Kids distances. Christina is a graduate of the Graphic Design for Marketing program. The BMO Marathon runs annually on the first Sunday in May.



2025 BMO Marathon Medals, Artwork by alumna Christina Tran

Alumni Sweep Awards at IDIBC's Shine Awards

The Interior Designers Institute of British Columbia's (IDIBC) Shine Awards of Excellence showcases the talent, skills and innovation of BC's professional Interior Designers. This year, several accomplished alum were amongst the winners:

- Taylor Castanon-Rumebe at Gensler
- Carmen Bowering at McKinley Studios
- Kaylie Seeton at SSDG
- Abigail Stephens at Earls Kitchen and Bar
- Edith Wong at Kurtz Design

STUDENT SUCCESS

Design Students Place 2nd at KPU Student Pitch Competition

Paulette Chee and Tiffanie Leger from Technical Apparel Design program secured second place and a \$2,500 prize at the KPU Student Pitch Competition on May 1 with their innovative Dyneema Speed Suit for alpine ski racing. The competition aimed to support impactful student-led solutions through a three-round pitch process judged by faculty and industry experts which included the Honourable George Melville, Indra Bhan, Chief Operating Officer of the Surrey Board of Trade, and Fashion & Technology Alumna Sara Jónsdóttir from Revol Cares.

As a dual faculty member of the Meville School of Business and Wilson School of Design, Natasha Campbell had the privilege of serving as the Project Manager for the inaugural Student Pitch Competition, establishing an event that would significantly impact our experience in entrepreneurship.



KPU Student Pitch Competition, Competition participants and winners with industry leaders, including the Honourable George Melville.

Graphic Design Student Works with Non-Profit on WIL Project

Fourth-year Graphic Design for Marketing student Georgia Stone worked on a work-integrated learning project this past term with client Running on Faith. This non-profit organization – which won the 2024 Social Innovator of the Year award – offers walking and running clubs and support for low income and unhoused community members in recovery. In Georgia's words, "First off, I think I lucked out with a very easygoing client which made the entire process really enjoyable. I can imagine how client dynamics could impact the experience, so I'm grateful mine was so positive." Georgia's WIL project was supported through NSERC Mobilize funds, as part of WSD RAD (Research and Design).

Graphic Design Students Sweep Salazar Awards

At the DesCan Salazar Student Awards on May 22, Graphic Design for Marketing students took the top awards in all four categories, with many other students placing as Honourable Mentions. Our very own Graphic Design for Marketing instructor, Michael Cober, was named Rockstar Educator!

- Branding category: Sasha Oleska won for her Capstone project, a comprehensive brand, packaging and illustration solution for Wink, a company that creates custom-fit support wear for women after mastectomy.
- Interactive/UX/UI category: Anh Dang won for her website called *Traces on Sacred Ground*, an

impactful storytelling experience recounting Indigenous experiences with Residential Schools.

- Print category: Rowena Huang won for her exhibition design called *Out of Sight*, depicting in narrative and typographic form the untold stories of Chinese immigrants who built the railway across Canada.
- Video and Motion category: Cody Garcia won for his Capstone project, *Expose Films*, a comprehensive re-brand of a BIPOC-forward independent film company featuring extensive motion and animation.



DesCan Salazar Awards, KPU Graphic Design student winners, honourable mentions, and faculty at the Salazar Awards.

Interior Design Student Wins Staples Scholarship Award

Four WSD finalists (Jeremy Wong, Erika Goguen, Emily Mckenzie-Djordjevich and Madi Chai) presented their workplace projects to three industry professionals (Kerri Shinkewski, Diana Shrubbs, and Annie Woolsey). All four presentations were professional, detailed and well executed. Scores were very close leaving the judges to battle it out for the winner of the 2025 Staples Scholarship of \$2000.00. Student Madi Chai was selected as this year's winner.



Photo Left to Right: Jeremy Wong, Erika Goguen, Emily Mckenzie-Djordjevich, Madi Chai

Interior Design Students Win Industry Awards

The Interior Designers Institute of British Columbia's (IDIBC) Shine Awards of Excellence showcases the talent, skills and innovation of BC's professional Interior Designers. This year, at the awards event, three WSD Interior Design students were given student awards:

- Sofia Machado (IDIBC Award)
- Emily Mckenzie-Djordjevich (Tom Park Student Bursary)
- Andrea Leung (Tom Park Student Bursary)



PROGRAM/POLICIES/INITIATIVES

Nottingham Trent University Agreement

Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) and Nottingham Trent University (NTU) have partnered to offer KPU graduates of the Diploma in Fashion Marketing program a direct pathway to advanced international studies. The pathway allows students from the KPU Wilson School of Design to transition to the Bachelor of Arts in International Fashion Business (Honours) program at NTU, located in Nottingham, UK. The one-year top-up degree builds on the two-year fashion diploma program at KPU.

New AI-Driven DESN Course to Run in Spring 2026

Graphic Design for Marketing Chair Carley Hodgkinson wrote a new AI-driven course as part of a KPU-wide initiative to build students' AI expertise. The course, titled DESN 3500 AI for Productivity in Design, was approved at Senate in the spring and will run in the spring semester of 2026. The course looks at ways that young designers, as subject matter experts and future thought leaders, can use AI tools to increase productivity and to develop innovative workflows in their respective fields. The course was built based on extensive consultation with industry across WSD programs.

Design Field Schools

The Wilson School of Design is pleased to report the completion of three international design field schools this Spring from the Interior Design and Fashion & Technology programs: London & Paris 2025, Berlin & Prague 2025, and the Amazon Interdisciplinary Field School. These field schools provided students with valuable opportunities to apply their learning in global contexts, develop professional insights in fashion and urban/architecture design, and build international perspectives on sustainability and community development.



London & Paris Field School 2025, *Fashion & Technology* students with instructors Michael Pope and Leslie Pollard in London.

THE OFFICE OF THE AVP, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Research Showcase 2025

The Office of AVP Research & Innovation held its second annual Research Showcase event at the Surrey Conference Centre on May 13, 2025. The event attracted approximately 150 attendees and featured numerous engaging presentations throughout the day in Surrey. The central theme of the event was Generative AI, and it was an honour to host Dr. Mohammad Keyhani from the University of Calgary, who delivered an insightful keynote presentation. Our following panel with KPU faculty members broadened the conversation to AI in research, scholarship, and teaching, and brought a breadth of perspectives to the mix. Twenty-seven student posters were displayed at the event, facilitating great knowledge sharing. This is a significant forum to internally share and strengthen knowledge mobilization at KPU and inspire future collaborations and scholarship, and it was a great success in 2025.



WESTVAC/WESTVPR 2025

Dr. Deepak Gupta attended the WestVAC/WestVPR conference from March 5-7, 2025, in Victoria, BC. Themed “The University of Tomorrow: Confident Pluralism, Diverse Spaces, and New Technologies,” the event explored how universities can navigate technological and financial challenges while fostering equity and innovation. The conference featured keynotes, panels, and workshops, bringing together academic leaders to discuss the future of higher education.

Shastri Bilateral Education Forum (SBEF) 2025 and Institutional Visits in India

Dr. Deepak Gupta attended the inaugural Shastri Bilateral Education Forum (SBEF) 2025 hosted by The

Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) in New Delhi, India, from March 27-28, 2025, with the theme “Bridging Borders with Sustainable Academic Collaborations”. The forum facilitated direct interactions between Indian and Canadian institutions, promoting the exchange of ideas, expertise, and innovative solutions for academic collaborations. Dr. Gupta also visited Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (S-VYASA) and NIMHANS (National Institute for Mental Health and Neurological Sciences).

Alliance of Canadian Comprehensive Research Universities (ACCRU) Annual General Meeting 2025

Dr. Deepak Gupta was invited to the ACCRU Annual General Meeting held from May 26-27, 2025 in Ottawa, ON. This pivotal gathering brought together leaders from across Canada’s comprehensive research universities to reflect on recent accomplishments, strategize for the future, and engage in meaningful dialogue on key issues shaping the sector. As part of the program, Dr. Gupta presented on supporting Indigenous research at KPU. His contribution aimed to provoke thoughtful discussion and highlight the significance of inclusive, community-driven research practices in the Canadian academic landscape.

OFFICE OF RESEARCH SERVICES

Lunch & Learn: Office of Research Services

The Office of Research Services (ORS) held a webinar on March 6, 2025, for faculty and staff, particularly those who are involved in research at KPU or want to get involved. During this session, KPU’s research administration experts gave a brief overview of their service areas, where to find key resources, and how to get support throughout your research timeline. It had resoundingly positive feedback with 28 attendees.

Enhancing ORS’s Social Media Engagement

ORS has recently increased its engagement on social media platforms like [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#). Through consistent updates and engaging visual content, ORS strives to boost their brand visibility and better connect with their audience.

Webinar Series - Research with Indigenous Communities: Principles, Partnerships, And Practices

On May 5, 2025, ORS launched the first webinar of a new series called “Research with Indigenous Communities: Principles, Partnerships, and Practices.” This series aims to enhance awareness and foster meaningful collaborations in research involving Indigenous communities. The first webinar was called “Indigenous Engagement: Pathways for Shared Learning, presented by Dr. Kent Mullinux and Kalista Pruden, who is the Indigenous foodways Community Outreach Facilitator. The recording can be found on SharePoint. The second webinar, titled “Navigating Funding While Adhering to Ethics and Indigenous Protocols,” took place on May 20, 2025, and was presented by Dr. Jennifer Hardwick and Vicki Haynes.

Dr. Keith Leung Presents at CARA 2025 National Conference

Dr. Keith Leung from ORS presented at the Canadian Association of Research Administrators (CARA) 2025 National Conference, held from May 11–14, 2025, at the Fredericton Convention Centre in Fredericton, New Brunswick. This annual gathering is Canada’s premier event for research administration professionals, offering a platform for knowledge exchange, professional development, and national collaboration. Dr. Leung shared KPU’s approach to designing and evaluating internal grants, emphasizing alignment with institutional priorities and equitable access. The session included case studies and invited audience input to explore diverse practices across institutions.

THE RESEARCH ETHICS BOARD

REB Webinar - Simplify Your REB Review: Come Chat with the REB Chair

REB held a webinar on May 8, 2025, for faculty and staff regarding the REB application and review process. The REB chair, Dr. Shayna Minosky, and the REB Coordinator, Damaris Muganda, presented to the webinar attendees on ways to make their REB approval process smoother. The event received overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants, who stated that they now understand the tips for getting their applications reviewed promptly.

THE ANIMAL CARE COMMITTEE

KPU is Now CCAC-GAP Certified!

The Animal Care Committee (ACC) is thrilled to announce that KPU has officially received [Canadian Council on Animal Care – Good Animal Practice \(CCAC-GAP\) certification](#) after many years of dedicated effort, which involved the creation of SOPs, the development of training modules, the establishment of the committee, undergoing CCAC site visits, and the submission of a final report based on CCAC recommendations. Achieving this milestone indicates that KPU is dedicated to maintaining CCAC and its internationally recognized standards of animal care and use in research, teaching, and testing. It also opens our university up to receiving tri-agency funding from additional sources that involve the use of animals in research. Continued monitoring, reporting, and assessments must be adhered to, and follow-up assessments take place every three years.

ACC Membership Updates

ACC is pleased to announce that Cathy Schuppli was reappointed as the primary veterinarian for animal care. She will be overseeing both the Zebra Fish facility and the Farrier program, and assisting with updating protocols, SOP’S, animal health and welfare. She will also be ACC’s primary veterinarian to contact for emergency situations. ACC is very fortunate to have her on board for another year, as her expertise regarding research protocols has been invaluable during their GAP application last year.

Additionally, one of our community members has renewed their commitment to the committee for another two years. This member has been on the ACC for the last four years, providing incredible feedback and critical thinking regarding animal welfare.

CCAC Annual Animal Use Data Report Submission

The annual report with regard to animals used within ACC’s protocols was compiled and submitted to the CCAC for review. This report is due by March 31st every year and covers the previous year from January to December. The CCAC collects these reports to accurately represent animals used in research and provide valuable information for assessment visits, guideline and policy development, and education and Three Rs activities. The complete results and analysis from these reports are available for the previous five years on the [CCAC website](#).

APPLIED GENOMICS CENTRE (AGC)

STAFFING

- On April 7, 2025, Tara Landsey-Sutherland commenced her role as AGC Research Administrative Coordinator.
- On May 1, 2025 Minuka Hewapathirana joined the AGC as their new Bioinformatician. As well, starting on May 12 the AGC is welcoming Vanessa Ikechebelu as our co-op student research assistant.

Funding Advancements

The Applied Genomics Centre received \$193,726 in funding from Genome BC for their research on Validation of molecular diagnostic assays for plant-parasitic nematode detection in BC crops. As well, the AGC will be partnering with the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada for this research.

Initiatives

In 2023, AGC, with support from Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the B.C. government, developed a precise qPCR test for a key salmon pathogen. Working with the B.C. Animal Health Centre, they sequenced bacterial genomes to design the test, now publicly available on NCBI. This tool enables faster, more accurate salmon disease diagnosis, aiding conservation efforts.



OTHER UPDATES

- Eileen Faith Biswayan received the Co-op Achievement Award from the KPU Career

Development Center (KPU-CDC). This award recognizes Eileen's outstanding performance as a Co-op student, her dedication, and her valuable contributions during the time of her Co-op at the Applied Genomics Centre. News of this award is posted on: [LinkedIn](#)

- On May 2, 2025, the AGC Director, Dr. Paul Adams was awarded the 2025 Distinguished Scholarship Award from KPU.

INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

EVENTS

- ISFS hosted an Indigenous gathering event titled "A Pathway to Reconciliation: Supporting Indigenous Food Systems" on Monday, March 11, 2025, at the Richmond campus. ISFS shared with the Indigenous participants about the past collaboration with First Nation members on food sovereignty projects and led a farm tour of the Garden City farm for demonstration.
- ISFS organized a fruit tree pruning workshop "The Art and Science of Fruit Tree Pruning: A Hands-On Workshop for Bountiful Harvests" with 20 participants on March 29 on KPU Richmond campus and KPU farm at Gilbert Road.



- ISFS, partnered with Sandown Centre for Regenerative Agriculture and FarmFolk CityFolk, organized and delivered a full-day Dry Farming Site Suitability and Soil Heal Field Day on April 11, 2025, at Sandown Centre for Regenerative Agriculture in North Saanich. Fifteen local farmers and gardeners joined the event to learn more about in-field methods for assessing soil health and soil moisture capacity.



- ISFS hosted a fruit tree pruning workshop on Apr 20, 2025, in Bella Bella, BC, for the Qqs (Eyes) Projects Society (an Indigenous Heiltsuk charitable organization) and Coastal Foodways (a support hub for food leaders in the Central Coast community).

Staffing Updates

Rhianna Uy and Laurel McBride joined ISFS as part-time Research Assistants, with Rhianna starting on March 3, 2025 and Laurel on March 17, 2025.

Presentations/Community Activities

- Naomi Robert was invited to join a CBC Radio Interview with Gregor Craigie on March 11, 2025, about the dry farming project. (Media link: [Farming with only the water you have in the ground - we'll talk about a "dry farming" experiment happening this growing season on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands | On The Island | On Demand | CBC Listen](#))
- An article about Naomi Robert's dry farming project was posted on local media, *Comox Valley Record*, on March 10, 2025. (Media link: [Comox Valley farmer goes dry in face of climate change - Comox Valley Record](#))
- ISFS delivered a research project presentation on "BC Pasture-Raised Poultry Market Assessment" to the Small-Scale Meat Producers Association on May 7, 2025, at KPU Richmond.

Funding Advancement

- Rodale Institute awarded USD \$18,287 to ISFS for the "Hazelnut alley-cropping demonstration orchard" project.

- ISFS received \$40,214.36 from the Bridge River Indian Band (Xwísten) for providing agriculture training and consultation services to the band members in 2025.
- Community Foundation of the South Okanagan-Similkameen (CFSO) awarded \$15,000 to ISFS to prepare their 2025 Vital Signs report data and narrative, focused on food security from March to July 2025.
- The SFU BC Centre for Agritech Innovation funded ISFS with \$75,194 to work on the Dry Farming on Vancouver Island project.
- The Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions Community Event Grant awarded \$2,500 to ISFS senior research associate Naomi Robert to deliver a dry farming site suitability and soil health field day.
- Canada Summer Job awarded \$5,685 to ISFS KPU Richmond farm school for hiring a Canadian youth as a full-time farm hand this summer for 8 weeks.
- The Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program awarded ISFS additional funding of \$19,026.68 to the "Seasonal Domestic Harvest Labour Access in British Columbia" project (led by Kristi Tatebe) for the purpose to deepen the precedent research.

INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE HORTICULTURE

Events

- The Honorable Lana Popham, BC Minister of Agriculture & Food, visited ISH's strawberry project on March 14, 2025, and heard about ISH's plans for the greenhouse expansion, the national Controlled Environment Agriculture Research Network, and the next phase of the Weston strawberry project whose goal is to put more BC-grown strawberries on BC grocery store shelves and displace imports.



Staffing Updates

- ISH welcomed a new field technician in March 2025 for the cutworm biocontrol in wine grapes project in the Okanagan – Angel Schneider-Lapierre.
- ISH welcomed Master's student Elsa Ponthieu in late March 2025 from AgroSup Dijon in France, to spend 5 months at ISH to conduct her thesis research on the effects of various light wavelengths on growth, characteristics and secondary metabolites of Lion's Mane mushrooms.
- ISH welcomed one Horticulture student, Jean-Mornay du Plessis, in May 2025 as an RA for the strawberry greenhouse lighting project with Sollum Technologies.

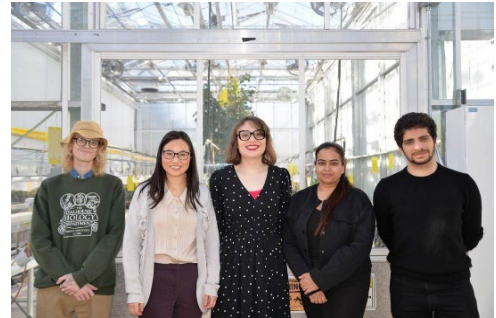
Initiatives

A new partnership with S&A Group, the premier strawberry breeding program, has recently been affirmed. ISH will have exclusive access to their new varieties for testing in greenhouse environments in Canada.

Other Updates

- ISH was featured in KPU News for the research on how the innovative use of LED lighting could boost greenhouse strawberry production. The project, funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and Mitacs, will enable ISH to address the many challenges greenhouse strawberry growers face, particularly the need for precise light management. To read the full story, click [here](#).
- Omni TV interviewed Drs. Li Ma, Sarah Murria and Deborah Henderson about

growing greenhouse strawberries and the light study. This interview was conducted in English, Mandarin and Punjabi and made its way to various TV outlets. One of them (in Punjabi) is [here](#). The story was also picked up by Greenhouse Canada ([Article link](#)) and HortiDaily ([Article link](#)).



ISH Research Team, from left to right: Jean-Mornay du Plessis (Hort student), Dr. Li Ma (PI), Olivia Puszka (Hort. student), Sarah Murria (PDF), and Aria Tamanaei (ISH Technician).

- In April 2025, ISH finalized the project with Afepasa in Spain. This involved creating a set of data requirement documents, primarily literature reviews, for a new three-microbe bionematicide. The company plans to submit these documents for registration in several countries, including Canada, as a replacement for chemical nematicides.
- The second annual narrative and financial report for the Ethiopian ROBA kindergarten pilot project was submitted to the Sfaira Foundation in April 2025. This year proved to be a remarkable success, as the number of enrolled children increased to 63, accompanied by positive feedback from the elementary school regarding the progress of the first-year graduates.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Office of the AVP, Research and Innovation acknowledges funding from the federal Research Support Fund in support of its operations and services.

TEACHING & LEARNING COMMONS

Events

- TL Commons hosted a table at the KPU Research Showcase on May 13th
- Staff from the Commons hosted a table at KPU day 2025
- Learning Strategists from the Commons attended KPU's Accessibility week to answer questions and share resources.
- In an effort to spark dialogue and critical discourse, the TL commons continues to host the voices of KPU faculty sharing their disciplinary perspectives and practical applications of Generative AI. 3 webinars have been offered, with more to come.
 - Previous Webinars can be seen [HERE](#).
 - The most recent speaker was Kianhoosh Tahani, who's webinar explored how educators can be empowered with Gen AI

Updates

- The British Columbia Teaching and Learning Council (BCTLC) has awarded Lee Beavington a [2025 West Coast Teaching Excellence Award](#), which celebrates excellence in post-secondary teaching.
- TL Commons has released its most recent Newsletter. View it [HERE](#)
- The [Teaching and Learning SharePoint site](#) was officially launched on April 24th, 2025. The purpose of the site is to make it easier for faculty to find the information and support they need in their teaching practices. It also includes a comprehensive overview of the Teaching and Learning team, our strategic plan, and direct links to services, events, blogs, newsletters, and more. Faculty and staff are encouraged to check out the site to explore the available resources.
- The phase one soft launch of Simple Syllabus included 33 faculty for a total of 78

syllabi created for summer. The Simple Syllabus platform is being provided to encourage consistent accurate and accessible syllabi using a standardized template to support the student experience. The Commons will be offering in-person and online support to encourage additional faculty uptake.

- TL Events was successfully upgraded to Moodle version 4.1 on Friday, April 25th, 2025. This upgrade brings TL Events in line with the versions used across all other Moodle sites at KPU. Teaching and Learning will be piloting the KPU Humanitix license in the upcoming semesters and consider transferring to that system in the future.
- A suite of resources to assist faculty in making their courses technologically accessible has been released. This includes a course adapted by KPU from TRU, which provides guidance for faculty on making their courses more accessible using technology tools. Additionally, an updated version of a WordPress site with accessibility features on Moodle, PebblePad, and other platforms is available. The suite also includes a link to the BC Accessibility Toolkit and a resource created by the UK Home Office, which offers "Do's and Don'ts" for designing learning resources and environments for individuals with specific accessibility needs.
 - Find it here: <https://www.kpu.ca/teaching-and-learning/teaching-resources/resources/technology-accessibility>

Publications/Scholarly Activities

- On Mon May 5, Amanda Grey and Karen Meijer presented at the Library Publishing Forum on "Creating Inclusive OERs: Weaving Accessibility into Publishing Workflows"

Initiatives/Activities

xé?elt-Pathway Funding Project

- Indigenous Artwork to represent the Teaching and Learning Process is underway and will be revealed in June.
- The TL commons staff has completed a Camosum College Micro credential course: Truth and Reconciliation in Action

Designing for Enrollment and Retention

- As we navigate enrollment and retention challenges, the Teaching & Learning Commons is here to support faculty with curated resources and flexible learning opportunities. Launching at the end of May our new faculty development program invites faculty on a choose-your-own-route “road trip”. Faculty will be able to explore multiple paths tailored to their individual goals including:
 - Better support for first year students
 - Design impactful and equity-minded assessments
 - Build more inclusive classrooms across all delivery models
 - Explore options for reducing financial and access related options for students
 - More information coming soon!

Learning Technologies

- Effective March 16th, Camtasia licenses were reduced and is now available only in faculty workrooms

Open Education

- As a result of the Open Ed curriculum mapping project analyzing KPU courses with OER to the number of ZTC programs at KPU. KPU Open is pleased to announce a new grant opportunity, created specifically to support the Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Initiative. This grant will support faculty to transition a course that requires students to purchase course materials to using open educational resources (OER) which are freely available.

- Successful applicants will receive a single course section release to create or adapt an OER. Priority will be given to OER projects for courses that will increase the number of ZTC Credentials offered. The application can be found [HERE](#)
- Newly published OERs include:
 - [KPU HIST Open Encyclopedia – South Asia](#)
 - [La hora del cuento en español – Storytime in Spanish](#)

Library

EVENTS

Seed Library Traveling Showcase



Seed Library display at Richmond

KPU Library's Seed Library went on tour this March! Librarians Celia Brinkerhoff, Melissa Cuthill, and Cajo Blomley collaborated to bring the Langley-based Seed Library to Surrey and Richmond campuses! Accompanied by gardening and plant books from our collection, visitors could borrow seeds to plant at their homes and learn about seed saving.

The mission of the Kwantlen Seed Library is to "promote food security in our community through the preservation and exchange of locally grown and harvested seeds". KPU Library looks forward to more Seed Library events in the future!

Braille Printer Drop-ins

Since its launch early this year, KPU Library users have been able to drop by on Tuesdays from 10-3 and get an orientation and instructions on how to use the braille embosser. The braille embosser is available in-person, first-come-first-served, at Surrey campus library and is pay per page (.25/page). The drop-ins continue to be well attended and informative.

Visit [Braille Printing | KPU Library](#) for service scope and info about the embosser.

PRESENTATIONS / COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

British Columbia Library Association Conference



Cleire Lauron (Left) presenting at BCLA

Librarian Cleire Lauron presented the following at the BCLA Conference in May:

Pre-Conference Session: *Demystifying RDA: Navigating the Official RDA Toolkit Together*

This workshop was a collaboration with University of Victoria and Vancouver Public Library. It focused on the RDA (Resource Description and Access) metadata standard, with a focus on the IFLA LRM conceptual model and effective use of the RDA Toolkit to identify elements and instructions for creating a MARC metadata description set for a monograph.

Navigating together: valuing relationships in Library leadership

In collaboration with New Westminster Public Library, this session focused on library leadership, exploring approaches to 'library better' through the lenses of critical librarianship, slow librarianship, abundance mindset, relationality, and transition management.

INITIATIVES / ACTIVITIES

Overdrive Magazine Database

The Library recently began a subscription to Overdrive Magazines. Providing access to over 5,000 titles, the collection is accessible in a visually friendly digital format and represents a wide range of communities, subjects, and languages. The 30+ titles in the Overdrive package include print or online magazines the Library currently acquires through more costly single title subscriptions. Making this

switch will enable KPU Library to realize a modest cost savings while substantially expanding the digital magazine content available to KPU students and faculty.

Guide to Generative Artificial Intelligence in Library Resources

Generative AI research tools are popping up everywhere in the information landscape, including in library research databases. To help library users navigate this changing landscape as more vendors include Generative AI in their resources, KPU Library has created a [Guide to Generative Artificial Intelligence in Library Research](#).

The guide is intended to share details about these tools with the KPU community, share information on additional useful GenAI tools, and share guidance on working with and evaluating GenAI research outputs. As more generative AI tools become available, the guide will continue to be updated.

PROGRAM / POLICIES / INITIATIVES

Library Book Displays



National Poetry Month Display



Sustainable Development Goals Display

KPU Library continues to create engaging displays on various themes at each of our libraries. Recent highlights have been a beekeeping display,

Sustainable Development Goals Month, National Poetry Month Display, Transgender Day of Visibility, and the Red Dress Day Display.

The Red Dress Display at Surrey Campus was up for a week and featured information and books on this difficult topic. KPU Library was grateful to once again display the award-winning, striking red dress by Jennifer Lamont, a Métis artist and Wilson School of Design graduate. This dress was last displayed at the library in 2022 after it won an award in the *Our Social Fabric, Upcycled Design Competition*. The display raises awareness about MMIWG2S+ and Red Dress Day, and KPU Library invites our community to reflect, educate, promote awareness and take action on an important topic.

STAFFING

Longtime Library Resources Technicians Ruth Mullane and Debbie Smith retired at the end of May. KPU Library wishes them the best in their well-earned retirement and thank them for their service to KPU. Leslie Jenneson and Danay Robinson, the successful candidates for the Library Resources Technician positions began their training in January and February.

Langley Library's Audiovisual Technician Yani Mitchell and Richmond Library Campus Supervisor Silvana Smith are also retiring at the end of May. KPU Library thanks them for their dedication to KPU over the years and wishes them the best their retirement. Emma Wills will be taking on the Richmond Library Campus Supervisor role, and Alex Knopp will be Langley's AV Technician.

Shannon Rego joins KPU Library again as Library Supervisor, Surrey Campus. Caja Blomley is the successful candidate for the Student Success Librarian. Librarian Melissa Gillies has returned from maternity leave. Welcome back to all!

KPU Library would like to congratulate the following Library employees on their Long Service Awards:

20 years: Lisa Hubick, Chris Burns

25 Years: Lima Mendonca, Andrea Page

30 years: Silvana Smith

HUMAN RESOURCES

Organizational Development & Employee Experience (ODEX)

Employee Engagement

Recruitment for the new Employee Engagement Committee began in November, with the final selection of seven members completed in February. This diverse group represents a range of departments and perspectives, ensuring a well-rounded approach to enhancing engagement across the University. Each member brings unique insights and expertise.

Results from the Fall 2024 Employee Engagement Survey have been broadly shared across KPU, highlighting key insights and focus areas. Divisional reports will be distributed shortly.

To support professional development and engagement for administrative employees, ODEX hosted the KPU Leadership Conference in March. The theme was *Thriving in a Changing World of Work*.

Programs

A pilot mentorship program launched earlier this year with 11 participants and will conclude on June 30. Designed to foster professional growth, the program paired mentors and mentees based on shared goals and interests. This pilot lays the groundwork for future mentorship initiatives across KPU.

Employee Workshops

Human Resources offered several professional and self-development workshops and webinars to KPU employees during this reporting period which included: Social Media – The Impact on Mental Health, Project Management Fundamentals, Being Strategic, Building Emotional Intelligence, Generative AI, Hiring Best Practices, How the Drama Triangle Supports a Productive Mindset, True Colours, and Taleo Hiring Manager and Recruitment Support Training.

ODEX also supported and facilitated various needs-based sessions across departments.

People Services

Compensation

The Compensation team collaborated with other key parties to complete KPU's first calibration sessions for administrative employees. The team also finalized and submitted the 2024/25 Executive Compensation Disclosure.

Health and Benefits

In March, the team organized massage clinics at Surrey, Richmond, Langley, and Cloverdale campuses to promote employee wellness. Feedback from faculty and staff was overwhelmingly positive.

In collaboration with HUB, KPU's benefits consultant, the Health and Benefits team developed a Wellness Resource Guide. This guide helps employees assess their position on the wellness continuum across six dimensions—emotional, financial, mental, physical, social, and spiritual—and connects them with relevant KPU resources.

People Relations

Talent Acquisition Team

Senior Searches Underway:

- Director, Internal Audit
- Associate Vice President, Finance
- Dean, Melville School of Business
- Associate Dean, Wilson School of Design

Number of new hires to KPU (temporary and permanent) for the reporting period:

- Admin – 5
- BCGEU – 24
- Faculty – 20

In February 2025, the Talent Acquisition team launched a refreshed version of the www.kpu.ca/hr webpage, designed to better communicate KPU's culture, total rewards, and career opportunities to prospective and current employees.

Risk and Security

Emergency Planning

Emergency Planning has advanced several key initiatives to strengthen institutional preparedness.

The Hazard Risk Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA) was updated to reflect current and emerging risks across all campuses, providing a clearer basis for planning and response.

A consultant completed a review of KPU's emergency communication systems. At this time, systems are functioning as intended. While a few recommendations were made, the most effective solution identified is the establishment of a dedicated operations center to coordinate and manage all emergency communications.

KPU actively engaged in Emergency Preparedness Week at the start of May, fostering a culture of readiness both on campus and at home.

The Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Team also participated in a tabletop exercise based on a student overdose scenario. The session focused on improving coordination, decision-making, and response protocols during critical incidents.

Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S)

The OH&S team remains dedicated to fostering a safe and healthy workplace. Recent initiatives include:

- Developing a first aid drill evaluation report to support compliance with WorkSafeBC regulations.
- Publishing the annual OH&S summary report, highlighting key initiatives and safety performance metrics from the past year.
- Introducing a mental health injury reporting process to guide employees through the necessary steps and connect them to relevant resources.

Risk Management

The Risk department is meeting with functional leads across the university as part of the annual risk review process, which will result in an updated risk register and Board report.

Security Operations

During this reporting period, Campus Security Operations generated approximately 200 Incident Reports, addressing a variety of issues including alarms, property crimes, suspicious activity,

trespassing, harassment, and issues surrounding Gateway of Hope Shelter. A report commissioned by a third party to assess the security climate at Langley Campus is now complete and is currently being reviewed. Ongoing discussions have been held with Shelter Management, nearby businesses, City Bylaw, and RCMP Leadership.

Security also provided Security Support to the KSA elections in March 2025. Student elections and tension surrounding the same continue to occupy a large volume of Campus Security time and resources.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Office of the CFO

The Finance Department successfully completed the March 31, 2025 year-end, with external auditors conducting their fieldwork in early April. The audit concluded with no management queries or adjustments, reflecting the team's diligence and preparation. During this time, the Budget and Planning team also finalized the Fiscal Year 2025–26 Budget, which was approved by the Board of Governors on March 26, 2025.

Staffing

Cyril Lopez, Associate Vice President, Finance, will be departing KPU on May 30, 2025. We thank Cyril for his leadership and contributions to the Finance department and wish him all the best in his next chapter. Recruitment for the Associate Vice President, Finance position is underway.

Business Performance and Advisory Services (BPAS)

The BPAS team completed the Fiscal Year 2025/26 KPU Annual Internal Audit Plan, which will be brought forward for approval at the Board of Governors meeting on May 28, 2025.

Two investigations have been closed.

Staffing

- Mus Bhaloo, Business Advisor, joined the BPAS team on March 31, 2025.
- The recruitment of the Director, Internal Audit position continues.

Financial Services

The Budget and Planning team are in the process of preparing the Fiscal Year 2026-27 budget cycle.

The team is working with Millennium, the developers of FAST, to improve the current budget system and exploring the forecasting opportunities available to KPU, as well as other projects that will enhance the budget and planning activities for both Finance and the broader KPU community.

Staffing

The Financial Services teams recently welcomed new members:

- Angela Tao, Director, Financial Services (Operations & Systems)
- Navjeet Mangat, Accountant, Budget & Planning

Tanvi Shorey, Manager, Financial Operations (interim), will be going on maternity leave beginning in June 2025. We wish Tanvi all the best during this exciting time and thank her for her contributions and leadership over the past several months.

Lara Tiu was recently promoted from a temporary contract to a full-time Financial Coordinator on the Financial Reporting team. Lara has been a valuable member of the department, and we're excited to have her continue contributing in this permanent role. Congratulations, Lara!

Recruitment is underway:

- Finance: Director of Internal Audit
- Finance: Director Financial Services - Budget and Reporting.

Procurement Services

Activities, Initiatives and Achievements

The team participated in a webinar led by CAUBO to learn from the experiences of peer institutions that implemented the Supplier Code of Conduct, fulfilling their obligations to meet expectations for ethical and sustainable procurement.

Additionally, the Procurement Services team participated in the BCNET Spring Member Forum on May 14. This forum focused on strategies for navigating the impact of U.S. tariffs on the higher education sector, as well as methods to enhance sustainability in procurement practices.

One of our Procurement Officers, resigned and left KPU during the month of March. Despite this, the procurement team completed the fiscal year 2025 year-end activities precisely and on time. This included processing a number of contract renewals and closing open purchase orders that are no longer needed. This is particularly a vital achievement considering the significant dependency challenges of the user departments.

The Procurement Services team developed and implemented a tariff strategy focused on KPU to effectively manage the uncertainties associated with tariffs and other trade restrictions.

The department conducted a comprehensive review and established a revised direct pay protocol to enhance the efficiency, clarity, and visibility of the process and controls.

Strategic Projects in the Procurement Cycle

For the period from March 2025 to May 2025, the following competitions are either in progress, or have had contracts awarded:

- Electrical Repairs Maintenance Services solicitation completed and contract awarded in March '25;
- Richmond Air Source Heat Pump Feasibility Study solicitation completed and contract awarded in March '25;
- Specialty Paper Supplies solicitation completed and contract awarded in March '25;
- Modernization of Accessibility Ramp North at KPU Richmond solicitation completed and contract awarded in April '25;
- Heat Recovery Design in Richmond solicitation completed and contract awarded in April '25;
- Glazing upgrade phase 1 in solicitation completed and contract awarded in April '25;
- Exterior Doors Replacement in Cloverdale solicitation completed and contract awarded in April '25;
- Plumbing Services for all campuses re-procurement solicitation completed and contract awarded in May '25;
- Prequalification for Procurement Consultants was solicited jointly with University of Fraser Valley, this competition is currently posted with closing date of 22nd May;
- Finance Office Renovation tender closed on March 17th, and is currently in contract negotiation phase;
- Traditional Chinese Medicine Department Renovation tender closed on April 11th, and is currently in contract negotiation phase;
- Transcribing Services competition is currently posted; and
- American Sign Language Interpreting Services competition is currently posted.

Finance Department Social Activities

The Finance department kicked off the spring season with a series of social activities that fostered connection and teamwork ahead of the busy audit period. In March, the team gathered off-site for a Finance Hangout at Farm Country Brewing, a KPU alumni-owned business, offering a relaxed space to get to know one another and strengthen relationships before year-end. This was followed by participation in KPU Day, where staff engaged with university-wide programming and cross-campus initiatives. After successfully wrapping up the audit, the department celebrated with a year-end event featuring games and a casual pizza lunch — a fun and well-earned opportunity to unwind and recognize the team's efforts and accomplishments.



Finance Department Pre-Yearend Social



Finance Department KPU Day



Finance Department Fiscal Year-End Get Together

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & MAJOR EVENTS

Spring Term

Community Engagement and Major Events spent Spring 2025 hosting and supporting various events both on- and off-campus to aid in student, donor, and sponsor recruitment and retention, KPU employee engagement, and brand recognition in our campus communities.

March to June 2025 Events Recap

- March 21 – Anti-Racism Symposium
- March 21 – Surrey Eagles Hockey Game
- March 27 – President’s Dialogue Series with Gwynne Dyer
- April 3 – Trades Donor Stewardship Event
- April 19 – Vaisakhi Parade
- April 25 – Pat Dooley Memorial Golf Tournament
- April 26 – City of Surrey Party for the Planet



CEME Community Ambassadors Rahul Chauhan and Darern Simagala host “Sustainable KPU Trivia” at the Surrey Party for the Planet.

- April 28 – Sea of Salmon Artwork Unveiling



- April 29 – President’s Dialogue Series with Gervan Fearon
- May 2 – KPU Day



KPU Day was a huge success

- May 6 – President’s Dialogue Series with Alan Mandell
- May 10 – Science Rendezvous



CEME participated in Science Rendezvous by providing MC services

- May 22 – New Moon Gala
- May 24 – KPU Community Day
- May 24 – KPU Kickoff Richmond
- May 26 – KPU Kickoff Surrey
- May 29 – Richmond Fire-Rescue Charity Golf Tournament
- May 29 – Melville Alumni Mixer
- June 10-13 – June Convocation
- June 17 – Surrey Firefighters Charity Golf Tournament
- June 21 – Cloverdale Market Days

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

KPU's Third Annual Anti-Racism Symposium

KPU was pleased to host MLA Jessie Sunner (Surrey-Newton) and MLA George Anderson (Nanaimo-Lantzville) who delivered the keynote address, sharing his career experiences and highlighting that “representation isn’t just about words, it’s about action.”



Anti-Racism Symposium, Randall Heidt, Andhra Goundrey, Asma Sayed, MLA Jessie Sunner, MLA George Anderson (from left to right)

KPU at Vaisakhi 2025 Celebration in Surrey

With support from the Office of Equity & Inclusive Communities, the Government Relations team was proud to have a booth at Surrey’s Vaisakhi celebrations in April. They handed out water bottles and KPU swag to many engaged community members. The Government Relations team was also instrumental in securing a \$10,000 donation, which will go directly toward student awards and bursaries.



Surrey Vaisakhi 2025

Policy Engagement

KPU was pleased to provide the Mayors’ Council on Regional Transportation with a letter of support for

TransLink’s 2025 Investment Plan. With campuses in Surrey, Richmond, and Langley, KPU serves thousands of students across the region, many of whom rely on public transit to get to class, work and community life. As such, it was vital to demonstrate support for a plan that will meet today’s needs and lay the groundwork for the future.

Federal Election Update

The Liberal Party of Canada, which won 170 ridings, picked up 12 seats from the Bloc Quebecois, 10 from the Conservatives and seven from the NDP; while the Conservatives, in second place with 143 seats, took 16 from the Liberals, 10 from the NDP and one each from the Bloc and Green Party of Canada.

Canadians gave Prime Minister Mark Carney’s cabinet a ringing endorsement on election night, sending 19 of 23 ministers back to Parliament with a decisive share of the votes in their respective ridings.

KPU’s regions saw 3 new MPs following the April 28th election:

KPU Campus	Riding	Elected MP	Previous MP
Langley	Cloverdale-Langley City	Tamara Jansen	John Aldag
Cloverdale	South Surrey-White Rock	Ernie Klassen	Kerry-Lynne Findlay
Surrey	Surrey-Newton	Sukh Dhaliwal	Sukh Dhaliwal
Civic Plaza	Surrey Centre	Randeep Sarai	Randeep Sarai
Richmond	Richmond Centre-Marpole	Chak Au	Wilson Miao

King Charles III is scheduled to visit Canada at the end of May to deliver the throne speech and open the new legislature. This visit will mark the first time since 1977 that a reigning monarch has delivered the Speech from the Throne, underscoring the significance of advancing a future grounded in shared global values of democracy, equality and peace.

B.C. saw 5 MPs sworn in as cabinet ministers and secretaries:

- **MP Randeep Sarai** (Surrey Centre): Secretary of State for International Development
- **MP Jill McKnight** (Delta): Minister of Veterans Affairs and associate minister of national defence.
- **MP Gregor Robertson** (Vancouver Fraserview-South Burnaby): Minister of Housing and Infrastructure, and Minister Responsible for Pacific Economic Development.
- **MP Stephanie McLean** (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke): Secretary of State for Seniors

- **MP Stephen Fuhr** (Kelowna): Secretary of State for Defence Procurement

Other notable appointments include the following:

- **MP Lena Metlege Diab** (Halifax West): Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship
- **MP Heath MacDonald** (Malpeque): Minister of Agriculture
- **MP Melanie Joly** (Ahuntsic-Cartierville): Minister of Industry (possibly where ISSED will be included)
- **MP Patty Hajdu** (Thunder Bay-Superior North): Minister of Jobs and Families (possibly where Workforce Development will be included)

One notable absence is longtime Minister Jonathan Wilkinson (North Vancouver-Capilano) who did not receive a cabinet appointment.

Prime Minister Carney's cabinet includes 28 ministers and has upheld the practice of having a gender-balanced cabinet with 14 female ministers, and 14 male ministers. Cabinet members will also be supported by 10 secretaries of State who will offer focused leadership on critical issues and priorities within their minister's portfolio.

OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT

Fundraising Activity (as of May 13, 2025)

Since the previous Board of Governors' report (February 2025), the Office of Advancement raised \$375,000. Total fundraising for the fiscal year-ended March 31, 2025, was \$2,301,000. Annual fundraising to date for the current fiscal year is \$123,000.

New Major Gifts (\$5,000 and over)

Lynn R. Birnie \$60,000 to establish the Jim & Jean Rathbone Endowed Bursary

Mark Gervin, KC, Criminal Law Barrister \$25,000 to establish the Gervin Endowed Award of Excellence in Law

Vancouver Foundation \$16,000 for student support

Mary Mikelson \$7,500 to establish the Arnold Mikelson Memorial Award

Strawberry Hill Farmers Institute \$6,000 for the Strawberry Hill Farmers Institute Entrance Award

City of Surrey \$5,000 to Greatest Need

The Lark Group \$5,000 to the Patrick Dooley Memorial Endowment

P.W. Trenchless Construction, Inc. \$5,000 to establish the P.W. Trenchless Construction, Inc. Award

The Patrick Dooley Legacy Golf Tournament

On April 25, 2025, the KPU Foundation and Office of Advancement hosted the Patrick Dooley Legacy Golf Tournament at Hazelmere Golf & Country. The tournament, in its 10th year was a success with 130 golfers, and several sponsors.

A special thank you goes to dinner sponsor, the Lark Group, our hole sponsors, and KPU Foundation board members whose organizations sponsored: Areti (Kelly Finlay), A.S. Bubber & Associates (Vikram Bubber), The Amur Group (Matthew Boulton), Surrey Board of Trade, SCS Consulting, and Copytek Print Centre.

KPU Trades Donor Reception

On April 3, 2025, the KPU Foundation and the Office of Advancement hosted donors of the Faculty of Trades & Technology to a reception featuring remarks from Dean, Laura McDonald, student speakers, and shop tours guided by Associate Dean, Joel Murray.



Jack Heppel, Trustee of the Heppel Foundation with KPU Foundation Vice Chair, Mathew Boulton, and Steve Lewarne

KPU Alumni Association donates \$100,000 in support of students in need

In 2020 the KPU Alumni Association established the KPUAA Endowment in support of students. The initial donation was \$25,000 with an additional pledge of \$5,000 annually over five years. The endowment

currently supports three \$1,000 annual awards for student bursaries and scholarships. With the support of this additional donations from alumni and from third party fundraising events such as the Greater Vancouver Food Truck wars, the current endowed balance is over \$60,000.

In April the KPU Alumni Association board of directors graciously approved to donate another \$100,000 to build on their endowment. A lump sum of \$50,000 will be donated this year, with a \$50,000 pledge over the next five years, bringing the endowment total to over \$160,000.

Announcing the 2025 Distinguished Alumni Awards

The KPU Alumni Association and Alumni Affairs office are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2025 Alumni Awards.

2025 Distinguished Alumni Award



Colleen Spier – 2025 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient

Spier graduated with an associate of arts degree in psychology from KPU in 2002, will be honored on June 11 during the convocation ceremonies at KPU Surrey

Spier is a lawyer who has dedicated her career to improving the lives of Indigenous peoples in the justice system

Spier is a Métis-Cree lawyer and the assistant deputy minister of B.C.'s Indigenous Justice Secretariat. As the lead of this secretariat, she works towards addressing the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples in the justice system.

Spier has also been recognized for her exceptional work and contributions through several awards,

including the 2023 King's Counsel designation, Susanna Jani Award Supporting Excellence in Mediation, Premier's Awards for Innovation and Excellence and Black Press Media's Women in Business Award.

The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes KPU alumni who demonstrate lifetime accomplishments in one or more areas: professional, entrepreneurial, innovation, service, exemplified resilience in the face of adversity, and significant contribution on a regional, national or international level.

2025 Alumni Excellence Award



Melody Pan – 2025 Alumni Excellence Award recipient

KPU is awarding Hong Yan Melody Pan, a registered nurse and Canadian Royal Navy Reservist, the 2025 Alumni Excellence Award.

Pan graduated from KPU's Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program in 2008. As an immigrant from China, she faced significant challenges, including adapting to a new language, culture and professional landscape.

KPU recognizes exceptional alumni who have demonstrated excellence through their achievements and enhanced the reputation of the university through outstanding professional, business or community endeavors. Award nominations can be submitted at alumni.kpu.ca/awards

2025 Outstanding Young Alumni Award



Manvir Deol – 2025 Outstanding Young Alumni Award recipient.

An entrepreneur with a passion for innovation is being recognized with an Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

Manvir Deol, who graduated from KPU's Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing Management program in 2018, will be honored at the university's convocation ceremonies on June 11.

Deol runs two successful and growing businesses — one being Plan Your Space, an architectural showroom that helps homeowners gain a clear vision of their ideal floorplan before starting construction. The idea came to him when he was building a home for his family. Deol has remained connected to KPU supporting students

Just three years since its launched, Plan Your Space has completed over 250 floor plans with portfolios including single family homes, restaurants, medical clinics and financial institutions such as Vancity.

Drawing on his bachelor's degree and marketing background, Deol does all of his marketing in-house at Plan Your Space. He also co-founded CLIQMedia, a digital marketing and branding agency, during his final year at KPU.

Deol's success at a young age earned him a spot on the BC Business Magazine's 30 under 30 list, which celebrates young leaders who are innovating in their industries and finding new ways to create change.

Deol's connection to KPU has remained strong since his graduation. He's currently employing and mentoring a KPU student intern, and strives to continue to find ways to provide students with opportunities to grow, learn and eventually lead.

KPU recognizes alumni who are under 30 years old, through community service and have been involved with KPU or alumni activities since graduation.

KPU Alumni Association welcomes new board director

The KPUAA is pleased to welcome Andrew Blair to their board of directors.

Andrew graduated from Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Fall 2015 with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Human Resources Management. He later earned his master's degree in human resources management from Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations. Andrew holds both CPHR and SHRM-SCP designations.

Currently, Andrew serves as HR Director at Burnout Brands, leading human resources operations across Canada and the U.S. for a private equity-owned group of manufacturers. His work focuses on workforce strategy, leadership development, and integrating acquired businesses. Previously, he was Vice President of HR for a NASDAQ-listed company, overseeing teams in Canada, the U.S., and China.

Andrew is also an active mentor with CPHR British Columbia & Yukon, supporting the development of emerging HR professionals.



Andrew Blair, KPUAA Board director

Alumni Affairs Activities and Events

Alumni Affairs has been busy these past few months collaborating and participating in the following KPU events and initiatives:

BFA Grad Show - April 11

Pat Dooley Golf Tournament - April 25

Wilson School of Design Grad Show - April 24

Vaisakhi Parade - April 17

Melville School of Bus Pitch competition - May 1

New Moon Gala - May 22

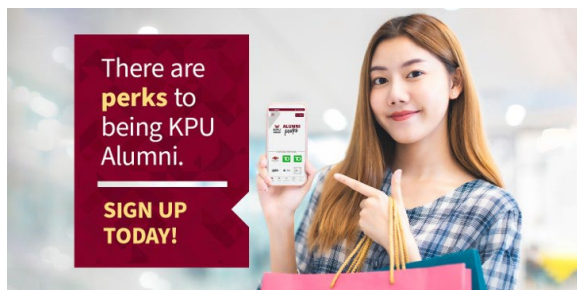
KPU Community Day-Richmond Campus - May 24

Melville School of Design Alumni Mixer – May 29

June Convocation – June 10 - 13

Alumni Perks

The Alumni Perks microsite and app offers alumni exclusive discounts and services for over 30 offerings including our Affinity Partnership with TD Insurance for House, Life and Small Business insurance. We also offer discounted products and services from over 20 KPU alumni owned and operated businesses. We launched alumni Perks in 2020 and have almost 5,000 members.



Office of Communications

The Office of Communications entered the new fiscal year with an overhaul of its social media presence. To take advantage of the video content being produced by the Communications team, the office worked with Marketing to establish a storytelling presence on YouTube. Furthermore, seeing declining value in X (formerly Twitter), Communications has pivoted to posting on the emerging BlueSky platform. With this report covering the period February 1, 2025, to April 30, 2025, it is too early to report on the impact of these changes.

Also starting in April, the Office of Communications has been working with Marketing on revising joint processes for developing and maintaining content on

the kpu.ca website. These processes will evolve and develop through the year as new projects are worked through. In addition, Communications assisted with research (competitor analysis, audience identification and keyword identification) and writing for KPU Awards, KPU Facts, the KPU Newsroom and the Office of the President web pages. The office also worked on archive and asset retention, and testing the potential value of Copilot in communications work. Communications supported Major Events in preparing biographical pieces for the convocation booklet.

Work by the office over the past two years to improve internal communication at KPU continues to show positive year-on-year growth. On the back of 39 published stories, overall views on the Employee Portal grew 25 per cent, from 3,742 to 4,696 views, from the same period last year. Similarly, use and views of Today@, the daily employee information digest, continues to grow thanks to Communications supporting contributors to make better use of the platform. Compared to the same period last year, the number of Today@ posts increased 12 per cent to 566 and overall viewership increased by 21 per cent to 55,854. This equates to a five per cent rise in views per post.

Communications published two editions of the Employee Newsletter during this period. The February newsletter received 750 views, and the April issue was viewed more than 500 times in the first eight days. April views are expected to rise further as the edition was only published the week before this reporting period ended.

The Office of Communications' internal efforts included supporting change through a period of uncertainty. The communications team produced a video showing how faculty in KPU's Brewing and Brewery Operations program enhanced their offerings to attract more students. The Provost's Office will use the video to help faculty in other areas learn from colleagues as they look to enhance their own programs. Video content produced by the office during this period also showcased graduate shows, government-funded research and campus events, generating coverage on CityNews, CKNW, Fraser Valley News, the Richmond Sentinel as well as on social media. Communications also supported

Government Relations with video creation for ministerial visits

From the full scope of its media outreach, KPU received significant coverage across a range of media, from major media outlets such as CBC and Global News to specialty outlets like Scout Magazine and Brewers Journal. KPU also drew positive attention from multicultural media outlets such as Omni TV, Fairchild TV and the Link Newspaper.

The 37 news releases and web stories produced by the Office of Communications included the library's new self-serve braille printer, a new partnership to increase student housing options and the third annual South Asian Arts Festival. News releases also celebrated accomplishments, such as KPU being named as a BC Top Employer, a book prize received by instructor Kyle Jackson and students awarded for their pride advocacy. Research projects were also highlighted, including research using LED lights to grow strawberries year-round, a study on the evolution of the Ebola virus, a study exploring the experiences of 2SLGBTQIA+ students and the Applied Genomics Centre's research on developing a test to protect salmon against disease.

Communications continued to promote faculty members as experts, speaking on topics such as the 2025 Canadian federal election and the US tariffs, that secured mention of KPU in outlets like the Toronto Star, Global News, CBC and CTV News. The office also responded to 80 inbound requests from media and supported leadership with communications on key topics, such as the university budget and its implications, during this review period.

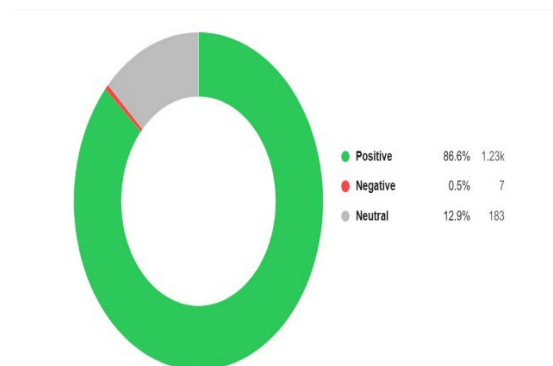


Chart showing KPU media mentions during the period February 1, 2025, to April 30, 2025. Source: Meltwater

Overall, from February 1, 2025, to April 30, 2025, the Office of Communications helped KPU gain 1,416 media mentions with a potential audience reach of 1.73 billion (source: Meltwater). Of those mentions, 1,266 were positive, 183 were neutral and seven were negative. The negative mentions were related to an employee matter to which KPU could not respond. In addition, Office of Communications stories and news releases drew 146,749 impressions on the KPU LinkedIn.

Marketing and Digital Strategy

Campaign Highlights & Lead Generation Success

Marketing led high-visibility brand and recruitment campaigns across Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley. Among the most notable was a 68ft wall mural installed at Granville SkyTrain Station featuring the new Melville School of Business creative—delivering over 1.1 million impressions monthly. Additional wall murals were also launched at Vancouver City Centre and Surrey Central SkyTrain stations, further boosting brand awareness.



Transit shelter ads and digital billboards in Surrey, Abbotsford, Chilliwack, and Pitt Meadows supported campaigns for the Melville School of Business and the Wilson School of Design. Digital advertising across Google, Meta, Reddit, Twitch, and TikTok generated conversions (prospect leads into our recruitment CRM).



Notably:

Google Search Ads led with 487 conversions.

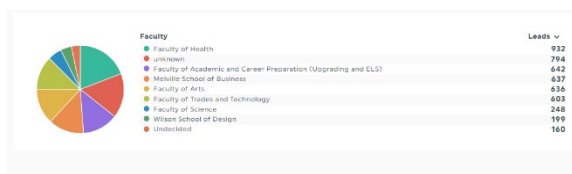
Melville's "Get Started" form received 532 sign-ups.

Meta Ads for Health Info Sessions and Community Day generated 128 and 154 conversions, respectively.

Amazon Display Ads delivered over 8.4 million impressions.

A conversion (lead) in this context is defined as a prospective student lead being submitted to our recruitment CRM.

Leads Generated by Faculty:



Targeting High School Students

Our team enhanced high school engagement through recruitment-focused initiatives. New posters for Melville and Geography were placed in regional schools, complementing existing designs for ENTA and WSD. Marketing also refreshed recruitment presentation decks and provided collateral support for KPU Community Day and the inaugural Fall Kick-Off event for prospective students and parents.

We secured placements in influential education and community channels, including:

BC School Counsellors Association (print and digital ads)

City of Surrey Recreation Guide

Cloverdale Reporter

These placements aligned with our goal of increasing visibility among high school influencers, parents, and students in our primary recruitment regions.

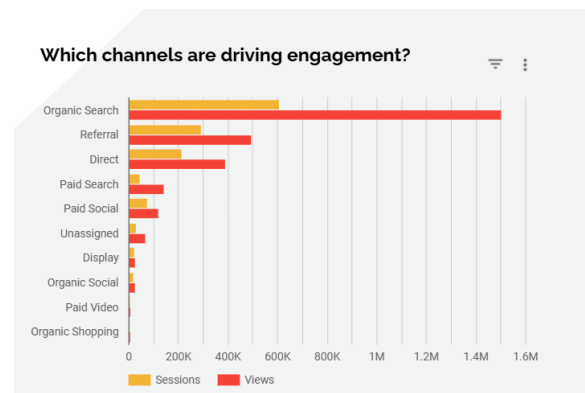
Community and Internal Engagement

Marketing activated brand presence at two BCHL hockey games (Langley Rivermen and Surrey Eagles), developed new creative assets for Convocation, Fine Arts and WSD Grad Shows, New Moon Gala, and designed a KPU-branded van wrap.

Website and CRM Performance

KPU.ca saw 2.78M pageviews and welcomed 515,748 new users during the period.

CRM tracking reported 3,993 new leads, with 443 progressing to applicants, demonstrating healthy engagement and conversion across touchpoints.



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, STUDENTS

KPU Global Strategy

Since my last update, I shared the Global Strategy with Senate as part of a “Senate Engage” session on March 31, 2025. The full report will be shared with Senate at the upcoming meeting. To ensure broader awareness of KPU’s Internationalization efforts, we have published a Global Strategy [website](#) and [brochure](#).

Academic, administrative and service units have been asked to consider alignment with the Global Strategy when developing their operational plans. KPU will review regularly to ensure continuity with institutional objectives and responsiveness to emerging global opportunities and challenges. This strategy, as it continues to evolve over time, will guide KPU in creating real, transformative opportunities for students, faculty, staff, and alumni, and will work to strengthen our position as an innovator in internationalization.



VP, Students at CSCSE, visiting partners pose at the Chinese Service Centre for Scholarly Exchange.

Conferences Attended by the VP, Students

- The Chinese Service Centre for Scholarly Exchange (CSCSE) China Study Abroad Forum (Beijing, China) – April 11-12, 2025
- New Oriental Vision Overseas Conference, (Quanzhou, China) – April 16-17, 2025

- Colleges and Institutes Canada’s (CICan) Leaders Summit (Ottawa, Ontario) – April 22-24, 2025



VP, Students at the Beijing Institute of Technology, visiting partners pose for an MOU signing in Beijing, China.

Other Notable Activities Attended by the VP, Students

- Soup Sisters event – Feb 10, 2025
- Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange (CSCSE) delegation visit and meeting – Feb 11, 2025
- Faculty of Educational Support and Development (FESD) Faculty Council meeting – Feb 12, 2025
- International Strategic Planning in the BC Post-Secondary Education Context webinar – Feb 13, 2025
- Faculty Connect event – Feb 20, 2025
- Convocation – Feb 24-28, 2025
- BC Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT) Council meeting – March 10, 2025
- Leadership Conference: Lisa Taylor, Founder and CEO, Challenge Factory – March 10, 2025
- KPU site visit w/Joe Danis, Academica – March 11-13, 2025
- KPU’s 3rd Annual Anti-Racism Symposium – March 21, 2025
- EAB Enrollment Conversation – March 26, 2025
- KPU Board of Governors – March 26, 2025
- EAB Unpacking the Crisis of Higher Ed for Canadian Institutions – March 28, 2025
- Senate Engage Global Strategy presentation – March 31, 2025
- KPU Melville Connect event – April 1, 2025
- China: Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology (BIFT) – April 10, 2025
- China: Meeting with Xiping International School in Xiamen – April 14, 2025

- China: Meeting with Xiamen DreamU Global Consulting Co., Ltd. – April 14, 2025
- China: Meeting and campus tour with Xiamen University – April 15, 2025
- China: Meeting w/New Oriental Vision Overseas and New Oriental Education & Technology Group – April 15, 2025
- China: Meeting w/New Oriental Vision Overseas and executives – April 17, 2025
- EAB Conversation with Graham Spencer – April 28, 2025
- President's Dialogue Series – Dr. Alan Mandell – May 6, 2025
- Provost Presents – Prior Learning and Assessment Recognition (PLAR) – May 7, 2025
- KPU Executive and Public Sector Employers' Council (PSEC) – May 7, 2025

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Student Employment Summary

The Career Development Centre (CDC) shows 677 new students registered on KPU's student job board, [Career Connection](#), with students assisted through 35 career advising appointments, 146 resume reviews, and 41 employer introduction meetings. Additionally, 333 co-op jobs are now available for the Summer 2025 work term.

The CDC hosted the annual *Career Day Job and Volunteer Fair*, seeing more than 450 student participants and 51 employer exhibitors across KPU Richmond and Surrey, demonstrating strong employer engagement.

Getting Active at Home and Away

Sport and Recreation collaborated with Student Health Promotion to lead a stretching class for 32 ARTS 2000 students. They also hosted 20 students for an EA Sports FC 25 virtual soccer gaming tournament.

Sport and Recreation participated in the second-annual *Inter-campus Cup* at Simon Fraser University. Featuring intramural and tournament champions from BCIT and SFU, more than 40 KPU players challenged our friendly rivals across futsal, badminton, volleyball, 3v3 basketball and 5v5 basketball, with KPU taking the badminton title.

The KPU Dance Club joined the event to perform an exciting halftime show for the many spectators who came out to show their support, creating a vibrant and spirited atmosphere.

Nutrition Month Highlights Food Insecurity

Student Health Promotion led the second-annual *Nutrition Month* campaign at KPU across March. Events highlighted the importance of nutrition for well-being and aimed to alleviate challenges faced by KPU students who are food insecure. With generous funding from KPU, approximately 3,500 students received a free grab-and-go lunch, and nearly 100 students attended nutrition education workshops and grocery store tours with local registered dietitians.

Collaborative Engagement with Pride Peers

The Pride Peer Leaders have hosted several large events, including a cookie-decorating social, a video games social, an outdoor wellness walk, and an arts and crafts social for *International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia*. These events have engaged hundreds of students and would not have been possible without collaboration with KPU Entertainment Arts, the Kwantlen Gaming Guild, KPU Sport and Recreation, and KPU Library.

Welcoming Summer Students

140 new students attended [New Student Orientation](#) events at KPU Langley, Richmond, and Surrey, where they learned about the different resources KPU offers. Thank you to the support of 15 KPU staff and 17 student Orientation Leaders!

Partnering with the Kwantlen Student Association, the Orientation and Transitions team also hosted *Welcome Week* festivities, including a student resource fair during the first week of classes at all campuses.



New Student Orientation at KPU Surrey, *the KPU Surrey gymnasium is used to welcome students to summer orientation*

Support For Victims

In February, the Student Rights and Responsibilities Office (SRRO) held five launch events, one at each campus, to promote the [4 videos](#) released in the fall. The videos were created to inform the KPU community on how to anonymously report sexualized violence (SV); how the SRRO supports those who disclose/report SV; and to promote the *Safer Campuses for Everyone* online Moodle course. The team interacted with more than 100 students at each campus by offering food and having them scan a QR code to take them directly to the video resources.

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

BCRA Spring Meeting

Nadia Henwood attended the bi-annual Spring BC Registrar's Association (BCRA) meeting hosted at BCIT's Burnaby campus. Registrars from across BC met with key partners from EPBC, BCCAT, BCNet, and the BC Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills. BCRA also invited representatives from Institutional Reporting and CIOs to participate and discuss future initiatives, including EPBC enhancements, digital services strategy, systems strategies, PLAR, curriculum, and international impacts.

Launch of Recruitment Tips for Faculty Engagement

The Future Students' Office (FSO) has released a mini campaign focused on recruitment tips for faculty to showcase and promote their programs via [Today@KPU](#). Here is what has been released:

1. Promote KPU Everywhere You Go with Gear!
2. Boost Lead Generation with KPU's Online Forms
3. Lead a Program-Specific Workshop for High School Students
4. Promote Your Program with Posters in High Schools!
5. Stay Connected with Our Monthly Newsletters
6. Share Program Updates with Prospects via CRM
7. Make Offer Calls to Excite Potential Students about Joining KPU!
8. Grad Shows and Events: A Perfect Opportunity for Exposure

Launch of "KPU Office Hours" At High Schools

The FSO completed 30 high school visits across the Lower Mainland, from Mission to North Vancouver, with the launch of the new *KPU Office Hours* initiative. Recruiters visited high-application schools to provide one-on-one application support to high school students who had applied or are interested in applying to KPU, providing guidance and assistance with next steps in the application process. Many schools welcomed the initiative and offered dedicated space for these drop-in office hours. Approximately 300 students took advantage of this opportunity.

KPU Discovery Days

Discovery Days were hosted for high school students at Surrey, Richmond and Langley campuses. The initiative includes interactive mock classes for prospective students to engage in hands-on workshops and lectures led by KPU instructors across various programs, including nursing, criminology, entertainment arts, accounting, physics, and traditional Chinese medicine. This is complemented with campus tours, where attendees gain firsthand experience of university life and facilities. Discovery Days also provides networking opportunities for prospective students to connect with peers, current

students, faculty, and advisors, fostering a sense of community and support.



Students attend Discovery Days, *students in a classroom.*

Langley Wellness Fair

FSO participated in the *Wellness Fair*, engaging with numerous students completing their adult high school programs, discussing pathways to KPU's programs, and emphasizing the importance of wellness in educational success.

Hosted Skills Canada (Regional Competition)

FSO hosted *Skills Canada* at the Richmond Campus, an opportunity for over 125 prospective students to witness the skills and talents of students across various trades and technologies, highlighting the importance of hands-on experience in skill development.

Sills Competition (Provincial Level)

FSO participated in a significant event held at Tradex Abbotsford, featuring several hundred students from across the Fraser Valley and Lower Mainland. The fair included various competitions and a Pathways to Careers Showcase, offering insights into career opportunities in the trade and technology sectors.

SD61 (Victoria) Career Fair

FSO participated in the Career Fair in Victoria that attracted hundreds of students from SD61, providing them with information about post-secondary options and career pathways.

Systems Focused Conferences: Ellecian Live 2025 and Courseleaf LUC

Stefanie Carter, Associate Registrar, Systems & Projects, travelled to New Orleans to attend the *Leapfrog Users Conference*. This annual conference allows users of CourseLeaf to connect, network, and troubleshoot various issues with their current systems setup. Through the knowledge and insights gained at this conference, KPU will be upgrading to CourseLeaf 10, as well as upgrading the underlying infrastructure of the CIM bridge to a supported Banner 9 solution this summer.

Stefanie Carter and Catherine Lai, Project Leader, Systems Analyst, attended the *Elucian Live (ELive) 2025* conference in Orlando, which unites Ellucian (Banner) users from around the globe. The *ELive* conference was informative and featured numerous relevant workshops, including institutions highlighting their journey to SaaS (Software as a Service) and the ways they are using the Ellucian Experience (myKPU.ca) to enhance the institutional experience with Banner. The Systems and Projects team returned invigorated with plans for future projects to enhance student experiences, improve processes, and remove barriers and risks from within the current system.

KPU INTERNATIONAL

Since February 2025, KPU International has advanced several high-impact initiatives across student recruitment, global partnerships, student support services, and mobility programs. This report summarizes key activities and milestones, focusing on strategic recruitment efforts, international collaborations, student services enhancements, and global learning opportunities.

Strategic Recruitment Efforts

South Asia:

Maintained a strong presence through strategic engagement and outreach. In February, KPU participated in the ICEF South Asia conference, with over 40 current and new recruitment agents met to strengthen partnerships. During March–April, KPU representatives attended 16 fairs in India to promote programs and rebuild KPU's reputation after policy

changes that impacted student confidence in studying in Canada. Enhanced digital marketing campaigns in the region further increased brand awareness and student lead generation.

Southeast Asia:

Deepened engagement in Vietnam, the Philippines, and Thailand with a total of 29 recruitment events, 20 high school visits, and 35+ agent training sessions this quarter. Key initiatives included successful “Study in BC” and “Lunch and Learn” events in Vietnam (attracting strong agent and student participation) and targeted social media campaigns in the Philippines that drove increased traffic to KPU’s landing pages and boosted lead inquiries.

East Asia:

Expanded KPU’s footprint via school visits, fairs, and diplomatic outreach. KPU visited multiple partner schools in China and Taiwan – such as, Chongqing Maple Leaf School, Qingdao No. 19 High School, Xiamen Bilingual School, and Shuzhen College in Taiwan – including delivering a pre-arrival orientation for Fall 2025 admitted students. Notably, KPU became the first post-secondary institution to participate in the prestigious *Sungjoo K-12 Fair* in Seoul, South Korea, demonstrating our commitment to early engagement. KPU also joined major education fairs at Jiangmen Experimental High School, Beijing Lize International School, and Admiral Farragut Academy Tianjin, connecting directly with students and counselors. The team also attended key agent networking events (e.g. Can-Achieve fairs in Shenzhen/Chongqing, NOVO conference in Quanzhou, GEA Roadshow in Urumqi, EduCanada B2B meetings in Seoul, and EDM Fair in Seoul) to strengthen agent relations. During the Seoul visit, KPU staff met with Canada’s Trade Commissioner to South Korea to discuss partnership opportunities and short-term program collaborations.



Co-operation agreement signing, KPU and the CSCSE signed a cooperation agreement to advance student exchanges, talent development, and joint programs.

Africa:

Continued to grow this emerging market with participation in 11 recruitment events across the continent. KPU hosted a high school counsellor information session in Nairobi, Kenya, and delivered a successful agent launch event for Kenyan partners to learn how best to promote KPU and support prospective students. A major milestone was signing KPU’s first institutional partnership in Africa with Dakar University of International Studies (DUNIS) in Senegal, laying the groundwork for future student mobility and collaboration. This foundational partnership signals KPU’s expanding global reach into Africa.

Central Asia (CIS):

Focused on training and institutional support in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. KPU conducted agent training sessions and student advising events in these countries, aligning with and supporting KPU President Dr. Alan Davis’s visit to Kazakhstan. These efforts reinforced academic partnerships and visibility in the region as KPU seeks to develop its profile in Central Asia.

Latin America:

Advanced outreach in key Latin American markets. In Brazil, KPU co-hosted a *Study in BC* showcase at the Canadian Consulate in São Paulo (March), alongside other B.C. institutions (Langara College, UFV, Capilano, Douglas). KPU’s field representative led a well-received briefing for education agents on KPU

programs and post-graduation work opportunities, and follow-up materials were shared broadly to maintain engagement. In Colombia, KPU was invited to Marymount School in Medellín in April, where our representative presented to students and counsellors about studying in Canada, covering academic programs, student life, and opportunities in B.C. This visit, part of an ongoing high school outreach in Colombia since fall 2024, has increased awareness of KPU among prospective students and educators in the region.

Student Services and Support

International Advising:

The International Advising unit delivered multiple initiatives to support student success and immigration compliance. In February, the team hosted a post-graduation work permit (PGWP) online workshop for international students (70+ attendees), covering eligibility, application steps, and FAQs. Advisors also collaborated with The Learning Centre to assist 26 international students in KPU's Summer 2025 academic reinstatement program through which 11 students completed requirements and re-registered at KPU. In March, advisors ran a Summer 2025 registration webinar for newly-admitted international students (~70 attendees), providing step-by-step guidance on course registration and personalized course recommendations. In response to IRCC policy changes, the team conducted targeted outreach to over 100 students with study permits expiring April 30, offering one-on-one advising on PGWP eligibility and expediting institutional support letters for their applications. Additionally, KPU International launched a new *Permanent Residency Pathways* [webpage](#) to guide students on immigration options, application processes, and required documentation, expanding our online resources for students' long-term planning.

International Student Life:

The International Student Life team organized a robust slate of programs this spring to foster student engagement, well-being, and integration. Major on-campus events included a *Sending Love* Valentine's celebration (Feb 14 at Surrey/Richmond), where students crafted cards, candy gifts, and bracelets – a creative social gathering that drew a high turnout and promoted a sense of belonging. To support wellness

during midterms, the team led a *Post-Midterm Recovery* campaign (Mar 5), distributing 150 “booster boxes” filled with stress-relief and healthy snack items to ease academic stress. The team also offered enriching off-campus experiences: a full capacity Whistler day trip (Mar 9) took students to Whistler Village and Shannon Falls for sightseeing and outdoor recreation (despite wet weather, feedback was very positive), and two creative workshops – a flower-arranging workshop (Mar 13 at Civic Plaza) and a perfume-making Workshop (Mar 28) – provided fun, hands-on cultural experiences where students created personal bouquets and custom fragrances as a break from studies. Attendance was strong at these events (including many domestic and post-graduate students), indicating broad interest and cross-campus engagement. International Peer Mentors hosted a series of Spring 2025 *Mentor Socials* to connect new international students with peers in informal settings, helping newcomers explore their new home and build friendships – an effort that supports retention and cross-cultural integration during a critical transition period.

In addition to social programming, the team delivered practical information sessions to prepare students for success. For example, a WorkSafeBC seminar (Feb 27) educated international students on workplace safety rights and procedures in B.C., and a tax-filing webinar in collaboration with the Canada Revenue Agency (Mar 19) guided students through Canadian tax obligations and how to avoid scams. A tenancy rights (TRAC) workshop (Mar 25) informed students about renting in B.C., covering landlord-tenant rights and responsibilities. To prepare incoming students, the team hosted a comprehensive pre-arrival webinar (Mar 11) – inviting new admits and their families to learn about arrival logistics, health insurance, and daily life in Canada – and an interactive live orientation session (Apr 24) via Microsoft Teams with campus partners, which featured Q&A support and an icebreaker to welcome students to the KPU community.

Finally, on May 1, the team partnered with Service Canada to run an in-person social insurance number (SIN) clinic. Service Canada officers briefed students on SIN usage and security and facilitated on-site SIN registrations. These combined efforts in student life

programming and advising ensure that KPU's international students are well-supported academically, socially, and in navigating life in Canada.

International Partnerships & Initiatives

High-Level Delegations & Agreements:

On February 11, KPU hosted a high-profile delegation from the Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange (CSCSE) – a public institution under China's Ministry of Education. The visit, led by CSCSE Director General Mr. Daquan Wang and attended by Chinese Consulate officials, culminated in the signing of a cooperation agreement to develop collaborations such as summer programs, a Study Abroad Training Centre, and visiting student initiatives to promote two-way mobility. KPU showcased strengths in Traditional Chinese Medicine, Design, and Sustainable Agriculture during the visit, laying a foundation for deeper academic ties in China. In Africa, KPU formally established its first institutional partnership on the continent by signing an MOU with *Dakar University of International Studies (DUNIS)* in Senegal (March 2025). This inaugural African partnership opens new avenues for student recruitment, exchanges, and joint programming in West Africa, aligning with KPU's diversification strategy in global engagement.

New Development Project – Tunisia:

In March 2025, KPU launched its first-ever international development project through a contribution agreement with Global Affairs Canada (GAC) under the Canadian International Development Scholarships 2030 program (administered by Universities and Colleges & Institutes Canada). This project, the *Global Exchange, Local Impact: Tunisia-Canada Scholar Program*, will bring 25 students from Université Ibn Khaldoun (UIK) in Tunisia to KPU's Melville School of Business and Wilson School of Design for one semester (starting Fall 2025). The three-year initiative (supported by ~\$500,000 in GAC funding) aims to provide transformative international learning opportunities for Tunisian students, with a focus on including women and marginalized groups, and to strengthen educational capacity in North Africa. This marks KPU's first official development partnership in North Africa and positions the university as an active contributor to Canada's global development goals. It also significantly raises KPU's

international profile and lays the groundwork for future student/faculty mobility with African institutions.

Internal Internationalization Grants:

In April 2025, KPU International disbursed 11 grants to faculty and staff through the *Mobility for Internationalization Fund (MIF)* and *Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Fund*. Each grant (up to \$5,000) supports initiatives that internationalize curriculum, foster global partnerships, or advance the UN SDGs. These internal funding opportunities saw high interest (20 applications, a record number), and the 11 awarded projects span diverse disciplines, enabling faculty-led study abroad programs, virtual collaborations, and research that align with KPU's internationalization strategy and commitment to global citizenship.

Global Partnerships – Faculty Awards:

KPU faculty members achieved success in external partnership funding this spring. Three KPU faculty were awarded *Emerging Leaders in the Americas Program (ELAP)* faculty mobility awards, securing approximately \$21,000 total to support partnership-building projects in Latin America and the Caribbean. These projects will involve collaboration with institutions in Mexico, the Cayman Islands, and Uruguay. KPU International played an integral role in mentoring these applicants, from strengthening proposals to connecting with overseas partners, resulting in 3 out of 4 submissions being funded. These ELAP awards will facilitate faculty exchanges and joint academic activities, further expanding KPU's network and presence in the Americas.

Visiting Scholars & Collaboration:

KPU welcomed visiting academics from partner institutions as part of ongoing collaboration efforts. In March, a design faculty member from Metropolia University of Applied Sciences (Finland) spent 5 days at KPU's Wilson School of Design under the Erasmus+ program, exploring our programs and discussing future joint projects (a follow-up visit is planned for June). Similarly, a representative from the University of Limerick (Ireland) visited KPU for a 5-day Erasmus+ exchange focused on student mobility and best practices. During the visit, the scholar engaged with

KPU's Faculty of Arts (sharing applied research approaches in Geography classes), participated in KPU's *Anti-Racism Symposium* and SDGs Month events, and initiated what could become KPU's first student exchange partnership with an Irish university. These short-term scholar visits strengthen institutional ties and often seed longer-term collaborations in research and exchange.

New Project Proposals:

KPU has proactively pursued additional external funding to grow its global engagement. On May 1, KPU International submitted two major project proposals under the Egypt Green Skills – Climate-Smart Agribusiness Network (EGYCAN) initiative (a highly competitive Global Affairs Canada program). One proposal was led by KPU (in partnership with Northern College), and another was led by Fanshawe College (with KPU as a partner). If approved, these projects would secure up to \$650,000 in GAC funding and involve KPU's Institute for Sustainable Food Systems and Sustainable Agriculture faculty in developing capacity for climate-resilient agriculture training in Egypt. Participation in EGYCAN would significantly elevate KPU's international reputation in sustainability and applied education, while contributing to Egypt's green economy goals. Funding decisions are expected later in 2025. Even as we await outcomes, the act of submitting these proposals aligns with KPU's strategic goal of expanding its role in international development and showcases our leadership in sustainable innovation on a global stage.

Global Mobility Programs

Global Indigenous Learning Experience (GILE):

The *Global Indigenous Learning Experience 2025* commenced in early May as a unique cultural exchange program for Indigenous students at KPU and Edith Cowan University (ECU) in Australia. An opening ceremony was held virtually on May 5th, launching a three-month hybrid program featuring weekly online sessions with Indigenous Elders, leaders, and scholars. In July, five KPU Indigenous students will host five ECU counterparts for a week in Vancouver, followed by a reciprocal week in Perth, Australia – all participants are paired as partners and will engage in guided cultural activities in each country. Thanks to KPU's *xé?e!l One-Time Funding*,

the KPU students receive scholarships covering their travel and accommodation costs. Now in its fourth iteration, GILE continues to foster cross-cultural understanding and leadership, enabling Indigenous students to broaden their horizons globally while strengthening their identities and connections to community.

Summer Field Schools Abroad:

After pandemic disruptions, faculty-led field schools have returned to KPU's global learning portfolio. Summer 2025 features four field school programs abroad, each offering 2 weeks of immersive, experiential learning: an *Amazon Interdisciplinary Field School* in Colombia (Leticia and Bogotá) exploring biodiversity and culture at the Amazon River (led by faculty from Design and Arts); a *Design Field School* in Germany and Czech Republic (Berlin & Prague) focused on design innovation in historical and modern contexts; a *Fashion Field School* in England and France (London & Paris) exposing students to global fashion industry hubs; and a *Nursing Field School* in Sri Lanka (Galle) providing healthcare students with clinical and cross-cultural experience. These field schools, each led by KPU faculty members, engage students in hands-on projects, company visits, cultural tours, and reflective learning activities. Such programs greatly enrich the student experience by blending academic credit with international travel and contribute to KPU's goal of developing globally minded graduates.

Global Skills Opportunity (GSO) Program Conclusion:

KPU successfully concluded its participation in the federal Global Skills Opportunity initiative this spring, marking four years of increased support for study abroad accessibility. Since 2021, KPU has received over \$500,000 in GSO funding from the Government of Canada to empower underrepresented students to participate in international learning. With these funds, KPU International established a needs-based scholarship program that has enabled 143 *KPU students* to pursue global learning experiences – including semester exchanges, field schools, short-term study programs, and even virtual international opportunities – with individual awards ranging from \$2,000 to \$8,000. The impact has been significant: many recipients were students who, due to financial

constraints, disabilities, or Indigenous background, might not have otherwise considered an overseas experience.

By offsetting costs and providing targeted advising, the GSO program dramatically expanded access to study abroad and directly advanced KPU's commitment to equity and inclusion in global education. This spring saw the final disbursements of GSO-funded scholarships. KPU's outstanding results (exceeding initial participation targets) were highlighted in a national GSO report, and the lessons learned will inform how we sustain funding support for study abroad in the future. Moving forward, KPU International will continue seeking similar opportunities and internal strategies to ensure students from all backgrounds can take their education global.

Key Institutional Milestones:

- **First Partnership in Africa:** KPU cemented its first formal partnership on the African continent by signing an agreement with DUNIS in Senegal, a milestone expanding KPU's global network into Africa.
- **International Development Project Launch:** In March, KPU became a part of Canada's international development initiatives through the BCDI 2030 program, launching a GAC-funded exchange project to host 25 students from Tunisia – KPU's first large-scale educational partnership in North Africa.
- **High-Profile Delegation from China:** KPU's engagement with the Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange (CSCSE) resulted in a new cooperation agreement, strengthening ties with China's Ministry of Education and enhancing KPU's visibility in East Asia.
- **Investment in Global Engagement:** KPU International dispersed 11 internal grants for internationalization projects (the highest to date) and supported faculty in securing external partnership grants (ELAP), reflecting an institutional commitment to global engagement and academic collaboration.
- **Expanded Student Mobility & Access:** Through programs like GILE, new field schools, and the concluding GSO scholarships (benefiting 143 students), KPU achieved unprecedented levels of student

participation in global learning this year. These initiatives – combined with new partnerships and pending projects (e.g. EGYCAN in Egypt) – position KPU as an increasingly internationalized institution, aligned with its strategic vision and ready to embrace future opportunities.

OFFICE OF EQUITY AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Events

The Third Annual Anti-Racism Symposium, Surrey Campus, March 21, 2025.

On March 21, 2025, the Office of Equity and Inclusive Communities proudly hosted the Third Annual Anti-Racism Symposium at KPU's Surrey Campus, marking the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The event opened with a keynote address by George Anderson, MLA for Nanaimo-Lantzville and Parliamentary Secretary for Transit. In his talk titled *"Towards Diversity of Voices,"* and subsequently in his question-and-answer chat with Dr. Asma Sayed, Anderson shared his personal journey to public office, reflecting on the obstacles he overcame and expressing his enduring hope for a more inclusive future. Opening remarks were also delivered by Jessie Sunner, MLA for Surrey-Newton and Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives.

Dr. Asma Sayed, Vice President of Equity and Inclusive Communities, provided an update on the university's progress in implementing the recommendations from [KPU's Task Force on Anti-Racism Report](#).

The afternoon session included the launch of KPU's new [Anti-Racism Toolkit](#), presented by Dr. Sayed and Dr. Nishan Perera from the Teaching and Learning Commons. This was followed by a thought-provoking academic panel featuring presentations by KPU students and employees.

The Symposium drew over 200 attendees to the Conference Centre at Surrey Campus—an encouraging sign of the KPU community's strong commitment to confronting and dismantling racial discrimination.



Photo: KPU's Third Annual Anti-Racism Symposium
Left to right: Randall Heidt, Andhra Goundrey, Dr. Asma Sayed, MLA and PS for Anti-Racism Jessie Sunner, MLA and PS for Transit George Anderson



Photo: Q & A Session – Dr. Asma Sayed and MLA George Anderson



Photo: Panel Discussion
Left to right: Camille Bédard, Destiny Lang, Dr. Tara Lyons, Dr. Joakim Nilsson, and Sonya Ballantyne

- AccessAbility Week at KPU: The Office of Equity and Inclusive Communities, in collaboration with the Accessibility Committee, Lead Advisor on Disability, Accessibility, and Inclusion, the Library, Teaching & Learning, Accessibility Services, and Rec Services are hosting a number of events, resource fairs, and workshops for students and employees to attend during [AccessAbility Week](#). This week highlights the importance of removing barriers—physical, systemic, and attitudinal—to ensure equitable opportunities for all students and employees. May 25-31, 2025.

Presentations/Community Activities

- VP Sayed participated in a panel discussion for the Richmond Multicultural Community Services (RMCS) event “Dialogue to Action: Richmond Anti-Racism Plan - A Blueprint for Action” as a part of the Community Support and Anti-Racism Initiative in Richmond, March 14, 2025.
- VP Sayed and the OEIC team hosted Coffee with the VP on Cloverdale Campus, April 16, 2025.
- VP Sayed delivered an Asian Heritage Month talk titled “Art as Resistance and Resilience: The Contributions of South Asian Artists in Canada,” for the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at Western University, Ontario, May 20, 2025.
- Trina Prince competed as a drag king, performing under the name "Prince of Whales," in Surrey Pride’s ‘So You Think You Can Drag’ show to fundraise for the Salal Sexual Violence Support Centre. VP Sayed and members of KPU attended the event, April 5, 2025.
- KPU joined the Surrey community in celebrating the 2025 Vaisakhi Day parade. Stationed outside KPU Surrey, KPU volunteers greeted parade attendees and handed out snacks, water, juice and KPU swag. Hundreds of parade-goers visited the KPU tents – a joint initiative from the Office of Equity and Inclusive Communities and the Department of External Affairs. April 19, 2025.



Photos: VP External Affairs team and VP Equity and Inclusive Communities

Initiatives/Activities

JEDI AWARDS

The 2025 Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity (JEDI) Awards were presented by President Alan Davis and Vice President Asma Sayed during KPU Day at the Richmond Campus. These awards celebrate members of the KPU community who demonstrate outstanding commitment, innovation, and leadership in advancing intersectional social justice, dismantling systemic barriers, and fostering a culture of equity, diversity, and inclusion both within the university and beyond. This year, five students and staff were recognized for their achievements: Creative Writing student Kai Barcellos-Luna; Melinda Kachina Bige, Associate Dean in the Faculty of Arts; Dr. Seanna Takacs, Learning Specialist with Accessibility Services; Andhra Goundrey, Dean of the Wilson School of Design; and Dr. Fiona Whittington-Walsh, Lead Advisor in Disability, Accessibility, and Inclusion. Their work exemplifies the spirit of the JEDI Awards,

promoting the full participation of historically excluded and systemically oppressed groups in the life of the university and broader society. May 2, 2025.



Photo: JEDI Awards at KPU Day, Richmond Campus
Left to right: Andhra Goundrey, Dr. Fiona Whittington-Walsh, Dr. Asma Sayed, Melinda Bige, and Dr. Seanna Takacs

- OEIC Workshop: Ahead of Trans Day of Visibility on March 31st, Trina Prince led the Rerearning Gender Workshop for KPU employees, March 4, 2025.
- VP Sayed attended EDI Dimensions Recognition program meetings and workshop in Ottawa, March 24-25, 2025.
- VP Sayed attended the KPU Climate Strategy Core Team Meetings, March 5 and April 2, 2025.
- Trina Prince attended the Moving Trans History Forward conference at the University of Victoria, March 27–30, 2025.
- VP Sayed attending the following events at KPU:
 - o Faculty of Trades and Technology Donor Reception, April 3, 2025
 - o BFA Graduation Exhibition, April 11, 2025
 - o KPU Wilson School of Design Grad Show, April 24, 2025
 - o President's Dialogue with Dr. Gervan Fearon, April 27, 2025
- VP Sayed attended the online B.C. Human Rights Code Educational Session, April 23, 2025.
 - OEIC Workshop: Trina Prince led "Oops! The Power of Learning from Mistakes" at KPU Day, May 2, 2025.

- OEIC participated in New Student Orientation and Welcome Week with a booth on Surrey Campus, May 7 and 13th 2025.



Photo: OEIC Team on Surrey Campus for Orientation

Program/Policies/Initiatives

- UDEC Sponsorship Fund: Two funding proposals were approved during this period to support events and initiatives that further the goals of equity, diversity, inclusion, anti-racism, accessibility, decolonization, and intersectional social justice at KPU.
- The OEIC allocated \$10,000 for the Gender and Sexual Equity Advocacy Awards. Ten KPU students received \$1,000 each for their leadership in and/or a commitment to 2SLGBTQIA+ advocacy and activism at KPU and/or in their local communities. The students will be recognized at an event to be held in June 2025.
- The OEIC will be actively involved in Pride celebrations in Vancouver, White Rock, Langley, and Surrey this year.
- The first phase of the new [Trans Inclusion Policy](#) has been posted on the policy blog.
- OEIC, and its committees, provided EDI-lens feedback on several new and under-revision policies across the institution.

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY PLANNING

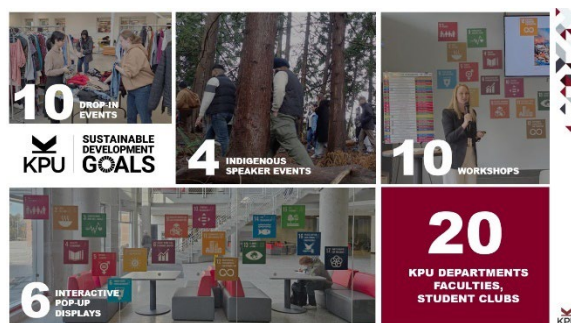
SDG Month at KPU

Throughout March 2025, KPU united to celebrate the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Month, highlighting the community's diverse talents and passions which align with the 17 global SDGs. The Office of Sustainability (OoS) led a dynamic series of events and campus-wide initiatives in collaboration with various partners across the University, demonstrating KPU's collective commitment to sustainability and global citizenship.

- **University-Wide SDG Displays and Engagement:** Each KPU campus featured visually engaging SDG displays, designed to raise awareness, inspire dialogue, and encourage participation from students, faculty and staff.
- **Student Free Clothing Shop:** Organized by the OoS in partnership with the KSA Student Sustainability club, the Student Free Clothing Shop was an initiative that exemplified SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG 1 (No Poverty). Supported by generous clothing donations from the KPU community during Thrive Month in October, the event promoted sustainable consumption while addressing community needs, demonstrating the power of collaboration in line with SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).
- **Indigenous Speaker Series:** Co-hosted by Indigenous Studies, [KPU Wild Spaces](#), and [Climate+ Challenge](#), the Indigenous Speaker Series invited the KPU community to explore the outdoors and learn from Elder Lekeyten, KPU's Elder in Residence, Jared Qwustenuxun Williams, Indigenous Foods Educator, Writer & Consultant, and Robert Jago, Indigenous Journalist and KPU's Indigenous Writer in Residence.
- **UN SDG Champions PechaKucha:** Partnering with the Teaching and Learning Commons, this event featured faculty presenters Lindsay Clayton (Melville School of Business), Layne Myhre (Faculty of Science),

and Conrad King (Faculty of Arts) who highlighted innovative projects and research aligned with the SDGs, showcasing KPU's leadership in integrating sustainability into teaching and community engagement. The event fostered lively discussions and interdisciplinary connections.

The SDG Month activities demonstrated KPU's ongoing dedication to embedding the UN SDGs into campus life. Through diverse partnerships and inclusive programming, the University continues to lead in fostering a sustainable and equitable future.



Sustainability Hub Update

The Sustainability Hub's passionate interdisciplinary membership has been vital in shaping KPU's sustainability initiatives. The Hub's first meeting on April 30, 2025 hosted presentations on teaching, research, sustainable investment and procurement, and engaged discussions regarding how each of these topics intersects with current sustainability initiatives, fostering valuable insights to inform two key projects underway this year: KPU's first Climate Strategy and an update to KPU's Sustainability Framework.

Student Housing Update

Following online and in-person engagement across KPU's campuses in 2024 and an initial draft business case submission last spring, CCP submitted a revised draft business case in November 2024 to the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills and the Ministry of Infrastructure for a 258-bed student housing project on the Surrey campus, addressing the urgent demand for student housing in Surrey. CCP has worked closely with the Province throughout early 2025 to refine the submission in preparation for a Treasury Board meeting in June. CCP has also

prepared a one-page overview of the project for KPU Government Relations staff to share with MLAs in support of the project, and CCP continues to meet with the City of Surrey in preparation for the project's rezoning submission.

Strategic Energy Management Plan (SEMP)

The Office of Sustainability have completed KPU's annual Strategic Energy Management Plan (SEMP) as part of our participation in BC Hydro's Commercial Energy Manager Program.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Information Security Services

Student Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) Expansion

Multi-Factor Authentication has been successfully implemented for all active, applicant and alumni students.

National Cybersecurity Assessment (NCA)

NCA commissioned by CANARIE, is a comprehensive self-evaluation that examines an institution's security controls to assess its cybersecurity preparedness. This assessment was conducted through a series of collaborative workshops facilitated by IT, engaging multiple cross-functional teams from across the organization.

KPU achieved an overall maturity score of 3.44, exceeding the target value of 3.00. A score of 3.00 indicates that KPU's cybersecurity processes are defined for the organization and are proactive.

KPU ranked 18th nationally among 150 institutions and secured 4th regionally (BC & Yukon) among 10 institutions of comparable size.

IT Application Services

Ellucian Experience Portal – Self-Service Portal (MyKPU)

New functionality has been added to the portal to enhance user experience, including the integration of the Mobile app and Google Analytics. The next phase of this project is now underway and will focus on developing self-service portals for employees,

advisors, and faculty, aiming for completion by the fall.

Ellucian Customer Relationship Management (CRM) Advise

The Ellucian CRM Advise project is on track for phase 2, focusing on early alerts to be delivered in August 2025.

Library SIRSI Application to Cloud

The Library and IT project team has successfully transitioned the existing on-site SIRSI application and its integrations to the SIRSI SAAS environment. This migration will significantly enhance the Library's services and features moving forward.

IT Infrastructure Services

Childcare Project

IT has been involved in planning for the childcare facility and child development program space. A review of all specifications to support technology requirements is complete and a list of preferred vendors has been provided to the general contractor for assessment. Electrical engineers have assessed the existing KPU generator and concluded it has sufficient capacity to supply emergency power to the childcare facility. The KPU IT generator will no longer be utilized.

Langley Music Program Renovation Project

IT has purchased all necessary IT, audio & video, and networking hardware for the Langley Music Renovation Project. Installation will be scheduled in accordance with construction schedules.

Cloverdale Electrical Shop Renovation Project

IT has been participating in the Cloverdale Electrical Shop Renovation Project. Network infrastructure and AV specifications have been provided to the general contractor. Construction is in progress and resources are aligned to install and set up the audio & video and network cabling.

Tradition Chinese Medicine (CMT) Dispensary and Classroom Project

IT has been involved in the CMT Renovation Project. Network infrastructure, AV, and computer workstation specifications and costs have been

passed along to the project team in alignment with program requirements.

Audio & Video and Digital Classrooms

- Richmond 2080 recording room has been upgraded with Kaltura recording functionality.
- Complete installation of new displays at Langley and Surrey campuses for Waitwell.
- Richmond 2050 desk replacement upgrade completed.
- Surrey Spruce 100 upgraded to support standard recording and live streaming functionalities.

FACILITIES SERVICES

Maintenance and Operations

CleanBC Grant Final Submission

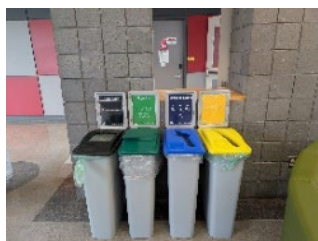
The Surrey Cedar building's transition from five gas-fired HVAC units to five electrically powered air-source heat pumps, scheduled for fall 2024, has resulted in additional cost savings of approximately \$170,000 (about 10% of the \$1.6 million project cost). This incentive grant was awarded upon proof of project completion and reaching targeted emissions reductions for the new units. A grant cheque from BC Hydro is expected in May.

Event Support

FSGs supported several major events during this reporting period, including Convocation, KPU Days, and Orientation.

Sustainability

Building on previous work at KPU Surrey, an additional four-bin waste stream system has been installed in common areas at KPU Langley. These systems provide the KPU community with more options for diverting waste to the appropriate processing facilities.



Landscaping

Seasonal grounds maintenance has begun across the Surrey, Langley, Richmond, and Tech campuses. Services include lawn mowing and maintenance of garden beds.

Surrey Main Electrical Vault Fire Separation Upgrade

As part of the Surrey Campus Electrical upgrade project, the main vault in the Birch building has been upgraded from a one-hour to a two-hour fire separation, featuring up to two additional layers of drywall, a new two-hour-rated supply duct damper, and additional fire-stopping. This further protects the building from fire risk from the adjacent electrical vault.

Britco Building Relocation – S6 Parking Lot

Craned the two Britco storage buildings back from their staging area in the S6 parking lot to their original location west of Birch. They were moved back in August 2024 to facilitate the trenching of the new main electrical service line for the Surrey campus to their former location.

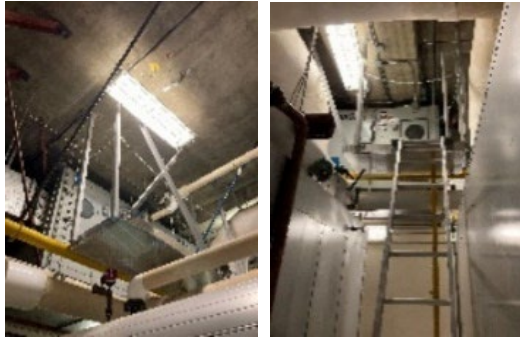
Surrey Campus Bicycle Locker Relocation

Moved the Surrey bicycle lockers from west of Cedar near the construction excavation to the Arbutus-Birch concourse, between the KSA intercampus shuttle stop and the main courtyard. This new location facilitates a seamless transition for cyclists who intend to continue their travel by KSA shuttle beyond the Surrey campus. It provides better lighting and security due to its proximity to the Surrey central courtyard.



Langley Campus Work Platforms Installation – Boiler Room

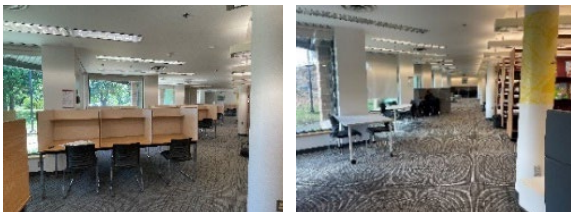
In accordance with WorkSafe BC's updated ladder work regulations, we have recently installed two ceiling-level work platforms in the Langley boiler room to provide safe access for HVAC maintenance to AHU12, which supplies the boilers with combustion air.



Capital Projects & Design

Langley Library Study Tables and Chairs

The Langley Library has received new furniture to update the study carrels, featuring a variety of seating options to encourage more use of the quiet study area and enhance the space's functionality. The study room tables were also updated to provide accessible use of the technology room and to accommodate larger groups of students in the study rooms. The new furniture allowed for staff to have better visibility into the area and monitor student safety. The new furniture allows more light to filter into the library, encouraging better study conditions.



Before

After

Black Box Theatre Renovation

The Black Box Theatre at Surrey Campus has successfully completed the construction drawing phase, marking a significant milestone in its development. During this phase, a Pre-Adjudication RHFAC Rating was conducted, and the project achieved a score of 88.1%, meeting the requirements for RHFAC Accessibility Certified Gold. The project is now entering the tender phase, where potential general contractors will be invited to submit their bids for the construction.



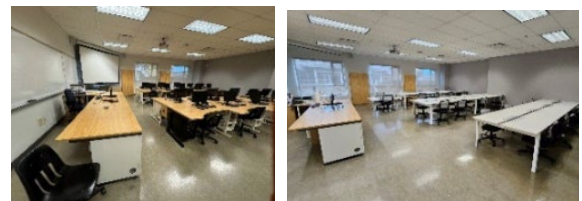
3D Rendering of Entrance

Music Wing Renovation

The renovation of the Music Wing on the Langley Campus has reached a significant milestone, having successfully completed the detailed construction drawing phase. With this critical stage completed, the project is now progressing into the exciting tender phase, where potential general contractors will be invited to submit their bids for the construction work.

Surrey Cedar 1075 Computer Lab Furniture Refresh

The computer lab underwent a targeted refresh to enhance functionality and improve the user experience. The updates focused on optimizing the layout for better circulation, enhancing accessibility, and upgrading furnishings to support current instructional and student needs. These improvements contribute to a more efficient and inclusive learning environment, aligned with the university's goal of maintaining high-quality academic spaces.



Before

After

Surrey Main Courtyard – Digital Signage

The old pylon signs are showing their age and are becoming increasingly difficult to maintain, both in terms of the accuracy of the information and their physical appeal; we are working to modernize them. Last year, we started modernization and upgraded four additional pylon signs to digital signage boards. The four signs that were upgraded for the 2024 year are: Arbutus North, Birch East, Cedar North East, and Cedar North West.



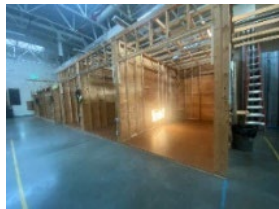
Before



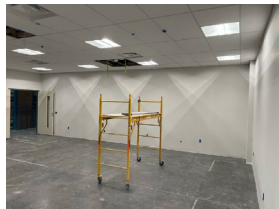
After

Electrical Shop Renovation

The renovation of the Electrical Shop at the Tech campus has achieved a significant milestone with the substantial completion of the construction phase. The revitalized Teaching Labs 1 and 2 are anticipated to be fully operational by June 2025. This upgrade promises to elevate the educational experience for students and faculty alike, fostering innovation and hands-on learning.



Before



Progress

ANCILLARY SERVICES

Campus Store

Rain Pierre Art Installation

The Rain Pierre artwork, previously installed at Surrey, was installed at Richmond, Cloverdale, and Langley campus stores. In addition to installing the artwork at the Cloverdale location, the wooden slats covering the interior windows were removed to allow better visibility in the store.



Food Services

Food Services Enhancements

The Langley cafeteria successfully reopened and is now offering expanded hot grill options in addition to the micro-market model.

Enhanced the Richmond campus menu with the addition of burgers and flatbreads, improving on-campus dining variety.

Parking Services

Event Parking Support

Vaisakhi Celebration - Successfully managed parking operations for the large-scale Vaisakhi event, ensuring safe and efficient access for attendees. Reflecting community engagement and event support. Collaborated with External Affairs, Security, and Facilities Operations departments.

SharePoint Modernization

Updated and modernized the Parking Services SharePoint pages to enhance accessibility and usability for staff and faculty.

EV Charging Stations – Surrey Campus

Installed a new electric vehicle (EV) level 1 charging station in the S1 lot at the Surrey campus, in collaboration with the Facilities Operations team. This initiative supports KPU's sustainability goals and provides increased convenience for EV users.

Fleet

Fleet Expansion – New Toyota Sienna Van

A new Toyota Sienna has been added to the university fleet. The vehicle has been fully wrapped and is now available for use by faculty and staff, expanding transportation options.

Fleet Security Upgrade – Mercedes Metris Cargo Kit

Installed a secure cargo kit in the Mercedes Metris shared fleet vehicle, with support from the IT department. This upgrade is critical for the safe transportation of high-value goods and enhances the operational capacity of our fleet services.

Print & Logistics

Print Shop Equipment Upgrade

The Print Shop received a new laminator at the end of FY25, which has been installed and is now operational to accompany the smaller end-of-life laminator. This new laminator enhances our ability to produce high-quality, cost-effective UV-protected signage.

