

Report to the **Board of Governors**

March 2025



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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE CHANCELLOR

Events

In addition to regular governance and administrative duties, my focus since the late November 2024 meeting of the Board has been to grapple with the enrolment, revenue and financial pictures for Fiscal 2026 and beyond. Meanwhile work continues on building relationships and exploring new ideas for KPU locally and beyond.

On January 7th I joined KPU International and others in a splendid meeting with colleagues from Al Baha University who were visiting from Saudi Arabia. The potential for exchanges and pathways to study at KPU is considerable.

On January 10 I met by Teams with Dr. Gervon Fearon, President at George Brown College” to plan a dialogue both here and in Toronto on issues facing higher education, nominally entitled “A Tale of Two Cities”.

I was pleased to join the Invisible Conditions workshop offered by OEIC on January 15 and the Generative AI Community of Practice on January 17th.

The annual reception for the BC Cabinet and the First Nations Chief was held in Vancouver on January 20th and I was pleased to attend, along with several other KPU colleagues. KPU was a proud sponsor of the event.

I have had a number of follow up meetings with colleagues from KPU, TRU and Ontario Tech on the potential project in Kazakhstan, and I was invited to meet with an informal group of semi-retired presidents on January 23rd to discuss leadership at this time of disruption in higher education. See also my visit to KZ in March as mentioned below.

January 24 saw the regular meeting of the Ridge-Meadows steering committee that is working on a feasibility study for post-secondary education in that region.

On February 3 to 5 I attended the Presidents’ Roundtable hosted by EAB. It was a very productive set of sessions looking at enrollment strategies, the

political environment in the US, AI in higher education, and Advancement. I am sharing presentations with my senior colleagues and following up with EAB on having some session at KPU.

I dipped my toes into using AI to develop a keynote that I have been invited to give in Beijing in April on the topic of Quality, Trust and Safety as they relate to sustainable international education development. Craig Wright in the T and L Commons did all the heavy lifting and it was useful to see the benefits and shortcomings of using AI to create a cogent presentation.

On this topic, on February 11th I was pleased the sign an agreement with the China Services Centre for Scholarly Exchange: an important organization in China for advancing partnerships related to the student and faculty exchanges, study tours etc.



Also, that day I attended the CAEL Advisory Committee meeting, and the KPU Foundation Board met in the evening where I heard about a number of amazing projects funded through the Foundation and the Ike Barber endowment.

The council of presidents of the Association of Governing Boards met virtually on February 19th, and on the 20th. I was excited to participate in the first Faculty Connect event to be held at KPU. It was an amazing event, with Leidy Klotz there to engage with us on “the untapped science of less”.

Spring Convocation was held from February 24 to 28, with 10 ceremonies. We were pleased to honor several local heroes with Doctor of Laws degrees: Harry Bains, Bruce Ralston, Amos and Edith Kambere, and David Young.

On March 6 and 7, I attended the national AI academy, hosted by Higher Education Strategy Associates, and then from March 10-19, I returned to Kazakhstan to explore further opportunities for KPU to recruit students, foster exchanges, and work with other universities to establish a campus in the Ulytau region. Along with colleagues from KPU International I attended educational fairs hosted by the Canadian International School, and signed an MOU with Satbayev University.

On March 21st I attended KPU night with the Surrey Eagles Junior Hockey game.

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Events

During this reporting period, which covers October 1, 2024, to January 31, 2025, the Office of Communications relaunched the employee newsletter after a multi-year break. Prepared using resources already available to the department, the newsletter is intended to keep employees connected to different areas of the university through a human focus on some of the people that make it tick. The newsletter directly aligns with Goal A2 of the Vision 2026 strategic plan. The first issue in October received 667 views and the second issue in December received 720 views. Communications is continuing to evolve and develop the newsletter to enhance the offer.

Alongside the re-launch of an employee newsletter, the university's Employee Portal intranet platform continues to see growth with total viewership over this period remained consistent with last year (4,309 views in 2023, 4,332 views in 2024), despite 23 per cent fewer stories being published in 2024. The change in story publication was a result of shifting some focus to the employee newsletter.

Communications supported the development and the launch of the myKPU student portal with a full communications plan and deliverables. Ahead of work on the employee portion of myKPU, the department worked collaboratively with Information Technology, Human Resources and other key areas to review employee communication platforms to ensure the university is making best use of current resources and to identify future needs.

Communications worked with multiple departments across the university on many projects, including the continued impact of federal government changes on international student enrolment, student affairs issues, analysis and optimization of internal communication plans and processes, convocation materials, and research and writing support for webpages, including for Melville School of Business, Faculty of Health,

Wilson School of Design, Nursing, Biology and Sustainable Agriculture.

In October 2025, Communications welcomed Lena Shulman as an interim Media Specialist. Lena's collaborative work with several departments generated extensive media coverage for KPU projects and initiatives, such as her story about the Wilson School of Design researcher working to create the perfect T-shirt.

Collectively, Communications highlighted a wide variety of activities at KPU, including the Flex program, archaeological overview assessments of campuses, university recipients of the King Charles III Coronation Medals and more. An Applied Genomics Centre study on heat stress in cows, a Lifespan Cognition Lab study on memory failure, an anthropology student's research on human-bear conflicts and Dr. Tara Lyon's research on mapping the Surrey drug crisis were among the research stories spotlighted by the team. Further stories promoted university events, including the President's Dialogue Series and Creative Connections.

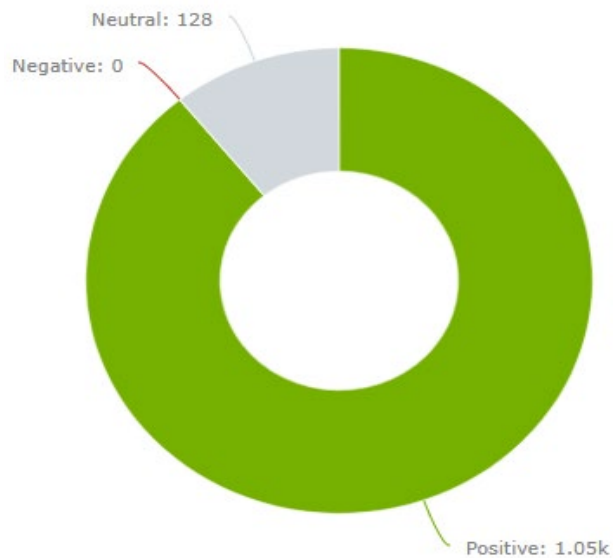
The department continued to put faculty members forward to media to provide expertise on topics such as the 2024 B.C. and U.S. elections, the Taylor Swift phenomenon and the U.S. presidential inauguration.

Communications' efforts have seen KPU's news and instructors receive coverage from the Canadian Press, CBC, CTV, The Globe and Mail, 980 CKNW and Black Press Media. KPU also reached broader audiences through specialty media outlets such as Drishti Magazine and Fairchild TV.

The team's digital communications specialist has enhanced these efforts through video coverage to support media outreach, social media engagement, internal communications and government relations.

From October 1, 2024, to January 31, 2025, the Office of Communications helped KPU gain 1,183 media mentions with a potential audience reach of 1.33 billion (source: Meltwater). Of those

mentions, 1,055 were positive and 128 were neutral. In addition, Office of Communications stories and news releases drew 170,649 impressions on the KPU LinkedIn and KPU News X accounts combined.



*period October 1, 2024, to January 31, 2025.
Source: Meltwater*

INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP

Counselling and Student Engagement for Indigenous Students

Overview: The following initiatives and programs were undertaken to enhance the mental health and well-being of Indigenous students at KPU throughout this academic school year. These efforts reflect Indigenous Service's commitment to creating an inclusive and supportive environment for Indigenous students, fostering both mental health and personal success.

Indigenous Medicine Garden Project: The Indigenous Medicine Garden project continues is a key initiative aimed at supporting the mental health and well-being of Indigenous students. This culturally significant space will provide students with access to traditional Indigenous healing practices, including the use of medicinal plants. The garden will serve as a site of learning, connection, and healing, offering students opportunities to engage in both physical and mental wellness activities rooted in Indigenous culture.



Hub Project: The Hub project aims to improve access to a variety of university services for Indigenous students. The Hub acts as a centralized point where students can easily access support services such as counselling, accessibility services, and learning supports. By removing barriers to accessing essential university services, the Hub project ensures that Indigenous students receive streamlined and personalized support

students need for academic success and mental health and well-being.

Drop-In Engagement and Connection Workshops at the Gathering Place: In addition to the formal counselling and support programs, informal engagement opportunities were provided through drop-in connection workshops held at the Indigenous Gathering Place. These workshops are designed to foster community, encourage peer support, and offer students a safe space to share their experiences and connect. The connective setting of the Gathering Place helps to promote open dialogue, resilience-building, and strengthened connections among Indigenous students.



Mental Health Groups for Indigenous Students: These groups were facilitated to address unique mental health and personal challenges faced by Indigenous students. These groups provided students with the opportunity to share their experiences in a culturally sensitive and supportive environment. The groups focused on building mental health resilience, coping strategies, and addressing issues such as intergenerational trauma and identity challenges.



Workshops for Indigenous Students: A variety of workshops were offered throughout the year, covering topics such as academic success strategies, stress management, navigating university life, and fostering cultural pride and connection. These workshops were designed with Indigenous students' needs in mind, ensuring they had the tools and support necessary to thrive in their academic and personal lives. The workshops also included topics related to traditional knowledge and practices to honor the students' cultural identities. Some examples of workshops include: Medicine Bag workshops, Spoon Carving, Talking Circle Series, and Rock Painting.



Clinical Counselling for Indigenous Students: Clinical counselling services have been continuously provided to Indigenous students, with a focus on dismantling barriers centered around accessing counselling services. Having a counsellor with Indigenous ancestry and a mental health background allows for the capacity to offer a culturally responsive approach to therapeutic support. In addition to supporting Indigenous student mental health, my service aims to provide students with the tools to overcome challenges related to mental health, identity, and academic pressures.

Outreach to Classrooms Regarding Mental Health: In efforts to raise awareness and reduce stigma around mental health, I will engage in outreach initiatives that directly engage Indigenous and non-Indigenous students in classroom settings. Presentations and workshops were conducted to inform students about available mental health resources, highlighting the importance of self-care, seeking help, and building a supportive academic community, including the importance offering supports from a non-Eurocentric lens. This

outreach helped normalize mental health discussions and encouraged students to seek support when needed.

Conclusion: The initiatives outlined above reflect a holistic and culturally responsive approach to supporting the mental health and academic success of Indigenous students. Through targeted programs, workshops, and outreach efforts, Indigenous Services and KPU continue to foster an inclusive and supportive environment where Indigenous students can thrive both academically and personally. Moving forward, we will continue to build on these initiatives to ensure that Indigenous students feel seen, heard, and supported in all aspects of their university experience.

Indigenous Student Events: Fall Semester 2024 into Spring Semester 2025

Throughout the Fall Semester 2024 and into Spring Semester 2025, various events were organized to foster engagement, build relationships, and establish trust among Indigenous students. These included casual lunches, such as the Bannock Tacos lunches, where students connected over shared meals and important information. Creative and cultural activities were also prominent, with a Beading Circle and a Métis Flower Beading Workshop, allowing students to explore traditional arts. Theatre outings, including performances of "As You Like It or The Land Acknowledgment" and "Bear Grease," provided thought-provoking experiences. The community spirit was further strengthened during the Indigenous Student Christmas Dinner. Additionally, tutoring services began in Spring Semester 2025, offering academic support with flexible meeting times. These events collectively aimed to create a supportive and connected community for Indigenous students.

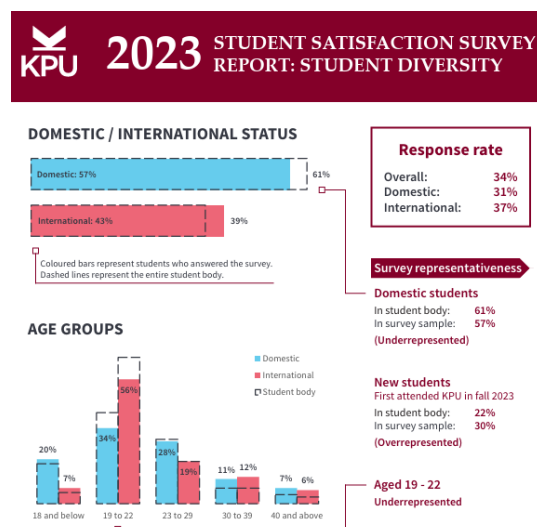
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Experience

Student Experience

2024 Student Satisfaction Survey: This survey collects a range of information from students on their KPU experience to identify areas for improvement. The 2024 survey was launched on October 25 and closed on November 24. Reporting thus far has included results relating to housing, including students' preferences for on-campus student housing to support next steps in KPU's development of a student housing strategy.

2023 Student Satisfaction Survey: The dashboard reporting the results was published last year, but during this reporting period two additional reports were created: an infographic on student diversity and a report on the gendered violence results, which was included in the survey based on a collaboration with KPU faculty member Dr. Cherylynn Bassani. The gendered violence survey questions assessed student experiences with sexism and inappropriate behaviour at KPU, including but not limited to inappropriate treatment based on gender, unwanted sexual behaviours and sexual assault (on and off campus). The student diversity infographic (see image below) is available on [OPA's public](#) and SharePoint sites and the gendered violence results can be found on OPA's SharePoint site.



International Peer Mentorship Program Surveys: This program matches senior KPU students with new international students in order to increase social connections and help them navigate services and resources while studying at KPU. Surveys were conducted of both mentors and mentees to elicit feedback on their experiences in the program. The surveys were conducted November to December and a report of the results was delivered to the Office of Global Engagement in January.

Field School Surveys: These surveys provide feedback from students who recently returned from field school experiences abroad. Reports of the most recent surveys, conducted in the summer and fall semesters and covering students who travelled to Barcelona, Guatemala, or Tanzania, were delivered to KPU's Office of Global Engagement on December 5.

Supported KPU International's scholarship programming by providing them with a list of International students who are eligible for the International Student Merit Scholarship, as defined by their criteria.

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. The report was delivered to Human Resources and the Office of Equity and Inclusive Communities, and communication is being developed to release the report to the KPU community.

Members of the OPA team attended the 2024 joint conference of the British Columbia Institutional Research and Planners' (BCIRP) association and Pacific Northwest Association of Institutional Research Practitioners (PNAIRP), as well as the Canadian Institutional Research and Planning Association (CIRPA) annual conference. These are the primary conferences for institutional researchers and planners and were valuable opportunities for OPA to explore new ideas, practices, and strategies in institutional research. At BCIRP/PNAIRP, one team member delivered a well-attended presentation on institutional research process improvement using Power BI.

Sustainability

Integrated Planning

Continuously monitored enrolments and applicants to estimate the international student decline for spring 2025. Developed enrolment projections for FY26 based on an analysis of changes in number of applicant and conversion rates to assess the impact of declining international enrolments on the budget for FY26.

Presentation on enrolment projections for FY26 delivered for townhalls in December 2024 and February 2025, as well as to various governance committees.

Developed the enrolment and workload plans and the tuition estimates for the financial assessment of the proposed Masters in Operations and Supply Chain Management.

Assessed the demand and financial impact of the proposed certificate in Brewing and Brewery Operations.

Delivered Annual Program Metrics reports that consolidate existing dashboard data to provide key performance metrics on 33 limited-intake programs and 40 open-intake disciplines that provide information on the health of KPU's programs.

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.

Provided Human Resources (and Payroll) with the list of instructors and classes with over-enrolment due to Last Class to Graduate (LCG) for fall 2024 and spring 2025 to provide to the KFA in compliance with article 11.02.a of the KPU-KFA Collective Agreement.

Enrolment Planning

Created the Midterm Enrolment Report for fall 2024 as of November 4, 2024 and the Stable Enrolment

report for spring 2025 as of January 20, 2025 in the PowerBI Enrolment Tracking Dashboard.

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 spring 2025. The fact sheets are updated each term following the stable enrolment date and published on OPA's SharePoint site.

Provided KPU International with a report on students given "No show" status to support enhanced understanding of changing applicant behaviour in light of recent IRCC policy changes.

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

Supported the Office of Research Services (ORS) by providing faculty numbers that meet the criteria of being in Social Sciences, Humanities, or the Arts for their grant application to Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

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:

Program Review kick-off meetings were held for four programs that started the Program Review process in January 2025:

- Sociology on November 18, 2024
- Human Resources Management on December 9, 2024
- Legal Administrative Studies on December 9, 2024
- Engineering on January 14, 2025

Organized and hosted External Review site visits for the following programs:

- Marketing External Review Site Visit on November 25 and 26, 2024
- Economics External Review Site Visit on December 3 and 4, 2024

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

The SSCPR approved 12 reports since October 2024 as follows:

- Horticulture Technology Self-Study Report
- Operations and Supply Chain Management Self-Study Report
- Fine Arts External Review Report
- Geography Quality Assurance Plan
- Brewing and Brewery Operations 1st Annual Follow-up Report
- Physics for Modern Technology 1st Annual Follow-up Report
- Creative Writing 1st Annual Follow-Up Report
- Language and Culture 1st Annual Follow-up Report
- English 2nd Annual Follow-up Report

- BHS Plant Health and Urban Ecosystems 2nd Annual Follow-Up Report
- Biology 2nd Annual Follow-up Report
- Education Assistant Program 2nd Annual Follow-Up Report

Course Feedback surveys for fall 2024 were conducted for 1,806 sections. The Quality Assurance Team prepared and delivered 958 reports to instructors. In addition, 109 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 fall 2024 was 30%, which is slightly lower than the 32% response rate for fall 2023.

Completed major revisions to AC3 (Program Review) Policy and Procedure, which was approved by the Board of Governors November 27, 2024. The key changes included standardizing the timeframe for review of degree and non-degree programs to every five years and implementing a 24-month time limit for completion of program reviews to support KPU's compliance with ministry expectations. The new Policy and Procedure will come into effect September 2025.

Provided the Melville School of Business with a dashboard to track their accomplishment of target competencies in their Business Education Framework and Program Learning Outcomes, which also satisfies requirements for external accreditation.

Nursing Simulations Pilot Survey: The Faculty of Health began a pilot in which additional simulation experiences were integrated into the BSN curriculum. This survey asked students in the pilot to identify how helpful the additional simulations were in preparing them for clinical experiences, and how they could be improved. The survey was administered on January 15 and the report of the results was delivered to the Faculty of Health's Simulation Lead on January 22.

Accountability and Transparency to Friends,
Communities, Partners and Governments

Received ministry approval for the 2024 Accountability Plan and Report and posted the report on [the KPU website](#).



Submitted to the Board Governance committee the first annual progress report on VISION 2026, which is based on data reported in the 2023/24 Accountability Report, and benchmark data on ministry-required metrics from comparable institutions.

Submitted KPU data (April 1, 2002 to September 15, 2024) to the ministry's Central Data Warehouse (CDW).

Submitted the Interim FY 2024-25 FTE Report to the ministry.

Completed the IRCC Compliance Report by providing the status of 6,296 International students as of fall 2024.

Completed KPU's annual submission to Statistics Canada's Full-time: University and College Academic Staff System (FT-UCASS) survey.

Submitted the KPU cohort to BC Stats for the Diploma, Associate Degree, Certificate, Trades Foundation and Trades-Related Vocational Student Outcomes (DACTFTRV-SO) survey and the Apprenticeship Student Outcomes (APPSO) survey.

Assisted Human Resources in the review of the Post-Secondary Employers' Association's (PSEA) summary of KPU's submission to the Human Resources Database for KPU sign-off.

Along with KPU International and the Faculty of Academic and Career Preparation, completed KPU's submission to Languages Canada's 2024 Annual Member Survey.

Provided KPU program data required by the ministry in relation to the administration of KPU's Provincial Attestation Letters, a new process implemented by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to limit the number of international students.

Supported IT by providing KPU Headcounts of students (full-time, part-time and CPS only) and employees (full-time and part-time active) for the annual National Cybersecurity Assessment conducted by Canada's National Research and Education Network.

Supported the Office of Communications and Media Relations by providing student and faculty numbers needed for their regular submission to Business in Vancouver.

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC

Policy and Academic Affairs Team

Graduate Studies

On January 9, 2025, the Graduate Studies Council (GSC) met and received KPU's first master's degree proposal, Master of Operations and Supply Chain Management, from Melville School of Business. At the meeting, the Council passed the motion to recommend the proposed degree to Senate for recommendation to the Board of Governors for final approval. On January 28, 2025, Senate recommended the degree proposal to the Board of Governors for final approval at its upcoming meeting on March 26, 2025.

On February 5, 2025, the GSC met and discussed with guest speaker **Alena Buis**, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts, about ideas for future master's programming. At the same meeting, the Council also discussed University-level standards and expectations for the concluding dialogues of capstone projects or theses in future master's programs.

The Council will continue 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.

Updates on the work of the GSC and its bylaws and membership are located on the [website](#) and [SharePoint](#) of the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS).

AC15 Micro-credentials, AC16 Academic Title Awards

From September to October 2024, the Policy and Academic Affairs team (PAA) conducted preliminary consultations on proposed revisions to current Policy AC15 Micro-credentials (to be renamed Digital Credentials (Non-Credit)), including visits to various Senate Standing Committees over the two-month period.

The team received feedback and suggestions on ways in which the current Policy and Procedure can be further clarified and strengthened. From November to December 2024, **Josephine Chan** and the team shared a set of preliminary drafts with a number of Senate Standing Committees and departments and subsequently received valuable feedback. Josephine and the PAA team continue to conduct consultations, as well as review and consider all suggestions and feedback. The team plans to have an updated set of drafts for a Phase Two Posting on the KPU Policy Blog sometime in early March 2025.

Draft AC16 Academic Title Awards has completed its second round of Phase Two Posting on the KPU Policy Blog as of January 27, 2025. **Dr. David Burns** and the PAA team have reviewed and considered all feedback received, and subsequently responded to all the comments on the Blog as well as those received from Senate Standing Committees in January.

On February 11, 2025, the final drafts of AC16 Academic Title Awards were submitted to the Senate Governance and Nominating Committee (SGNC) for discussion. The SGNC passed two motions unanimously: one for suggesting a wording amendment; the other for approving in principle the creation of a Senate Standing Committee on Academic Title Awards, if AC16 was approved by Senate and the Board of Governors. On the same day, the Senate Standing Committee on Policy met and passed a vote by ballot to recommend to Senate the approval of AC16 and the proposed mandate and membership of the Senate Standing Committee on Academic Title Awards.

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 \(sharepoint.com\)](#)**

Updates to Enhance Accessibility on Policy Development at KPU

As of November 2024, the PAA team has completed all short-term tasks identified in the accessible policy development project, such as adding or updating alt-texts to diagrams and visuals, ensuring compatibility with screen reader software and screen magnification software, and developing standard text formatting and color schemes compatible with accessibility standards.

In January 2025, the PAA team sent a progress report to Senate Standing Committee on Policy, the Office of Equity and Inclusive Communities, and

Dr. Fiona Whittington-Walsh, Lead Advisor for Disability, Accessibility and Inclusion. The PAA team will now move onto medium- to long-term goals, including developing a toolkit for policy writers and revamping the Drupal site to enhance accessibility.

Curriculum Support Team

KPU Flex

The Flex team is continuing to support candidates who wish to have prior learning assessed for credit in their program of interest. The initiatives to reach potential candidates include a press release and communications to drive traffic to the Flex webpage on the KPU website. The programs of focus for the initiative this year are Brewing and Brewery Operations as well as all programs in the Melville School of Business.

CourseLeaf

The CourseLeaf project team is preparing for an upgrade to CourseLeaf software which supports the University Calendar as well as course outline and program proposals. The upgrade will provide superior reporting and dashboard tools for administrative users and will permit the Curricular Support Team to adjust forms and workflows, permitting more nimble changes than is currently possible through the software vendor's support ticket system.

Generative AI

A set of new courses will be offered in September 2025 pending approval by Senate. These courses will provide students an opportunity to learn about Generative AI in ways that are specific to their disciplines.

A single web location is under development which will house materials related to AI at the university. Messaging and resources that are relevant to the public, faculty members, students, and staff will all be available through sites linked with this single location, and access permissions will be assigned as appropriate for the general public and for internal users.

Micro-credentials

Several new micro-credentials are under development and will issue digital badges starting in September 2025 pending approval by Senate.

Academic Integrity Team

The Academic Integrity Unit has been developing resources to further support faculty and students with Policy ST2, including a Faculty FAQ, and a Case Study Resource in collaboration with the Arts Academic Integrity Committee, and an infographic on Policy ST2 for students. Work is also underway for a resource for when emergency disruptions occur during an on-campus final exam.

The unit presented at the Establishing your KPU Teaching Practice workshop for newer faculty hosted by the Teaching & Learning Commons on December 17, 2024. On February 20, 2025 the unit participated in the Faculty Connect event at the Richmond Campus, interacting with faculty and staff through our Jeopardy game and sharing our Faculty Resource Shelf and answering questions.

The team has also been active in multiple orientation events (International Virtual Live Orientation, KPU Welcomes You, First Year Festival, Faculty of Health Kickoff), providing class presentations and ongoing tabling events in collaboration with the Library and Learning Centres. The student ambassadors have also been sharing academic integrity tips through social media in partnership with the Library.

Restorative Justice

Dr. Alana Abramson offered Lunch and Learns on Restorative Justice and Academic Integrity on February 6 and February 27, 2025. The unit has also been sharing monthly Today@ Announcement posts on restorative approaches. A restorative justice infographic contrasting approaches to academic integrity breaches has also been completed.

Continuing Professional Studies Team

The Continuing & Professional Studies (CPS) continues to manage the StrongerBC Future Skills Grant, which has supported 148 learners as of February 2025. The majority of the grant recipients have enrolled in short-term nursing courses, reflecting the demand for healthcare-related training.

The Melville School of Business has offered three new CPS courses for Spring: *Being a Creative Entrepreneur*, *Finding the Right Product*, and *Startup Finances*. These courses are also eligible for funding through the Future Skills Grant.

To enhance student support, CPS Central, in consultation with Student Affairs, developed a one-page information document outlining the basic supports for CPS learners. This resource provides basic information on counselling services, accessibility, library resources, housing support, and course inquiries. Having this resource connecting the CPS' mature learners to the available resources provides them with clear information, encourages them to seek help when needed, and supports their academic and personal journey. This is available at <https://www.kpu.ca/cps/resources>.

Efforts to promote CPS courses to a broader audience are being expanded. In collaboration with Marketing, CPS has produced video testimonials featuring learners who credit their professional growth to CPS courses. These inspiring stories aim to motivate mature learners to pursue continuing education as a means of career advancement. These testimonials can be viewed at <https://www.kpu.ca/cps/testimonials>. Additional promotional campaigns, including digital ads and transit shelter ads, are also underway to reach a wider audience.

The Board of Governors has approved the elimination of Policy and Procedure AD4 on Continuing Education and Contract Services. Originally passed in 2002 with the establishment of CPS, the policy has since been supplanted by updated policies, operational practices, and process documents, ensuring a more streamlined CPS operation.

Work Integrated Learning Team

Dr. Larissa Petrillo, Lead Advisor on Work Integrated Learning

Each term, we hold an informal community of practice with the 'Practicum Meeting group.' The name is a bit of a misnomer because it is made of instructors who are involved in practica, applied research, work experience, Co-op and experiential learning – all manners of Work-Integrated Learning. Since 2021, we've now had more than 75 different faculty members join us for these meetings. Each Faculty is represented, with the Faculty of Arts making up almost a third of the total attendees, and the Melville School of Business following a close second.

The other Faculties each represent about 10% of the overall attendees, making for superb interdisciplinary sharing. In general, we have been discussing ways of saving time around partnerships and practices, with strong expressions of care for our students and the opportunities we are able to bring them at KPU.

Including All Citizens Team

Dr. Fiona Whittington-Walsh, Lead Advisor on Disability, Accessibility and Inclusion

In addition to the work that supports Including All Citizens Pathway (IACP) and other initiatives, I have had a been working several key initiatives. 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, I continue to participate in provincial and national committees including being the vice-chair of New Society Institute (formerly IRIS) Board of Directors.

I continue to attend monthly meetings with Skills Trade BC, Community Living BC, and various community partners regarding bringing Including All Citizens Pathway (IACP) into the Trades at KPU. We have submitted a funding request to the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction to support this work.

Further, I was invited to become a member of a working group, *Reimagining Community Inclusion: Inclusive Employment*, for the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction.

The film series, *Transforming Post-Secondary Education for Students with Disabilities and Deaf Students*, that is part of my research and was created in collaboration with **Simon Driver** (EACS) and **Gordon Cobb** (videographer), is complete. The Vancouver company, Descriptive Video Works, has completed adding closed captioning and audio descriptions making each of the five films fully accessible!



[Image description: still from the fifth film, *The Note Taker*, starring **Adam Skelly**. White male student with soft beard and mustache, wearing glasses sitting in a classroom. Two other students are working in the background. Male student is speaking to the camera. Closed captioning reads: *I fought very hard for a year to get a notetaker.*]

I continue to give presentations on my research, *Transforming Post-Secondary Education for Students with Disabilities and Deaf Students*, including the films, across the university to various programs and departments.

KPU Climate Strategy Development Update

The KPU Climate Strategy is currently in development, led by **Dr. Brett Favaro** (normally, Dean of the Faculty of Science; currently, Climate

Strategy Lead). This project aims to produce a comprehensive strategy that will provide direction for the University in how it will respond to the climate crisis and contribute to the growth of a clean, renewable British Columbia economy. The production of this Strategy was called for in the 2024-2027 Academic Plan. Further, it is responsive to a directive in the most recent mandate letter from the Government of BC to the KPU Board, which directs us to advance results in delivering a “clean and fair economy that delivers affordability and prosperity”.

Work-in-progress materials are being posted to <https://wordpress.kpu.ca/climatestrategy/> as they are developed. At present, a ‘core team’ of 20 individuals from across the University has had two meetings, and we anticipate a draft strategy will be ready for consultation across the KPU community by May of this year.

As this Strategy is being developed, **Dr. Favaro** is, in parallel, working with others across KPU to advance initiatives that would accelerate climate-related action even before the Strategy is finalized or approved. Two such examples include an external grant application co-authored with Faculty of Trades & Technology Dean **Laura McDonald** to explore development of a heat pump-focused program, and collaboration with Campus and Community Planning to explore installation of BC Hydro electric vehicle chargers at KPU.

PEOPLE

- Congratulations to Deans **Aimee Begalka** (Faculty of Academic and Career Preparation), and **Andhra Goundrey** (Wilson School of Design) who have been reappointed as Deans for 5-year terms.
- **Afsana Tabibi** is covering Associate Dean **Melinda Bige**'s maternity leave as Associate Dean *pro tem*, Faculty of Arts, from January 2, 2025 - December 31, 2025.
- **Heather Harrison** has taken the role of Dean *pro tem*, Melville School of Business, effective February 6, 2025.

- **Senaqwila Wyss** joins Melville School of Design as Emerging Indigenous Entrepreneur in Residence. Senaqwila will engage with faculty, students, and staff, participating in events, seminars, and workshops to support entrepreneurial and intercultural initiatives.
- **Alicia Gowan** joins Office of the Provost as a casual employee in the position of Consultant, STARS Platinum Analysis, effective January 3, 2025 to approximately March 31, 2025.
- **Andrea Fello** joins the Academic Integrity Unit in the position of Academic Integrity Strategist effective February 18, 2025.
- **Amit Shukla** was temporarily appointed as Associate Vice President, Research in the Office of Research Services, covering Deepak Gupta's leave, from January 1, 2025 – January 27, 2025.

NOTABLE MEETINGS AND EVENTS ATTENDED BY THE PROVOST:

- Richmond Regional Donor Reception, Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) Richmond Campus, October 24, 2024
- Hosted VPAs from post-secondaries affiliated with Polytechnics Canada on November 13-14, 2024 which included a tour of the Genomics Centre at the Surrey Campus as well as a tour of the Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic and the Faculty of Arts' Entertainment Arts Studio at the Richmond Campus
- On November 20, 2024, attended a President's Dialogue Series event featuring **Dr. Maria Strack**, Professor of Geography and Environmental Management at the University of Waterloo and Canada Research Chair in Ecosystems and Climate.
- Talked with representatives from the Indigenous Learners in Accounting program, hosted by the Melville School of Business, November 22, 2024
- Attended the President's Seasonal Reception, Civic Plaza, November 23, 2024
- Attended a Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) Dialogue Event, featuring **Dr. David Coletto**, CEO and Co-Founder, Abacus Data, on November 25, 2024
- With the Faculty of Arts and KPU's International office, met with representatives from CEA and **Mr. Akrum Bastawi**, Head of International and Special Advisor to His Excellency the President of Al Baha University, Saudi Arabia, November 26, 2024
- On November 27, 2024, attended a British Columbia Association of Institutes and Universities (BCAIU) Vice-President Academics Committee meeting
- Participated in the BC Micro-credential Assessment meeting, November 28, 2024
- Welcomed the deans to an in-house Professional Development event, facilitated by **Alan Oishi** and organized by **Heba Elsonbaty**, November 28, 2024
- Holiday Social at the Richmond Campus on December 3, 2024
- Attended the City of Richmond 2023 Community Needs Assessment Workshop on December 4, 2024, where city staff shared the Needs Assessment findings and recommendations, with an opportunity for discussion
- Surrey Campus Holiday Social on December 5, 2024
- A meeting on December 5, 2024 between the Provost and **Dr. Daniel Laitsch** of Simon Fraser University (SFU) to discuss education programs
- Education Advisory Board (EAB) Ignited Conference in Los Angeles on December 9 and 10, 2024
- Langley Campus Holiday Social on December 12, 2024
- Office of the Provost (OPro) Team Holiday Luncheon on December 12, 2024
- Cloverdale Campus Holiday Social on December 13, 2024
- In-person meeting and luncheon with deans to discuss strategies for new curriculum and partnerships, December 19, 2024
- Attended the B.C. Cabinet & First Nations Leaders Gathering Welcome Reception at the Vancouver Convention Centre on January 20, 2025
- On January 21, 2025, attendance at the British Columbia Association of Institutes and Universities (BCAIU) Vice Presidents Academic Committee meeting

- With **Randall Heidt**, met with senior leaders at Western Community College to explore a partnership, January 22, 2025
- With Dean **Aimee Begalka**, met with the provost and dean at Capilano University to discuss continuation of CapU's ECCE program at KPU, January 30, 2025
- Attended the closing reception of **Sylvia Simpson**'s exhibition 'Haala' in the Spruce Gallery, January 31, 2025
- Hosted **James Beck**, Associate Dean of Academics, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT) at KPU's Surrey Campus on February 4, 2025. The visit concluded with a tour of the genomics centre and The Gathering Place.
- Hosted a presentation by the Education Advisory Board (EAB) at KPU's Surrey Campus on February 4, 2025
- On February 12, 2025, met with Deans at Simon Fraser University (SFU) to discuss offering a cohort of their teacher education program at KPU

FACULTY OF ARTS

Events

Creative Connections (Nov. 2, 2024): The event was initiated by **Shelley Boyd (Dean, Faculty of Arts)** and **Andhra Goundrey (Dean, Wilson School of Design)**, organized by **Mary Quinn and Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CECs)**, along with **Gabrielle Durning and Alia Ahmed (Wilson School of Design CECs)**, and held at KPU Richmond. This was the first year holding this event which was a new interactive and informative event featuring our artistic and innovative programs. This free, collaborative event showcased programs in KPU's Faculty of Arts, Entertainment Arts and Wilson School of Design. Featuring portfolio pit-stops and reviews, info sessions, hands-on workshops led by faculty, campus tours, interactive demos and an opportunity to connect with alumni working in creative industries.

Faculty of Arts Pop-Up Mentoring Gathering (Nov. 7, 2024): The event, organized by **Mary Quinn (Faculty of Arts CEC)**, was held at Grassroots Café, KPU Surrey.

International Focus Week, Surrey and Richmond Campuses (Nov. 21, 2024): The Faculty of Arts and Entertainment Arts department booths were organized by **Mary Quinn and Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CECs)**. Attendees came to visit us to play some games, win some prizes and learn more about the Faculty of Arts. We played a spinning wheel game of international trivia and every answer was a winner for some international snacks.

KPU Author Reading – “Now You Know Me” (Nov. 29, 2024): Organized by **Mary Quinn (Faculty of Arts CEC)** and held in A1780 at KPU Surrey. Authors **Joe Gallagher** and **John Matterson** discussed “Now You Know Me: Seeing the Unhidden Truth in Settler Colonialism”. The book explores their journey of understanding—growing up as friends in Powell River, BC, on Tla’amin land, losing touch, and reconnecting 35 years later. Through deep conversations, John confronted his unearned privileges, while Joe shared the lasting impact of colonialism on his community.

Dean’s Honour Roll (Jan.28, 2025): The event was initiated by **Shelley Boyd (Dean, Faculty of Arts)** and **Domenik Adamoski (Interim Administrative Coordinator)**, organized by **Mary Quinn and Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CECs)**. Celebration held at KPU Surrey, Cedar Conference Centre.



This event was created to celebrate our students who achieved this academic status in 2024, with additional highlights including a social with deans and faculty, a digital congratulations video, and a gift.

Declaration Day (Jan.29, 2025): At Declaration Day, students met with Degree Advising teams from the Faculty of Arts, Melville School of Business, and Faculty of Science at KPU Surrey's Spruce Gallery. They had the chance to learn about the declaration process, alongside asking advisors about different majors and registration inquiries. **Masako Ishihara (Faculty of Arts Advisor)** was at the Arts booth.

Haala: The Sacred Exchange of Knowledge and Resilience– Sylvia Simpson Gallery Exhibition (Jan.31, 2025): Organized by **Mary Quinn (Faculty of Arts CEC)**. Exhibition held at KPU Surrey, Spruce Gallery 140, for Sylvia Simpson's End-of-Show Gathering to honor her work. The word “Haala” translates to “give it to me” or “the act of giving.” This simple request encapsulates a profound

meaning – an essential pulse that resonates within the Haida culture. It is more than just a word; it represents a sacred exchange of knowledge, love and wisdom. Sylvia's journey of sharing knowledge traverses' various landscapes and goes beyond physical movement; it is a spiritual journey that connects us with the past while guiding us toward the future. Her work stands as a call to remember, to share and to sustain the timeless cycle of giving.

Arts Study Abroad Info Session (Feb. 6, 2025):
Held at KPU Surrey, Fir 234.

Arts Study Abroad Info Session (Feb. 6, 2025):
Held at KPU Surrey, Fir 234.

Dodgeball Tournament (Feb.6, 2025): Organized by **Mary Quinn (Faculty of Arts CEC)** and held at KPU Surrey Gymnasium. KPU Sports and Rec and the **Valentine's Day Social (Feb. 13, 2025):** Organized and set up by **Mary Quinn and Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CECs)** and held at KPU Surrey, A2180. We celebrated love and friendship at our Valentine's Day Social Event. Staff, faculty and students came to hang out with us for a fun-filled afternoon of creative crafts and tasty treats.

Arts Speaker Series:

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

Nov.6, 2024: *"The whitemen have taken our land and we have never got anything": Kwantlen, Katzie, Kwikwetlem, Musqueam, Semiahmoo, and Tsawwassen First Nations Sovereignty, 1910s* by Dr. Maddie Knickerbocker, History, Kwantlen Polytechnic University; Natasha McConnell, KPU BA History Student (and future UBC History MA student). This research delves into statements made by chiefs of the Kwantlen, Katzie, Kwikwetlem, Musqueam, Semiahmoo, and Tsawwassen First Nations to the Royal Commission on Indian Affairs for the Province of British Columbia. The commission, which was examining reserve size in BC, posed a renewed threat of settler colonial encroachment onto these

Nations' territories. We argue that in response to this settler governmentality, the leaders of these Nations demonstrated not only their deep connections to their territories, but their strong sense of sovereignty over those lands. *"Here be Dragons – How we map our World"* by Dr. Parthi Krishnan, Geography and the Environment, Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

Nov.27, 2024: *"An Interdisciplinary Approach to Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion"* by Dr. Leland Harper, Philosophy, Kwantlen Polytechnic University. In this talk, Dr. Leland Harper discusses the framework of an interdisciplinary micro credential developed for degree-seeking undergraduate students. This program combines resources from various disciplines, and experiential learning, to help students better understand and address some of society's most pressing issues of today and tomorrow.

Dec.4, 2024: *"Findings and recommendations from a mixed-methods study investigating the experiences of 2SLGBTQIA+ students at teaching focused universities in the Lower Mainland"* by Dr. Tara Lyons, Criminology, Kwantlen Polytechnic University; Luka Wall, Manager, OPA; Liam Ruel, KPU Psychology honours student; Camille Bédard, KPU Psychology student; Kayla Garvin, KPU employee; Kai Barcellos Luna, KPU Creative Writing student. The findings of our mixed-methods study suggest that 2SLGBTQIA+ students at teaching focused universities in the Lower Mainland lack the support, resources, and educational environment they need to thrive. We present participant-driven recommendations for post-secondary administrators, service providers, and educators on ways they can better support 2SLGBTQIA+ students.

Jan.22, 2025: *"Decolonizing Language Revitalization in Mexico: The Nahuatl Language"* by Carlos Octavio Sandoval, Sociology, Kwantlen Polytechnic University. Nahuatl, the ancestral language of the Aztecs is still the most widely spoken Indigenous language of Mexico. However, in the past century, this language experienced a dramatic decrease in the number of its speakers due to government policies of cultural

assimilation. Current efforts towards revitalizing this language can only be successful if they are formulated from a decolonial perspective that challenges existing power inequalities and recognizes Indigenous peoples as agents of their own history.

Jan.29, 2025: *“Incendiary Alchemies: How Conspiracy Theorists, Bot Nets, and Fake News Stories Foiled First Responders and Undermined Evacuation Orders in the Shuswap Forest Fires”* by Dr. Wade Deisman, Criminology, University of Fraser Valley. This paper uses a range of investigative techniques to excavate and analyze



social media activity during the period of July 20 through to September 17. Over that period, while wildfires were raging across the Shuswap, police, paramedics, and firefighters found themselves at odds

with some several local communities because of false reports, conspiracy theories, and disinformation campaigns. Burroway’s extended case method (1998) is used to argue that the events in the Shuswap ought not to be understood as a singularity, but instead reflect themes and patterns common to other recent emergency response events, including Hurricane Hilton and Hurricane Helene. Stepping back toward the theoretical, the work explores the degree to which the success of public safety responses depends upon broader judgements about the trustworthiness of agents of officialdom and the degree to which such perceptions of trust are increasingly imperiled in the wake of foreign actors, malicious deployments of artificial intelligence, fake news, and conspiracy theories.

Feb.12, 2025: *“Building Youth Resilience in Post-War Uganda: The Wang Oo Relit Project”* by Jonna Evans, Psychology, Kwantlen Polytechnic University; Dr. Kyle Matsuba, Psychology, Kwantlen Polytechnic University. The Wang Oo Relit Project (WORP) is designed to build resilience among youth living in northern Uganda. WORP

incorporates mental health lessons and activities with cultural practices for the goal of improving the mental wellness of youth.

Feb.26, 2025: *“Here be Dragons – How we map our World”* by Dr. Parthi Krishnan, Geography and the Environment, Kwantlen Polytechnic University. Learn about Geography, and the ‘Worlds’ of Maps; how we imagine, interpret and lie with maps.

ENTA:

Online Workshop "Creating a CG Creature" (Nov. 14, 2024): The ENTA Online Workshop was led by **Murat Miroglu (ENTA Lab Instructor)** and organized by **Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CEC)**.

Bardel Studio Tour (Nov. 14, 2024): Studio tour for ENTA students and Alumni. Organized by **Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CEC)**.



National Portfolio Day (Nov. 16, 2024): Held at Emily Carr University of Art + Design, featuring portfolio reviews for future students by ENTA faculty. Present at the ENTA booth: **Ed Ko (Associate Dean)**, **Clint Forward (Instructor)**, **Erika Golfetto (Instructor)**, **Dany Lu (Instructor)**, **Peter Doudkine (Instructor)**, **Mike Hayes (Instructor)**, **Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CEC)**, **Dasha Khon and Eduardo Cavalcante de Almeida (Lab Instructors)**.

BBI Studio Tour (Nov. 20, 2024): Studio tour for ENTA students and Alumni. Organized by **Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CEC)**.

The Anime Evolution (Nov. 23, 2024): Event (<https://animeevolution.com/>) was held at KPU Richmond, featuring an ENTA booth to promote ENTA programs and ENTA campus tours led by

FSO. Organized by **Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CEC)**.

Winter Holiday Social (Nov. 26, 2024): Event for ENTA students, staff, and faculty. Organized by **Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CEC)**.

Online workshop “Game Art Workshop” (Dec. 4, 2024): ENTA workshop “Game Art Workshop” by **Mike Hayes (Instructor)**. Organized by **Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CEC)**.

Digital Media Youth Expo (Dec.7, 2024): This Expo (<https://digitalmediayouthexpo.ca/>) held at Argyle Secondary School, where ENTA featured a booth to promote programs and career opportunities in the industry. Present at ENTA booth: **Erika Golfetto (Instructor)** and **Brett Vanderkist (Instructor)**.

Grad Show (Dec. 14, 2024): ENTA Grad Show at KPU Richmond Campus, The Melville Centre for Dialogue. Organized by **Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CEC)** and **Erika Golfetto (Instructor)**.

Student Welcome/Orientation (Jan.6, 2025): ENTA New Student Welcome/Orientation. Organized by **Murat Miroglu (Lab Instructor)**, **Zubin Kuruvilla (Lab Instructor)** and **Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CEC)**.

Richmond Campus Discovery Day (Jan.23, 2025): ENTA space tour led by FSO and a GD program workshop for future students, led by **Mike Hayes (Instructor)**.

Sony Pictures Studio Tour (Jan.30, 2025): Studio tour for ENTA students and Alumni. Organized by **Lidia Bardina-Arnaud and Dasha Khon (Faculty of Arts CECs)**.

Dream It, Be It (Feb.8, 2025): Event (<https://www.soroptimist.org/our-work/dream-it-be-it/index.html>) at KPU Surrey Campus, Cedar Conference Centre. The ENTA booth promoted ENTA programs to young girls interested in the ENTA industry. Organized by **Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CEC)**. Present at the ENTA booth: **Ksenia Krasova (Instructor)**.

Live Animation Demo by Michal Makarewicz (Feb.11, 2025): Online Live Animation Demo &

Q&A with Pixar legend and Skydance Animation Supervisor Michal Makarewicz, hosted for KPU students, future students, faculty, and staff. Organized by **Lidia Bardina-Arnaud (Faculty of Arts CEC)**.

ENGL (submitted by Cyr, Heather K.):

“Research 101” (Nov. 13, 2024): English Department’s Research Committee held an event for English students called “Research 101,” organized by Dr. Unita Ahdifard. Faculty members Dr. Paul Ohler, Dr. Leanne MacDonald, and Dr. Lindsey Seatter gave students an inside glimpse into the research that they do in the discipline.

Undergraduate Journal “Alight” Launch (Feb.6, 2025): English Department held an event to launch our [new undergraduate journal Alight](#), which went live before the holidays. Majors and Minors attended and heard remarks from Dean Shelley Boyd and editor-in-chief Gavin Paul. Volume 1 publishes work by 14 English students, including several of our Intersectional Social Justice (ISJ) Essay Award winners who we honored in a fall ceremony. The journal is led by Gavin Paul and Jessica Swain, and it has now posted its newest call for papers for our undergrads to submit to Volume 2.

FINA (submitted by MacTaggart, Alison):

Surrey Art Teachers Association Annual Professional Development Workshops (Feb. 21, 2025): Fine Arts Department hosted the Surrey Art Teachers Association, for our annual Professional Development workshops. SATA members register for Fine Arts Faculty run workshops, with 4 workshops and up to 30 participants total.

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.



ASIA (submitted by Stein, Justin):

Anime Evolution Event (Nov. 23, 2024): Asian Studies had tables promoting our program at the Anime Evolution Event (<https://animeevolution.com/>) at KPU Richmond Campus.

Lunar New Year (Jan. 29, 2024): Celebration at KPU Richmond Campus, where we offered promotional materials and giveaways and answered questions about our program and courses offered.

POST (submitted by Olyaei, Shiva):

Indigenous Perspectives on the UN Genocide Convention Event (Nov. 4, 2024): Policy Studies endorsed the "Indigenous Perspectives on the UN Genocide Convention" event, presented by the Kwantlen Faculty Association at Richmond Campus, featuring Tamara Starblanket and Nicole Schabus.

"Know Your Rights" Workshop by Workers Solidarity Network (Nov. 5, 2024): Policy Studies hosted a three-hour Know Your Rights Workshop led by the Workers Solidarity Network (WSN). Formerly known as the Retail Action Network, WSN consists of non-unionized and precarious workers across B.C. advocating for workers' rights and taking collective action to improve labour standards. The workshop focused on B.C. Employment Standards and provided students with valuable insights into workplace rights and protections.

GEOG (submitted by Martin, John):

Kwantlen Science Challenge (Nov. 2024): The department participated in the KSC (Kwantlen Science Challenge).

Presentations/Community Activities:

FINA:

Majano, Paulo (Nov. 2024): Paulo Majano, Member of Acquisition Committee at the Surrey Art Gallery. Participating as Community member/Art Educator in the selection of artwork for acquisition to the permanent collection.

Majano, Paulo (Dec. 2024): Paulo Majano, Member of Urban Screen Advisory Committee. Surrey Art Gallery.

Huestis, Amy: Lecture: Qian Shiyi in conversation with Amy-Claire Huestis

Huestis, Amy (Dec. 10, 2024): Online Conversations between De Ying Fellows and Invited ICA Scholars at NYU Shanghai Campus.

ENGL:

Dr Sayed, Asma (Dec.17-18, 2024): "South Asian Radio and Canadian Identity in British Columbia." Symposium on Canadian Identities, York University, Virtual.

Dr Sayed, Asma (Jan.18-19, 2025): "On Navigating Brownness, Islamophobia, and Settler Colonialism: Reading the Politics of Race in Omer Aziz's Brown Boy." South Asian Literary Association Annual Conference: Rethinking South Asia, Postcoloniality and Decolonial Frames and Praxis, Virtual.

Dr Sayed, Asma (Jan. 27- 29, 2025): "Career Development in 2040: Navigating the Future World of Work." CANNEXUS Annual Conference, Ottawa (panel with Candy Ho, Mike Houston, Blessie Matthews).

IDEA :

Peters, Byron (Nov. 2024): Faculty member Byron Peters presented "Resistance + Responses from the Sid Chow Tan Archives" at the Downtown Eastside Heart of the City Festival. This event at the

Carnegie Centre Theatre featured community respondents, poetry, stories, film screenings, hot food, and live interpretation in Cantonese and Mandarin throughout. The event also received support from VIVO Media Arts and KPU Humanities PD. Resistance + Responses from the Sid Chow Tan Archives, 2024 Downtown Eastside Heart of the City Festival, Carnegie Theatre, 401 Main St. Vancouver.



Official Event Description: “A new generation of community organizers engage with beloved Chinatown/DTES activist Sid Chow Tan’s vast archive of volunteer-produced video journalism. Reflecting on resistance, victories, celebrations, and everyday lives within DTES and Chinatown communities, respondents from intersecting grassroots struggles respond to documentation spanning over four decades.”

ASIA:

Stein, Justin (Nov. 7, 2024): While on educational leave, Justin Stein gave presentations on his recent book, *Alternate Currents: Reiki’s Circulation in the Twentieth-Century North Pacific* (University of Hawaii Press, 2023) at the NCC Center for the Study of Japanese Religions in Kyoto, Japan.

Stein, Justin (Nov.11, 2024): Justin Stein gave presentations on his recent book, *Alternate Currents: Reiki’s Circulation in the Twentieth-Century North Pacific* (University of Hawaii Press, 2023) at the Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture in Nagoya, Japan.

ENGL:

Chan, Greg (Jan 29, 2025): Facilitated a mahjong workshop in the KDocsFF Social Justice Lab for the

KPU community to usher in the Chinese Lunar New Year.

EDAS:

Nicholson, Victoria (Jan. 24, 2024): Presentation at DADD assessing Visual Supports use by Education Assistants in BC **schools**.

LANC:

Qu, Yanfeng (Dec. 17, 2024): Representing KPU to adjudicate funding applications (Humanities and Social Sciences Stream) as a member of the Adjudication Committee for the 2024 China National Scholarships for Outstanding Self-funded Overseas Scholars organized by the Education Office of the Consulate General of PRC (2024年度国家优秀自费留学生奖学金).

PHIL:

Li, Puqun (Nov. 1, 2024): Philosophy Colloquium at the Philosophy Department Meeting entitled “The Buddhist Spirit in Wittgenstein’s Philosophy and Life”, Surrey Maple 2810.

POST:

Pond, Ellen (Nov. 27, 2024): Under the guidance of Ellen Pond, Policy Studies faculty member, students from POST 3110, Applied Sustainability Seminar, presented their findings to the Translink policy team at the TransLink head office in New Westminster. The students took on an emerging and challenging area of work for our region, combining climate change, transportation planning, and equity. Their projects answered questions around Equity Barriers and Solutions to Accessing Car and Bike Share; the Digital Divide, with a focus on seniors and people with disabilities; and Equity and Resilience, with a focus on improving bus shelters and bus exchanges under extreme heat. TransLink staff took many notes; one of the presentations was forwarded to the Bus Shelter Strategy Lead. With staff asking questions to learn from the students, the presentations and discussion demonstrated the students' ability to develop subject matter expertise, produce professional materials, and act as consultants for a community partner.

Olyaei, Shiva (Dec. 6, 2024): Shiva Olyaei, policy studies faculty member, was invited by Cherylynn Bassani, Status of Women Representative, Kwantlen Faculty Association, to speak on gendered violence in the workplace at the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. She delivered a talk titled Invisible Wounds, Silent Struggles: How Gendered and Lateral Violence Shape Workplaces.

PSYC:

Dr. Bernstein, Daniel: Published abstracts and paper presentations (*Denotes student or post-doctoral student when work was completed):

Dr. Bernstein, Daniel: *Kruisselbrink, E.D., Fitzgerald, R.J., & Bernstein, D.M. (2025, February). *The contaminating effect of social media on eyewitness memory*. Paper presented at the Unfamiliar Face Identification Group Meeting, Brisbane, Australia.

Dr. Bernstein, Daniel: *Yuen, C. N., Bernstein, D. M., Smith, A. M., Ying, R. C., & Fitzgerald, R. J. (2025, February). *Face matching lineups: A method to control the error rate in video ID evidence*. Paper presented at the Unfamiliar Face Identification Group Meeting, Brisbane, Australia.

Dr. Bernstein, Daniel (Feb, 2025 : *A lifespan longitudinal study of hindsight bias*. Research presented at the University of Victoria's Cognition & Brain Science Seminar.

Dr. Bernstein, Daniel : *Dhillon, R., *Derksen, D.G., & *Dogra, K. (November, 2024). *A longitudinal study of hindsight bias across the lifespan*. Paper presented at Psychonomic Society, New York, USA.

Dr. Bernstein, Daniel : *Derksen, D.G., Connolly, D.A., & Bernstein, D.M. (November, 2024). *Auditory primes, just like photos, increase truth claims*. Poster presented at Psychonomic Society, New York, USA.

Dr. Bernstein, Daniel : *Metzger, L., *Bajwa, K., *Bajwa, J., Pennycook, G., Bernstein, D.M., & Erdfelder, E. (November, 2024). *The impact of sharing headlines in social media on memory for*

true versus fake news. Poster presented at Psychonomic Society, New York, USA.

Dr. Pedersen, Cory: Conference presentations (*Denotes student or post-doctoral student when work was completed):

*Bergen, R., Champion, A., Oswald, F., *Walton, K. A., & Pedersen, C. L. (2024) *Sexual assault among Canadian university students: A minority stress and intersectional perspective*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, San Diego, CA.

*Hattie, D., *Walton, K. A., & Pedersen, C. L. (2024). *Men's perspectives on partnered sex toy use: Psychological insights and implications*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, San Diego, CA.

*Jensen-Fogt, T., & Pedersen, C. L. (2024). *Exploring effects of ADHD symptomatology on orgasmic consistency in women*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science, San Francisco, CA.

*Jensen-Fogt, T., & Pedersen, C. L. (2024). *The role of ADHD symptomatology on orgasmic consistency in women*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, San Diego, CA.

*Meredith, P. M. B., Oswald, F., *Walton, K. A., Hughes, S., & Pedersen, C. L. (2024). *Shedding shame: An intersectional investigation of period sex and stigma*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, San Diego, CA.

*Nair, P., Champion, A., *Turychenko, M., & Pedersen, C. L. (2024). *Do dark triad traits predict sexual outcomes: Attractiveness, mate value, sexual openness, sexual aggression, and number of sexual partners*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, San Diego, CA.

Champion, Amanda: Conference presentations: *Bergen, R., Champion, A., Oswald, F., *Walton, K. A., & Pedersen, C. L. (2024) *Sexual assault among*

Canadian university students: A minority stress and intersectional perspective. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, San Diego, CA.

*Nair, P., Champion, A., *Turychenko, M., & Pedersen, C. L. (2024). *Do dark triad traits predict sexual outcomes: Attractiveness, mate value, sexual openness, sexual aggression, and number of sexual partners.* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, San Diego, CA.

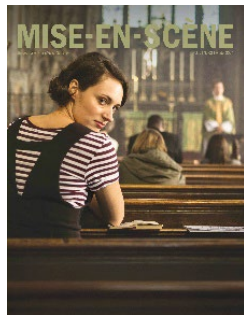
Dr. MacLean, Carla L.: Presentations and invited talks:

(2024).
context:
real

making.

Arts

Kwantlen Polytechnic University, BC, Canada.



MacLean, C. L.
*The power of
Cognitive bias in
world
investigative
decision*

Invited
presenter at the
Speaker Series,

MacLean, C. L. (2024). *Understanding cognitive bias in health care investigations.* Invited presenter at the Yorkshire and Humber Patient Safety Research Collaboration (YHPSRC) and Yorkshire Quality and Safety Research Group (YQSR) Safety Seminar Series. Yorkshire, England.

MacLean, C. L. (2024). *The science of cognitive bias and judicial decision making.* Invited presenter at the National Judicial Institute (NJI) Spring conference for the Newly Appointed Provincial and Territorial Judges' Skills Seminar. Niagara on the Lake, Ontario, Canada.

MacLean, C. L. (2025). *Cognitive bias in workplace investigation.* Invited presenter at the Canadian Bar Association Investigation Committee (BCCBA), Canada.

Publications/Scholarly Activity:

ENGL:

Blenkhorn, Deborah: English Department member Deborah Blenkhorn has published her

story "Cast Iron Donkey" in Culterate Magazine. She also had her piece "The Swan" accepted by The Human Narrative and another story, "The Morton Cove Chronicle," accepted by the new Australian magazine, Who Let the Stories Out?

Dr. Stensrud, Craig published the chapter "The Confidence-Man and the Cynical Gothic" in Gothic Melville published this fall by the University of Wales Press.

Dr. Cyr, Heather and her co-editor Dr. Shelley King (emerita, Queen's University) have published a scholarly/ teaching edition of the beloved children's literature classic *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett. The edition is published by Broadview Press. This project featured two alumni as student assistants, Amanda Grey and Lakeisha Barrington, and was supported by the 0.6 fund.

Chan, Greg: Faculty member, Greg Chan, editor-in-chief of *Mise-en-scène*, recently published Volume 9, Issue 2). The issue features an interview with KPU filmmaker-in-residence Shubham Chhabra by History Major Kiran Johal, an ARTS 4800 student, and a film review on Chhabra's film *Cash Cows* by English Major Colin Hunter.

FINA:

Barenscoot, Dorothy (Oct. 30, 2024): "Trumpism, NFTs, and the Cultural Politics of 21st Century Kitsch" published in *Interrogating the Visual Culture of Trumpism*, editors Grant Hamming and Natalie Phillips, (Routledge, 2024). Republished on Artforum.com as an exclusive excerpt from the listed book to coincide with the U.S. elections: <https://www.artforum.com/columns/dorothy-barenscoot-trumpism-nfts-and-the-cultural-politics-of-21st-century-kitsch-1234721079/>.

Majano, Paulo (Dec.30, 2024): Paulo Majano, Participating artist in Anonyme Group Exhibition. Kunstraum Kreuzberg. Berlin

Chan, Greg (Jan. 2025): Published Issue 9.2 of *Mise-en-scène: The Journal of Film & Visual*

Narration under the theme of “Transgressive Narratives/Breaking the Fourth Wall”.

Chan, Greg (March 1, 2025): Presented a workshop on “Applied Film Studies Research: Publishing with an Open-Access Journal” at the Film Studies in Japan Conference hosted by Nanzan University, Japan.

IDEA:

Peters, Byron: Faculty member Byron Peters presented a new film and installation at "Enchantment," an exhibition at the Or Gallery, Vancouver. This new work will be the subject of an upcoming book edited by Phaniel Antwi, Canada Research Chair in Black Arts and Epistemologie.

ASIA & LANC:

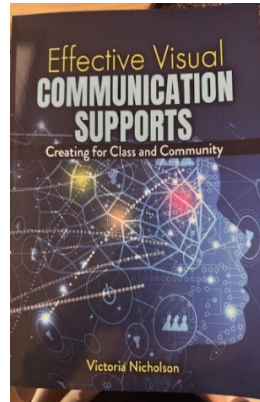
Stein, Justin (Nov. 2024): Justin Stein published an article, “Religion, Ki, and Aikido: From Prewar Japan to the Postwar United States,” in the peer-reviewed Vienna Journal of East Asian Studies.

ASIA:

Tsz Ming Tong, Clement (Dec. 2024): Clement Tsz Ming Tong (appointed in HIST, but currently teaching in ASIA as well) published the chapter “Cantonese as a Protest Language in Hong Kong — 1967, 2014, and 2019,” in *The Politics of Language in Hong Kong*, edited by Jean-François Dupré, Routledge (December 2024).

EDAS:

Nicholson, Victoria (Jan. 2025): Published Text for use in EDAS 1225 “Effective Visual Communication Supports” Creating for class and community – Victoria Nicholson.



Nicholson, Victoria: Completed Research Project – Assessing Visual Support Use By EA's in BC schools- (Victoria Nicholson and KPU EDAS alumni Bree- Ann Ramsey).

PSYC:

Dr. Mater, Deborah and Dr. Lopes, Evan: The B.E.S.T Clinical Laboratory has been approved for a digital badge, which documents the completion of foundational clinical skills. This is the first badge of its kind developed for Psychology students.

Dr. Lymburner, Jocelyn: ART 2000: Science and Practice of Wellness class continues to offer experiential learning opportunities for students within the Surrey community. On January 30th students participated in a line dancing class at Surrey' Kennedy Hall and on February 13th students completed a tour and art class with the Surrey Art Gallery.

Thesis Committees and Student Supervision:

Dr. Bernstein, Daniel (PSYC): student supervision:

Camryn Yuen (M.A., Ph.D. Psychology), SFU, 2023-present; committee member

Daniel Derksen (M.A., Ph.D., Psychology), SFU, 2017-present; Ph.D. dissertation supervisor

Emma Kruisselbrink (M.A., Ph.D., Psychology), SFU, 2021-present; committee member

Deva Ly (Ph.D., Psychology), Australian National U., 2019-2025; committee member

Camille Weinsheimer (Ph.D., Psychology), SFU, 2017-present; committee member

Dr. Lymburner, Jocelyn (PSYC): student supervision:

Alisha Arora (B.A., Honours Psychology) KPU, 2024-present; supervisor

Hailey Russell (B.A., Honours Psychology) KPU, 2024-present; supervisor

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

Amy Rabidoux (B.A., Honours Psychology) KPU, 2024-present; supervisor

Camille Bedard (B.A., Honours Psychology) KPU, 2024-present; supervisor

Dr. MacLean, Carla L. (PSYC): student supervision:

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

Elika Feradowsi KPU Practicum student, 2024-present; supervisor

Champion, Amanda (PSYC): student supervision:

Camille Bedard (B.A., Honours Psychology) KPU, 2024-present; co-supervisor

Ad Hoc Reviews:

Champion, Amanda (PSYC) ad hoc reviews:

Manuscript: Archives of Sexual Behavior; Current Psychology, December 2024

Dr. MacLean, Carla L. (PSYC) ad hoc reviews:

Manuscript: Journal of Safety Research, December 2024

Dr. Bernstein, Daniel PSYC) ad hoc reviews:

Manuscript: Animal Behavior; Child Development; Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition; Judgment and Decision Making; Memory & Cognition; Psychological Research; Scientific Reports, November 2024 - March 2025.

Program/Policies/Initiatives/Activities:

FINA completed a submission for a program change. Foregrounding the Modern and Contemporary are more relevant to students in their early stages of the BFA program. Submission is in the final stages in the hands of ASCC:

- o Change declaration requirements of ARTH 1120 and ARTH1121 to ARTH 2222.

- o Change curricular requirements to require ARTH 2122 and ARTH 2222 and replace the option to take either ARTH 2122 or ARTH 2222 with the option to take either ARTH 1120 and ARTH 1121.

IDEA 1100 was selected by the Surrey School District (SSD) as their Strive section for Spring 2025, continuing successful engagement with Surrey high school students.

IDEA continues to offer Dual Credit opportunities for Indigenous grade 11 and 12 students in Interdisciplinary Foundations in Spring 2025.

IDEA for the Spring 2025 semester, launched our first dedicated section of IDEA 1100 for Pathway to Undergraduate Studies students, focusing on building students' confidence, discovery of their passions at KPU, community building and collaboration.

Dr. Mater, Deborah and Dr. Lopes, Evan (PSYC)

The B.E.S.T Clinical Laboratory has been approved for a digital badge, which documents the completion of foundational clinical skills. This is the first badge of its kind developed for Psychology students.

Dr. Lymburner, Jocelyn (PSYC) ART 2000: Science and Practice of Wellness class continues to offer experiential learning opportunities for students within the Surrey community. On January 30th students participated in a line dancing class at

Surrey's Kennedy Hall and on February 13th students completed a tour and art class with the Surrey Art Gallery.

Student Success:

ENGL: Nov. 29, 2024: This fall, English majors Heloisa (Lola) Martins Jacinto and Megan Lyle represented the English Department in the ARTS 4800 cohort. Lola has been working on a practicum project sponsored by KPU Open Education, while Megan and her practicum have been hosted by the Provincial Health Services Authority. Both presented their practicum projects to the KPU community on November 29th.

FINA:

Sylvia Simpson: installed her solo exhibition Haala, Spruce Gallery, Surrey Campus Jan 17-31. The exhibition is the result of Sylvia's research supported by the Student Research and Innovation Grant at KPU. End of Show Gathering for 'Haala' an exhibition of artwork by student Sylvia Simpson. KPU Elder in Residence Lekeyten and his partner opened the evening with a few words and Haida artist Roger Smith performed some songs along with his son Levi. The event took place between 4-6pm, Friday January 31st.

Anna Polkovnichenko: Dec-Jan, Children's Art Exhibition, Arbutus Gallery, KPU Surrey. Organized by student Anna Polkovnichenko for her project for FINA 3201 Artistic Practice in Community.

Vin Cuadra: Kapwa Lagi! Nov 18-29 2024, an exhibition in the Arbutus Gallery, KPU Surrey, organized by student Vin Cuadra for his project for FINA 3201 Artistic Practice in the Community. The exhibition featured the work of current Filipino-Canadian KPU students and alumni including: Myrel Ofiana, Jansen Ramos, Eloisa Uy, Gracienne Llavore, Kyle Chua and Thomas Chanyungco.

Claudia Shen: Claudia's porcelain flower hand building workshop and potluck took place on Nov 22, 5-9pm. This was part of her coursework for FINA 3201 Artistic Practice in Community.

FINA Student Collective, Exhibition: Seeing Red, Dec.-Jan. 2025, Turnbull Gallery, Surrey BC. Featuring 17 KPU students and alumni.

IDEA: Faculty continue to support student advancement through writing recommendation letters for graduate programs, exchange programs, grants, and scholarships. Recently, several of our students have successfully gained acceptance into teaching programs.

ASIA: Asian Studies major Joey Chung completed a ARTS 4800 practicum in the fall semester, working with the archives and marketing teams at the Chinatown Storytelling Centre in Vancouver, and giving a presentation about her experience on November 29, 2024. Her host organization specifically contacted the ARTS 4800 team to let us know how impressed they were by Joey's skills and professionalism

POST:

Melissa Snazell, a policy studies major, has been named the BC Green Party candidate for the Langley-Abbotsford riding in the October provincial election. In addition to her provincial candidacy, she is also endorsed by the Green Party of Canada and will be running as a candidate in the upcoming federal election.

Aysha Gondal, a policy studies minor, has demonstrated exceptional academic and leadership achievements. She serves as a student representative for the Faculty of Arts Academic Planning & Priorities Committee, has been recognized on the Dean's Honor Roll, and is a recipient of the Fiona Disability Award. Additionally, she is an executive member of the Sociology Club and an active member of both the Political Science Club and the Sustainability Club.

PSYC:

Dr. Patricia Coburn's honours student, Hanna Erceg, who also serves as a research assistant on Dr. Daniel Bernstein and Dr. Kyle Matsuba's SSHRC project, has been accepted into the SFU Clinical Psychology Program for fall 2025.

Dr. Jocelyn Lymburner's honours student, Pearl Meredith, who also serves as a research assistant in Dr. Cory L. Pedersen's Olab at KPU, has been accepted into the SFU Clinical Psychology Program for fall 2025. Pearl has also been selected to give the Address to the Graduands at the 2025 February convocation.

Dr. Jocelyn Lymburner's honours students, Alisha Arora and Hailey Russell, both received a Student Research and Innovation Grant (SRIG) for their honours projects: Unraveling Academic Procrastination: Predictors and Intervention Effectiveness in University Students (Alisha Arora) and Understanding how people use social media to understand mental health (Hailey Russell).

Dr. Cory L. Pedersen's honours students, Amy Rabidoux and Camille Bédard (co-supervisor Amanda Champion), both received a Student Research and Innovation Grant (SRIG) for their honours projects: You Should Smile More: Investigating the Gender Gap in Smiling Expressivity (Amy Rabidoux) and Beyond the Silence: Attitudes Toward Mental Health Disclosure Among Friends (Camille Bédard).

Dr. Jocelyn Lymburner's student – Amy Brown, obtained SEEF funding to fund an outreach project designed to support adolescents who engage in self harm. Amy created small personalized wooden boxes filled with sensory and attentional distractions to help adolescents delay acting on self harm impulses and reduce the occurrence of this behaviour.

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>. The artist becomes a part of an elementary school community in Vancouver, working with classes of students and their teachers one day a week from a dedicated studio space in the school.

Spotlights/Grants/Awards:

Ratslef, Teya (GEOG student): won department GESSA award of \$1000 (Jan. 2025).

Ibrahim, Zainab (IDEA): received one-time funding from the Indigenous Student Services

office for the "Gathering Wisdom & Weaving Knowledge Together" series. This initiative will bring Indigenous guest speakers into classes from mid-February to mid-April 2025, featuring storytelling and workshops. The series will also include speakers impacted by colonization and imperial structures who will share experiences of reclaiming narratives. Select sessions will be open to community members, including students' friends and family (Feb. 2025).

Dr. Bernstein, Daniel (PSYC): Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council Discovery Grant: Title: Processing fluency determines what and how we believe (\$230,000); held at SFU (2024-2029).

Dr. Bernstein, Daniel (PSYC): Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Insight Development Grant. Title: False memory and personality across the lifespan (\$64,934) with Co-I, Dr. Kyle Matsuba (2024-2029).

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

Dr. Pedersen, Cory L. and Champion, Amanda (PSYC): were nominated for the Faculty of Arts EDI Award. This award was developed to recognize and celebrate outstanding efforts in supporting and promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion within the Faculty of Arts and/or the broader community.

Dr. Balakrishnan, Anjana (PSYC): was nominated for the Dean of Arts Teaching award.

FACULTY OF HEALTH

Events

Langley Food Bank Donation – our team came together during the holiday season to collect donations for the Langley Food Bank and we're very grateful for everyone who contributed. Thanks to our staff's generosity, we were able to make a small difference in our community. Together, we've spread some extra cheer and warmth to those in need.



Pinning Ceremonies - It gives us great pleasure to re-introduce 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 are so proud of our students' achievements and excited for the impact they will have as they move forward in their careers. We had the honour of gifting each student a customized pin to symbolize their journey and achievements at KPU in the following programs:



BNP Pinning Ceremony – During the Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing pinning celebration on December 5, 2024, we had speeches from our Associate Dean, Sarah Beasleigh, Alumni Affairs as well as a couple of BPN faculty members – Shelby Carlson and Pearl Takhar. This intimate ceremony was a great way for students to know that they are now a part of KPU's growing alumni community.

GNIE Pinning Ceremony – During the GNIE pinning celebration on December 6, 2024, we had speeches from our Associate Dean, Carlo Tala, Alumni Affairs as well as a few GNIE faculty members, including our Chair, Herraj Sandhu, Sherilyn Sweeney, Harmeet Olson and Beant Sindhar. We not only celebrated our students' academic achievements but also the sacrifices they've made for their families and loved ones along the way. Balancing studies, personal responsibilities, and a dream to make a difference in healthcare takes incredible strength.



Spring 2025 Kick-Off – a student orientation was held on January 6, 2025 for new BSN, BSN-AE, GNIE and HCAP students. There were various sessions throughout the day, including a welcome

from our Dean, Associate Deans and Divisional Business Manager, program-specific lab orientations led by our Lab Educators, Faculty and Students Meet-and-Greets introduced by Elder Lekeyten as well as KPU resources and information booths allowing new students to learn more about the services available to them.

On Feb 21st the Faculty of the Whole met and has proposed revisions to the Faculty Bylaws. The Faculty of Health Day proceeded following the business portion of the day and included sessions on Generative AI, flower pot painting, and therapy dogs. The afternoon sessions also included a guest lecturer, Inez Louis, from the First Nations Health Authority, who shared her experience as an Indigenous person navigating nursing education and the profession. Follow that we participated in a Blanket Exercise, “an experiential workshop based on using Indigenous methodologies to build understanding about our shared history as Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada by walking through pre-contact, treaty-making, colonization and resistance”. (<https://www.kenkenemconsulting.com>). Participants found it educational, engaging and emotional.

Staffing

Congratulations are in order as we welcome new Faculty members:

- BPN:
 - Kamal Uppal
- BSN:
 - Andrea Gormley
 - Kirstin Collins
 - Simer Basi
 - Aileen Gandi
- BSN-AE:
 - Jaspreet Randhawa
 - Parveena Mann

We are also pleased to announce that Nav Nijjar and Gillian Kolano will be serving as the Student Support Liaison (SSL) instructors. The role of SSL is essential in aiding students as they transition from classroom settings to practical environments.

Presentations/Community Activities

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. Daniel Benzimra from Teaching and Learning Commons presented an overview on generative AI on January 15th.

The Indigenization Community of Practice was thrilled to have Elder Lekeyten and Cheryl present to our group on December 18th where they shared their wisdom and support for our work in the Faculty of Health

Dr. Donna Goodleaf and Dr. Elaine Patterson from Concordia University presented a workshop on Indigenizing and Decolonizing Curriculum on Feb 7th. Faculty benefitted from their guidance on this work and came away with practical applications for their own curricula.

Publications/Scholarly Activity

Harpreet Dhatt, BSN Instructor, completed her Master of Health Sciences, Advanced Health Care Practice in Applied Health Sciences at the University of Western Ontario.

Sonayna Rana, HCAP instructor, has started her Master’s in Education: Curriculum and Instruction at Simon Fraser University.

Initiatives/Activities

New faculty orientation was held, in person, on January 2nd on the Langley campus. Engaging sessions were provided by lab educators, faculty mentors, Teaching and Learning, and Associate Deans.

The “LPN to BSN” Pilot Cohort 1 students completed the first term of the BSN programming in Fall 2024. Cohort 1 will complete their studies in December 2025. Cohort 2 students completed two of the four admission requirement courses in Fall 2024. Cohort 2 will complete their studies in August 2026.

The Associate Deans met with Pablo Daboud from OHS to enhance our promotion and communication of safety awareness for our community. Starting in January, communications

were sent to all faculty regarding aspects of OHS (student injuries) and enhanced safety orientation was provided to new faculty during their orientation day.

Student Successes

Nursing student Taylor Sayer was recognized with a KPU Student Leadership Award for her outstanding contributions to both the university and the broader community. A passionate advocate for learning and helping others, Sayer dedicates her time outside of her studies to volunteer with the Salvation Army, tutor at KPU's Learning Centres, and assists with the university's Orientation and Transition team. Sayer's work exemplifies the spirit of the KPU Student Leadership Award, recognizing those who positively impact their community while maintaining academic excellence.

FAULTY OF SCIENCE

Initiatives and Activities

The **Kwantlen Science Challenge** was held on Nov. 30 and organized by Kianoosh Tahani (PHYS). The event brought together 400 high school students from across the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island to compete in a series of hands-on science challenges. With the support of 50 volunteers, including KPU students and faculty, participants engaged in lab-based experiments, theoretical problem-solving, and engineering challenges across disciplines like biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, and sustainable agriculture. The event provided students with an opportunity to apply their scientific knowledge, develop teamwork skills, and experience



university-level science in action.

KPU Science participated in the **3rd Dream It, Be It Conference** on Feb. 8 at the KPU Surrey Newton Campus. The event, organized by Soroptimist International of Surrey/Delta and White Rock, provided career support for young women



exploring future opportunities. During the career and resource fair (12:00–2:00 PM), KPU Science hosted a table with instructors from Mathematics and CADD (Computer-Aided

Design and Drafting). Approximately 150 high school students attended, engaging with faculty to learn about KPU's science programs, research opportunities, and career pathways.

From Jan. 23-25, the KPU Faculty of Science showcased its Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems program and Applied Genomics Centre research at the **Pacific Agriculture Show** in Abbotsford. Faculty, staff, and students engaged with industry professionals, exploring collaborations and funding opportunities. Attendees showed strong interest in KPU's work on crop consistency, yield improvement, and sustainable farming. As a leading agricultural tradeshow in Western Canada, the event provided a valuable platform to highlight KPU's expertise and strengthen industry connections.

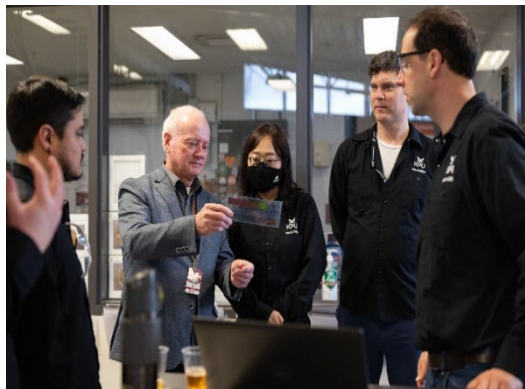


To support students during the final weeks of the semester, KPU Science hosted the **"Warm and Fuzzy Hot Chocolate Pop-Ups"** at the Richmond, Surrey and Langley campuses. The event provided students with a warm and welcoming space to relax, enjoy hot chocolate and cookies, and connect with faculty and peers. Instructors, particularly those teaching first-year students, were encouraged to bring their classes to help foster a sense of community within KPU Science. This initiative aimed to offer encouragement, promote student well-being, and create a supportive environment to help them finish the semester strong. The event was well received, with strong student participation at all three locations.

On Jan. 28, the *KPU School of Horticulture* hosted the *HORT Networking Social*, connecting over 60 students and industry professionals in an informal setting. Students practiced introductions, engaged with potential employers, and gained career insights from industry leaders. Supported by *KPU's Career Development Centre*, the event provided networking experience and highlighted employer resources for hiring and talent development.



On Jan. 16, KPU Brewing hosted **President Alan Davis** at the brewery and developed a beer recipe that will be brewed with the President in March. Led by instructors Dominic Bernard (BREW); Michael Miller (BREW); and Gonzalo Marquez (BREW) with additional participants Amy Jeon, Interim Dean (SCIENCE); Brett Favaro, Dean (SCIENCE); and Erika Eliason, Associate Dean (SCIENCE).



On Jan. 31, Brewing hosted a **Pink Boots Collaboration Brew Day** led by instructors Olga Mikova (BREW) and Nancy More (BREW), as well as alumna Emily Kokonas from Four Winds Beach House & Brewery. Participants included first-year Brewing students Jay Ku (BREW); Helia Xiang (BREW); and Maria Yun (BREW). Also in attendance were instructor Martina Solano Bielen (BREW); Amy Jeon, Interim Dean (SCIENCE); and Erika Eliason, Associate Dean (SCIENCE). The beer will be released on International Women's Day Mar. 8th at Farm Country Brewing in Langley and will also be available to purchase at the KPU Brew Lab.

Presentations and Community Activities



Jamie Lamont, co-chair of the School of Horticulture at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU), has been awarded the prestigious 2024 Educator of the

Year title by the BC Landscape and Nursery Association (BCLNA). Lamont, a KPU alumnus with a Horticulture Technology Diploma in Landscape Design (2006), has spent years contributing to the horticulture field, including running his own business and earning his Landscape Horticulturalist Red Seal in 2016. This accolade underscores Lamont's dedication to education and his impact on students pursuing careers in horticulture.

Adam Niewiadomski, a student researcher in Dr. Kelsie Doering's lab completing his Biology Honours project, will deliver a 10-minute oral presentation at the upcoming VanWorm meeting on Feb. 25 at UBC. **VanWorm** is a quarterly gathering of *C. elegans* research labs from UBC, SFU, and now KPU, providing a collaborative forum for sharing research. With principal investigators, postdoctoral researchers, and graduate students from UBC and SFU making up the majority of attendees and presenters, this event presents a

valuable opportunity for Adam to receive feedback on his honours project and highlight KPU's growing presence in research.

School of Horticulture Chair Jamie Lamont, Instructor Russ Lyons, and HORT Advisor Andrea Fello attended the **Skilled Trades Showcase** event at Thomas Haney High School on Jan. 23. The goal of the event was to build students and parents knowledge of trades and career program opportunities. Jamie shared KPU's School of Horticulture connection to both school districts programs as well as potential post-secondary pathways.

Horticulture Co-Chair Ellen Pond, Apprenticeship Coordinator Maria Valana, Charissa Steel and Diego Martinez Manay attended the **Indigenous Trade Sampler** held at the KPU Tech campus. Indigenous students from various high schools had the opportunity to sample different trades to help them determine their future career path.

KPU's School of Horticulture participated in both the **BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) Parks & Pathways Conference** (Feb. 26-27) and the **Western Canada Turfgrass Association (WCTA) Conference** (Feb. 12-13) at River Rock Casino Resort. At the BCRPA conference, KPU showcased its horticulture programs and engaged in discussions on sustainable park development. The WCTA conference featured KPU's booth promoting turf management programs, where students attended educational sessions and networked with industry professionals to enhance their learning and career opportunities in turfgrass management.

Dr. Mehdi Salimi (MATH) presented a talk titled *Pursuit-Evasion Differential Games: From Theory to Real-World Applications* at the School of Computer Science and Systems Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and Faculty Development Program at JIMS, New Delhi, India, on Dec. 23, 2024. This talk was funded by the Shastri Scholar Travel Subsidy Grants (SSTSG).

Dr. Mehdi Salimi (MATH) presented *Decision-Making Strategies for Pursuers with Speed and Energy Constraints in a Pursuit-Evasion Differential*

Game at the Canadian Mathematic Society Winter Meeting, held at KPU Richmond from Nov. 29 to Dec. 2, 2024. Additionally, Dr. Salimi organized the scientific session *Mathematics in Business Modeling, Optimization, Risk, and Decision Making* during the event.

Maria Valana (HORT) was an invited speaker at the **Mixing It UP Conference** in Victoria where she presented on *Growing Plants from Seed*. Approximately 300 garden enthusiasts, master gardeners, and industry specialists were in attendance. She also presented her workshop on *Plant Propagation* to approximately 100 participants part of the **Vancouver Master Gardeners** Program and Van Dusen members. Students enjoyed learning about propagating plants by seed, cuttings and plant division.

On Jan. 13, CADD Technologies organized and participated in a workshop at **Walnut Grove Secondary School** in Langley. The event saw strong attendance and provided an excellent opportunity to engage with high school students and prospective CADD students. There was significant interest in the **CADD Dual Credit Program**, which is offered in partnership exclusively with the Surrey and Delta School Districts, with many students expressing enthusiasm about enrolling in the program.

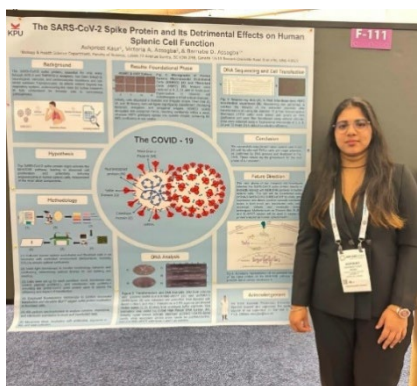
On Feb. 3, Alexis Esseltine, co-owner, **Tin Whistle Brewing** and environmental consultant, spoke to students in instructor Nancy More's HOPS 2421 course about how to implement environmental programs in a small brewery.

Publications & Scholarly Work

Dr. Mehdi Salimi (MATH) co-authored "*Decision Making Based on Interval Type-2 Neutrosophic Numbers Involving the Optimal Selection of a House*", which has been accepted for publication in *Soft Computing* (Accepted on Nov. 6, 2024).

Mary Hosseinyazdi (MATH) was an organizer for the *Canadian Mathematical Society Winter Meeting* (Nov. 29 – Dec. 1). She also presented her research on "*The Solution Set of a System of Max-Min-Product Fuzzy Relational Inequalities*."

Dr. Barnabe D. Assogba and Ashpreet Kaur (BIOL) attended the *Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists (ABRCMS-2024)* in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. At the conference, Ashpreet Kaur presented a poster titled *“The SARS-CoV-2 Spike Protein and Its Detrimental Effects on Human Splenic Cell Function.”*



Dr. Barnabe D. Assogba and Ashpreet Kaur (BIOL) published *“Optimizing Transfection Efficiency in Primary Human Splenic Fibroblast Cells”* as a preprint article in *bioRxiv* (<https://doi.org/10.1101/2025.01.19.633792>). This study explores the optimization of transfection efficiency in human splenic fibroblast cells using calcium phosphate as a transfection reagent. The research identified a critical eight-hour window in which transfection efficacy peaked at 95%, while morphological analyses revealed significant cellular stress responses, including vesicle formation and eventual disintegration after 72 hours. These findings contribute to refining transfection methodologies and enhancing the understanding of transfection-induced cellular changes in biomedical applications.

Christian Lange (BIOL) co-authored *“Ebola virus Evolution and Emergence Are Associated with Land Use Change”*, published in *Ecological Monographs* (2024; e1641, <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecm.1641>). The press release for this publication was picked up by *Black Press Media* and featured in various local news outlets. Additionally, Lange discussed the study’s findings in a radio interview on *Sher-E-Punjab AM 600 Radio Vancouver*.

Student Successes

The new **2025 Signature Series student capstone** beers were launched on Jan. 31 at the KPU Brew Lab in Langley, starting with Abundance Table Saison brewed by second-year students Ethan Burge (BREW) and Isaiah Winter-Buist (BREW). A new Series beer being released almost every Friday until Mar. 28. *Link:* <https://www.kpu.ca/science/brew/signature-series>

Physics student Kouji Pan worked for the Japanese company *IZAI* on machine learning-driven text-to-speech and speech-to-text software under founder *Izumi Kyouta*. IZAI has featured his contributions in blog posts, and he continues part-time while studying. Before joining IZAI, he explored AI in his 3rd-year KPU project, applying machine learning to astrophysical data under *Dr. Kianoosh Tahani*. Kouji plans to pursue a tech-sector career after graduating in 2026.



From Nov. 7 - Dec. 5, KPU Brewing students had their beers sold at CAMP Beer Co. as part of the second annual **‘Pioneer Tap Series’** giving students the opportunity to have their beers featured at a well-known brewery. Second-year students whose beer was on tap, included Paul Virtue (BREW); Cole Staughton

Physics student George Tso spent seven months at the *National Research Council's Herzberg Astronomy and Astrophysics Research Centre* in Victoria, initially as a four-month placement extended due to his excellent work. Under Tim Hardy’s supervision, he developed electronics and instrumentation for the *Gemini Infrared Multi-Object Spectrograph*, set to be installed at the *Gemini Observatory* in Hawai’i, and helped assemble a cryostat camera. George graduates in Feb. 2025.



Alumni Stories

On Nov. 15, alumnus **Adam Keil (BREW)**, co-owner of Mountainview Brewing in Hope, was featured in The Hope Standard. Link: <https://www.hopestandard.com/local-news/hopes-mountainview-brewing-co-wins-two-awards-for-their-stouts-7645124>



KPU **Physics for Modern Technology** graduates Michael Hilborn and Ben McClennon are contributing to cutting-edge work at *Advanced Cyclotron Systems Inc. (ACSI)* near KPU's Richmond campus. ACSI is a global leader in cyclotron design and manufacturing, with installations worldwide for medical applications. Recently, ACSI completed the



TR-ALPHA, the only commercial cyclotron designed for large-scale production of Astatine-211 (At-211), a radionuclide used in cancer treatment. Michael works as a **cyclotron operator**, specializing in commissioning, installation, customer support, and R&D. Ben focuses on **assembly, testing, and installation** of the cyclotron's electrical and control systems. Their work exemplifies the impact of KPU's *Physics for Modern Technology* program in advancing science and healthcare.

Programs, Policies & Initiatives

On Feb. 4, Instructor Dominic Bernard (BREW) wrote a letter on behalf of Canadian Brewing

Schools to Beer Canada and the Canadian Craft Brewers Associate to inform the brewing industry about the impact of brewing programs in Canada no longer qualifying for the Post Graduate Work Permits. Both Beer Canada and the Canadian Craft Brewers Association have indicated that they would help with advocacy.

Next Spring, the Mathematics department expects to run a Special Topics course at the 4th year level on Mathematics in Business. They also continue to work on AI Analytics courses. **Daniel Anvari (MATH)** has revamped MATH 1170 to include more AI, and has been working on developing courses in AI for medicine and in the construction industry.

FACULTY OF TRADES AND TECHNOLOGY

Events

Indigenous Trades Sampler

The Faculty of Trades and Technology, in partnership with the Aboriginal Community Career Employment Services Society (ACCESS), held the 2025 Indigenous Trade Sampler on Wednesday, February 12, 2025. Students from Delta, Surrey, West Vancouver, and Langley School Districts took part in the event. This year we focused on Carpentry, Electrical, and Plumbing, while also inviting Horticulture to join us in making this a cross-Faculty initiative. Instructors Terry Williams, Stephen Dockery, Maria Valana, and Jeff Doolan led the seminars. This initiative was a resounding success for all attendees.

Trades and Technology Career Fair

On February 5, 2025 we held KPU's 10th Annual Trades and Technology Career Fair. We worked with KPU Career Services Centre to promote the event to our students, instructors, and alumni.



ACCESS at the Trades and Technology Career Fair

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 and hosted by our faculty members. We held the following information sessions from November, 2024 to February 2025:

October 28, 2024: Millwright/Industrial Mechanics – Bob Davis

October 28, 2024: Metal Trades (Welding and Metal Fabrication) – Kulpreet Sasan

November 7, 2024: Introduction to Trades – Kulpreet Sasan and Brooks Lewis

November 12, 2024: Construction Trades – Kulpreet Sasan and Brooks Lewis

November 14, 2024: Automotive Trades – Mary Wilton and Mark Furlong

January 13, 2025: Farrier Science – Heather O'Brien

February 1, 2025: Learn All About the Trades – Kulpreet Sasan and Brooks Lewis.

SD 42 Trades Showcase Night and Hiring Fair

The Faculty of Trades and Technology was at Thomas Haney Secondary School in Maple Ridge on Thursday January 23, 2025 for Invitation - SD 42 Trades Showcase Night and Hiring Fair. We raised awareness about our Faculty and dual credit programs offered throughout KPU to high school students considering career focused education.

SD 43 Trades Information Night

The Faculty of Trades and Technology was at Heritage Woods Secondary School in Coquitlam on Wednesday, January 29, 2025 for Trades Info Night. We raised awareness about our Faculty and programs to high school students considering careers in the Trades.

Trades Training Partnership Meeting

On January 14, 2025, we held the first Trades Training Partnership meeting of the year. This is a meeting with all of our school district partners. Topics covered included the Youth Train in Trades Orientation evening.

STAFFING

Farewell to Dawn Durant

We said farewell to Apprenticeship Service Officer (ASO) Dawn Durant, who retired as of February 11, 2025. Dawn had been with KPU for 20 years and with the Faculty of Trades and Technology for 5 years.

Faculty Retirements

Four of our faculty members have chosen to leave us this year. We wish them well in their retirement.

- Brian McClinton, Millwright instructor
- Larry Rhodenizer, Automotive instructor
- David Riel, Electrical instructor
- Rob Wakulchik, Electrical instructor

PRESENTATIONS / COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Youth Train in Trades Orientation Evening

The Youth Train in Trades Orientation Evening was held on Tuesday, January 14, 2025. We hosted over 140 high school students on our campus. We introduced them to our faculty members, showcased the facility, and communicated expectations of learners in a University setting. KPU instructors Grant Conversi, Ed Miks, Wayne Andrews, Erick Medina, Mike Rumpeltes, Collin Warren, Rob Hyatt, Rob Hall Thomsen, Mike Lloyd, and Maria Valana welcomed students and parents to our campus and made them feel at home.

3rd Annual 24-Hour Bike-A-Thon for Men's Mental Health

The 3rd Annual 24-Hour Bike-A-Thon for Men's Mental Health took place on our campus on November 21, 2024 and November 22, 2024. We worked with the Major Events team and were able to raise double the funds from last year.

Cloverdale Community Kitchen

On November 27, 2024, the team from the Faculty of Trades and Technology Dean's Office volunteered at the Cloverdale Community Kitchen. This was a great opportunity to team-build while contributing to our local community. We also began collecting food and gifts for the Cloverdale Christmas Hamper program.

Presentation at KPU Counsellor's Conference

The KPU Counsellors Conference was held on Tuesday, October 22, 2024. Counsellors from across the province were at the Surrey campus to learn about our programs. The Faculty of Trades and Technology presented two seminars introducing the trades to high school counsellors.

Workshop: Essential Awareness & Knowledge on Overdose Prevention & Naloxone Training

On October 30, 2024, Dr. Joel Murray, Mackenzie Mirchandani, and Dominic Andreone attended the Naloxone workshop at the Cloverdale Tech Campus on Wednesday. The session covered essential skills, including how to administer naloxone, empowering participants to confidently handle overdose emergencies.

SkilledTradesBC on KPU Tech Campus

We host 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 the trade.

Squamish First Nation Students Collaborate with KPU Instructor on Invictus Games Medal Presentation Boxes

KPU instructor Terry Williams teaches carpentry at the Squamish Nation Nexw7áystwaý Training and Trades Centre (TTC). Recently, the TTC was approached by the Invictus Games to create containers for the medals awarded at the Games. TTC asked Terry Williams to create a special course to create the boxes, the outcome of which was the containers used to house the medals. Each box took over 30 hours to create.

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.

STUDENT SUCCESS

New Carpentry Award

In November, 2024, we were happy to announce the Rossi / Amur Capital Tradesperson Bursary. The Award will be funded by the Amur Group and will support the Carpentry program. There will be 4 awards for \$2000.00 each. These awards are for students in the Apprentice training programs

KSA Welcome Back Week

The KSA Welcome Back Event took place on the KPU Tech campus on January 13, 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 final program level in the trade. Nine students were recipients of the award. The winner of the Dean's Award for a Foundation class will also receive a cheque for \$250.

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, 22 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.

MELVILLE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Events



Careers in Accounting

On November 15, the Accounting Student Association of Kwantlen (ASK), in partnership with the Melville School of Business and the KPU Career



Development Centre hosted the 2024 edition of its Careers in Accounting event.

Led by Accounting Instructor Freddy Mason, this event pulled together a host of industry experts, Certified Public Accountants (CPA) and over 100 Accounting students who were keen to network, learn and draw insights from practicing Accountants who shared their knowledge on the intricacies of the profession. In addition to this, three students from the BBA Accounting program - Maryam Rahman, Muhammad Zain and Revathy Sadanandan emerged winners of \$500 tuition prizes.

NAIT Winter City Case Competition

Melville School of Business was proudly represented at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology's (NAIT) 3rd annual Winter City Case



Competition which took place during the week of February 17 – 21. Led by Melville Instructor Duane Radcliffe, the team of Mary Al-Rifaie (HRMT), Maria Katrina Sungla (HRMT), Olatunwa Oduola (HRMT), Kaenan D'cruz (ENTR) and Angel John (ACCT), who went by the team name "The Blank Group", competed against other teams in a series of live cases to solve real-world problems faced by businesses. They put up an outstanding performance and made it to the finals. Even though they didn't place, the team held their own against teams with experience in one or two prior competitions. Remarkably, this was also the first time these four students had worked together in this team formation. Their case pitch stood out as the only one that truly thought outside the box, delivering an innovative solution. We are especially thrilled that our team got this chance to sharpen their critical thinking through indebt analysis of key business opportunities, proffered strategic insights, and proposed innovative solutions to drive growth and sustainability.

Industry Insider: 16th Edition:

On January 30, Melville School of Business hosted its 16th Industry Insider event. Held in KPU Surrey's Cedar Conference Centre, this informative networking event was graced by students, staff, faculty and alums who had all come to share insights and interact with the panel of seasoned industry experts.

The panelists for this edition include:

- **Pearl Hrabarchuk**, National Supply Chain & Program Manager at Boston Pizza
- **Jamie St. Cyr**, District Manager at Fastenal Canada Ltd.
- **Laurelle Santana**, Director of HR, Administration & Facilities at ESSA Technologies Ltd.
- **Ram Gill**, Founder at PeopleWise Solutions Ltd.
- **Kelly Boxma**, Senior Manager at MNP

The Industry Insider Series is a semesterly event that has now built a reputation for bridging the student-industry gap. It is an avenue for students to connect with experts who have progressed in their careers and can share insights into their path, lessons learned and keys to their success along the way. There was record attendance of approximately 150 students at this event.

Spring Orientation

To welcome Spring term's newly admitted students, the Melville School of Business held a one-day Orientation and Transition event on January 6th at the Civic Campus. This event was led by the team of Student Success Coaches and was tailored primarily to the post-baccalaureate and graduate diploma students at their home campus. The team provided the students with a tour of Civic Plaza and an information guide on the various services provided by the Success Coaches and how these services could be accessed. The event was attended by The Learning Center, Surrey Libraries, Kwantlen Student Association, The Operations and Technology Management Club, The Sustainability Club, The Pinoy Club, and The Accounting Students of Kwantlen Club.

Student Success Socials

The Student Success team was thrilled to host business students at the Student Success Social events on February 6 & 7. These events are part of the initiative to boost student engagement and

provide a buffering effect against mounting academic demands. The events featured collaborative games and team building challenges. The event was successful as it was well attended



by students from various departments around KPU.

Student Pitch Competition

With the sole aim of fostering creativity and innovation in students, the Student Pitch Competition team held its first bootcamp session on February 8. This session was led by Melville faculty Afshin Doustmohammadi and was attended by students from various departments around KPU who were keen to leverage on the available support and mentorship, sharpening up their ideas ahead of the main pitch competition in May. The Student Pitch Competition initiative is spearheaded by faculty Natasha Campbell.

Declaration Day

The Melville Degree Advising team tabled at the semesterly Declaration Day event on January 29. The goal is to have as many students declare into their prospective programs ahead of the deadline for registration. The team collaborated successfully with Arts & Science Degree Advising and SES for this event to increase awareness about what program declaration is, why it is important, and how to do it (using the new app).

Spring Convocation

We are thrilled to have celebrated 900 students from the Melville School of Business who crossed the stage at the February Convocation ceremony. Spread over 4 separate events, the ceremonies were a chance for us to celebrate achievement on varying levels. We take this opportunity on the one hand to celebrate the hard work and achievements of our students as well as recognize the relentless efforts and contributions of our faculty who had played a major role supporting the students.



Melville Business Strategy Internship Program Update

The Melville Business Strategy Internship Program had 118 student applicants for the Spring 2025 cohort. The students were competed for 26 different internship positions from 19 different industry partners.

The MBSI program offers students the opportunity for work-integrated learning, allowing them to apply program-specific knowledge in a real business environment. Additionally, students can benefit from mentorship, access employment opportunities by establishing a personal industry reputation, have faster integration into the Canadian workforce and labour market, enjoy part-time/flexible work hours, and receive a supportive salary.

Student Success

Co-op Awards for Melville students

In February, 11 Business students were recognized for their achievement and exceptional hard at the Co-op Awards ceremony. The Co-op Awards recognize outstanding Co-op students who have

demonstrated exceptional performance, dedication, and contribution in their Co-op roles. It celebrates the achievements of students who have excelled in applying their academic knowledge to real-world work experiences, making significant impacts in their workplaces, and showcasing professional growth.

Co-op Award recipient from Melville School of Business include:

- **Jade Butler**, Computer Information Systems Diploma
- **Ramandeep Kaur**, Bachelor of Technology in Information Technology
- **Harshleen Buttar**, Bachelor of Technology in Information Technology
- **Shiau Lan (Kristin) Huang**, Bachelor of Business Administration in Human Resource Management
- **Megashree Nayak**, Post Baccalaureate in Human Resource Management
- **Miranda Trelor**, Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting
- **Amina Zakkeer**, Post Baccalaureate in Accounting
- **Divjot Chahal**, Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing Management
- **Jin Ha Park**, Post Baccalaureate Diploma in Operations and Supply Chain Management
- **May Myat Jun**, Post Baccalaureate Diploma in Operations and Supply Chain Management
- **Jill Yang**, Public Relations Diploma

Each of these students received a \$1000 Melville School of Business Co-op award based on their contributions, growth, work ethic and ability to overcome challenges in their 2024 co-op work terms.



Another student, Ramneek Kaur, Bachelor of Technology in Information Technology Co-op student received the \$1000 EC Managed IT Co-op Award which aims to support KPU Co-op students, especially females in KPU's Co-op IT programs, and highlight Managed Service Providers as a career choice for IT students.

Also, Luckshetha Vimalasan, Bachelor of Business in Accounting Co-op student received the Bill and Benita Francis Award created to honor the values of hard work and education with preference given to a Co-op student who has overcome academic or personal challenges.

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:

- Feb 06 – Heather Harrison joins Melville as the Dean Pro term.
- Jan 06 – Tiffany Valle Anaya accepted the Academic Advising Coordinator permanent position.
- Jan 10 – Sheri Browning, Academic Advisor, left Melville for an Administrative Coordinator role in a different department within KPU.
- Jan 13 – Paris Robinson, Marketing Coop Student, joins Melville to support the Events team.
- Jan 27 – Vanessa Leal accepted a permanent position as a Student Success Coach.

- Feb 10 – Salma Husain left her former role as an Administrative Assistant to take on an Academic Advising role.
- Dec 20 – Moon Wang, Student Success Coach, moved on to another role in a different faculty within KPU.

Initiatives/Activities

Future Business Leaders

On January 9 & 15, Melville School of Business in collaboration with the Future Students office, hosted dozens of Surrey/Richmond high school students and members of YELL Canada's program for young entrepreneurs at the annual Future Business Leaders Case Competition. The three-hour competition had students work together in groups to come up with sustainable solutions to an existing business or environmental problem. Led by faculty members, Brad Anderson and John Grant, this initiative instills in students the ethics of pitching and the ability to "work with new people and collaborate in a productive way...which is a very powerful skill." In addition to its inherent benefits, there were also prizes to be won and each member of the winning team received a \$250 KPU tuition voucher.

Brad Anderson: Inclusivity and Accessibility Workshops

The Entrepreneurial Leadership (ENTR) program is continuing its collaboration with the development of a UDEC-funded workshop designed to educate local businesses on the benefits of inclusivity and accessibility. As part of this initiative, two students from ENTR (alongside two from EACS) will create and deliver the workshop to local businesses. Their work will be guided by instructor Brad Anderson.

Tiffany Valle Anaya: NACADA Webinars

Academic Advising Coordinator, Tiffany Valle Anaya coordinated a series of professional development opportunities for all academic advisors across KPU. This initiative is intended to provide the advisors access to webinars hosted by the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA). Most advising units are hosting a

session over the next months to allow all advisors an opportunity for group PD.

Advising Webinars

The Degree Advising team launched an online webinar series this Fall. This is in addition to the Career webinars hosted by the Student Success Coaches. Hosted 1-2 times per week, these webinar sessions provide business students with the required support and information regarding planning their degrees and aligning their academic pursuit with their career goals to ensure a smooth transitioning from diploma to degree programs and how to become employable post-graduation. Since its commencement, this initiative continues to experience rising engagement from students with a record number of attendees at each session.

Alym Amlani: Distinguished Teaching Award

Accounting instructor Alym Amlani was recognized with a Distinguished Teaching Award during the Feb 25 convocation ceremony. Alym's approach to teaching is built on one core belief: students learn best when they're engaged. By creating interactive and meaningful learning experiences, he ensures that even complex accounting concepts become accessible and memorable. "This award means so much to me because it reflects the incredible support, mentorship, and encouragement from my colleagues and students. Their belief in me has shaped my growth as an educator, and I'm truly grateful," says Alym.

Community Activities

John Shepherd: North Delta Rotary Club

Accounting Instructor, John Shepherd in his spare time volunteers on the North Delta Rotary Club. In January, the Club collaborated with the North Delta School District to provide 1.5 tons of food per week to the 14 public elementary schools of North Delta for children, identified as food insecure by their teachers, to bring home. The Club has a second pilot project, School Pack, that started this year thanks to a \$25,000 provincial government grant. The goal, if funding can be arranged, is for School

Pack to extended to all 14 elementary and 5 secondary schools in North Delta for parents who are struggling to cover the cost of school supplies and field trip fees.

Shepherd is committed to furthering the cause of the club by continuously applying to grants from government programs and foundation. In his words "Since I took over the Grants Chair role, \$475,000 of my grant applications have been approved for funding, \$135,000 during the past year".

Lori-Ann Gilbert: *Mary Poppins the Broadway Musical*



For a second year in a row this past November/December, our Melville School of Business Deans office team member, Lori-Ann Gilbert, was given the opportunity to enjoy a passion from her past. After auditioning for Theatre in the Country (TIC) she was awarded a dance ensemble role in *Mary Poppins the Broadway Musical*! The show was Directed by Dann Wilhelm & Sam Silver, with music direction by Tamara Croft.

Publications/Scholarly Activity

Rushdi Mah'd Alsaleh: Publication in Applied Sciences Journal.

Business Quantitative Studies Instructor, Rushdi Alsaleh has recently published a peer-reviewed article in the Applied Sciences Journal. The article, titled '*Traffic Collision Severity Modeling Using Multi-Level Multinomial Logistic Regression Model*', investigates the various factors contributing to the severity of traffic collisions, with specific attention given to elements such as the involvement of pedestrians and cyclists, the roles played by motor vehicles, prevailing weather conditions, road characteristics, and geographical contexts.

WILSON SCHOOL OF DESIGN

Events

Inaugural Event - Creative Connections

On November 2, Creative Connections, was launched. This free, collaborative event showcased programs in KPU's Wilson School of Design and the Faculty of Arts to over 500 guests, with a focus on prospective students. The event featured portfolio pit-stops and reviews, info sessions, hands-on workshops led by faculty, campus tours, interactive demos and an opportunity to connect with alumni working in creative industries.



Students, alum, faculty – Creative Connections

Paint Night

On Jan 29, Design students gathered for a fun evening of creativity and relaxation at WSD Paint Night. They followed along a classic Bob Ross video tutorial to create their own take-home landscape painting. The results highlighted our students' talent while, more importantly, fostering wellness and self-care within the group.

Valentine's Day Social

Close to a hundred guests including students, staff and faculty celebrated Valentine's Day with a warm cup of hot cocoa, snacks and making friendship bracelets.

KPU Discovery Day Meets Design On January 23, Graphic Design for Marketing (GDMA) Chair Carley Hodgkinson gave a workshop at KPU Discovery Day on the Richmond campus. Visitors

were invited to sketch wireframes for a fitness mobile app that could track steps and save playlists – they then partnered with 3rd-year GDMA students to build out their ideas using a prototyping software called Figma.

Bruce Mau – Film Screening Design students and faculty were treated to a special film screening of Mau: Design the time of your life. Mau is the first-ever, feature-length documentary about the design visionary Bruce Mau. The film explores his unlikely creative journey and ever-optimistic push to tackle the world's biggest problems with design.

National Portfolio Day On November 16, faculty from the Wilson School of Design participated in the Vancouver National Portfolio Day event, this year held at the Emily Carr University of Art + Design. They met with many prospective students to review their portfolios and provide valuable feedback and support.

Rising Women in Leadership Rising Women in Leadership was an event that is part of a KPU Melville School of Business Student Pitch Competition which aims to engage students in interdisciplinary networking. Held on November 27 and moderated by Foundations in Design Chair, and Melville Business faculty, Natasha Campbell, the event was well-attended and featured an inspiring panel including WSD alumni:

- Sara Jonsdottir, Revol Cares (Fashion & Tech Alum 2016)
- Jade Crabbe, Green Jade Interiors (Interior Design Alum 2020)



Guests at Rising Women in Leadership event

PRESENTATIONS/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

First Indigenous Designer In Residence Recognized with Award

Pam Himikalas Baker, the first Indigenous Designer in Residence at the Wilson School of Design was one of the recipients of the 2024 Sam Carter Award in Applied Art + Design. Presented by the BC Achievement Foundation, the award celebrates functional art that contributes to BC's thriving creative economy. The presentation and exhibition reception were held at the Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre on Nov 22, 2024.

Fostering Innovation in Healthcare Design
3rd-year Interior Design students partnered with CRC Health Centre for an engaging site visit, fostering a meaningful exchange of knowledge and expertise. This collaboration offered students hands-on experience in healthcare design, emphasizing critical elements such as space planning, lighting, materiality, and programming within real-world healthcare environments. By connecting with industry professionals and exploring practical applications, students gained a deeper understanding of how thoughtful design can enhance patient care and overall well-being.

PUBLICATIONS/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Vancouver Fashion Week – Faculty Awards
Foundations in Design Program Chair Natasha Campbell was nominated for an Industry Originator Award in the teacher category at the Vancouver Fashion Week 2024. The award recognizes veterans in the fashion industry who have contributed to advancing the local market.



Natasha Campbell at VFW 2024

Investigating the Future of Fabric
Sherman Jen Research Chair, Stephanie Phillips has been working with design students and UBC research partners on developing a t-shirt made entirely of natural fibres found in BC. This study is made possible by a \$3-million donation from the Dr. Sherman Jen Education Foundation as well as over \$130,000 from the Ministry of Forestry, and is an exploration of how recyclable fabric can be used in the apparel industry. The project was recently featured in the media: [CBC On The Coast](#), [Global News](#), [BIV](#)

INITIATIVES/ACTIVITIES

New Design Website Launched - <https://thisiswilson.design/>

This new platform is a curated digital space where we showcase our programs, our students, our alumni, industry partners, unique projects and more. Watch a quick walk-through of the new website [here](#), narrated by one of our Graphic Design for Marketing students.

ALUMNI STORIES

Grad Wins International Design Award

Cali Martin, a 2024 Graphic Design for Marketing graduate was selected as a winner in the 2024 Pentawards Silver Award category for her rebranding project for Van Westen Estate Vineyards. With more than 2,000 entries from 62 countries, the Pentawards is the leading global platform and community for packaging design.



Cali Martin at Pentawards in London, UK.

Grad Showcases at Vancouver Fashion Week
Lexi Chang, a 2021 grad from the Fashion and Technology program, launched her passion project, HAZI HAUS, in 2024. She was thrilled to be invited to show her work at Vancouver Fashion Week 2024.

Alumni Inspire Next Generation
Through guest speaking and critique presentation, our alumni stay connected to the next generation of designers. Graphic Design for Marketing (GDMA) grads, Zia Somjee & Brett Boivin joined 4th year students to delve into all aspects of practicum experience and entering the industry. GDMA Alum Lisa Taniguchi spoke to the 4th year Graphic Design for Marketing students about career paths and designing your professional life.



Grads Zia Somjee & Brett Boivin w/students

New Alumni Video Series

We are excited to launch a new series of engaging interviews of 6 accomplished alumni. This series is part of an integrated marketing campaign, in collaboration with KPU Marketing, KPU Future Students' Office and the KPU Alumni Team. View the [newest videos here](#).

Professional Industry Certification

Interior Design alum Selmarie Bernard obtained her NCIDQ certification from the Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ).

Grad Wins Industry Design Award

Interior Design alum, Leanne Babcook, and Elly Chronakis of Earls Kitchen + Bar received the IDC

Value of Design Award (VODA) Honourable Mention for Innovation in Hospitality Design for 'Yorkville Earls Restaurant + Bar'.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Wilson School of Design SRIG Recipients

22 Wilson School of Design students awarded the Student Research and Innovation Grant (SRIG) this year. The subjects of their research projects range from zero-waste design in the bridal wear industry, backpack design for university students with sensory processing disorders, to technical apparel for wildlife photographers and conservationists, and more.

Design Student Wins DesCan Scholarship

Rowena Huang, Graphic Design for Marketing fourth year student, was named one of three recipients of the 2024 DesCan Vancouver Jim Rimmer Scholarship Awards. She won the \$1,000 scholarship for her 'Innovate to Educate' project, which consists of a website and a book supporting the UN's International Day of the Girl Child. Huang designed these materials as an educational source for girls' education globally.

Interior Design Student Wins Industry Award

3rd year student Emily McKenzie Djordjeuich received a from Steelcase Furniture Excellence in Design Award for her office-focussed project.

PROGRAM/POLICIES/INITIATIVES

Product Design Partners with Fire & Rescue

Faculty Diego Garcia and Edita Hadravska co-lead the course, Studio : Design for Professional Use. Students had the opportunity to work with the District of North Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services. Rescue crews provide students with crucial pro user insights, opportunities for direct observation, immersive experiences and valuable contextual feedback on the relevance and usability of their design concepts. Working groups were further supported by industry experts from Mustang Survival, directly benefitting from their expertise in materials, pattern-making, and testing & validation of highly specialized, often heavily regulated products. Students gained exposure to real-life needs of pro users as well as

the process and challenges of building products servicing such extreme needs.



Student testing gear with North Shore Fire & Rescue

WSD Info Session Night

On January 28, the Wilson School of Design and Future Students' Office hosted an in-person, on campus information session night for all design programs. Prospective students and parents received in-depth program admission and portfolio tips from faculty, and enjoyed student-led campus tours. Guests valued the presence of current students and alumni, who provided great insights into the KPU design student experience and potential career opportunities.

Graphic Design for Marketing program ranked #2 for Best Design Education 24/25

The Graphic Design for Marketing program has been ranked #2 for Best Design Education in 2024/25 and ranked #6 in Global Design Education by the World Brand Design Society. This recognition puts a spotlight on the outstanding design work of three exceptional graduates of the program; Elias Lemke, Cali Martin and Bella Sanchez.



Front-End Development for Interactive Applications (FDIT) – Building Momentum

The new FDIT program is in full swing, with a range of activities including;

- Student field trip to Amazon to learn from both UX designers and front-end engineers
- Guest speaker on expert prototypes from Ford Digital
- Feb 12, the first advisory committee meeting was held with 16 industry guests
- New promotional program video was produced and launched as part of a comprehensive digital campaign

Designing for Impact: GDMA Students Contribute to Global Palliative Care Handbook

Graphic Design for Marketing (GDMA) faculty John Belisle has been working with non-profit Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration for close to 20 years. Two Worlds works to reduce the burden of cancer and other life-limiting illnesses in resource-constrained countries to provide education and mentorship for healthcare providers. Last semester John and his Editorial Design class worked to design a cover and illustration for a global palliative care handbook, specifically to help care providers with a resource for children's palliative care. It was a great opportunity for GDMA students to gain practical experience by working on a real project with real-world implications. Student Sarah Nelson's cover was selected and will be seen globally by health care providers.



Students Sarah Nelson & Aman Salimpuri

Midday Mentorship - Lunch & Learn Series

Students benefit from numerous opportunities, such as Lunch & Learn talks, to learn from peers, alumni and industry leaders. Sessions included:

- Alanna Munro (independent typeface designer) discussed typography and type design and walked students through her process toward designing and publishing a new typeface
- Perry Boeker (Director, Red Rocket Creative) talked about professionalism in the industry, and growing a design career after graduation
- Foundations in Design Chair Natasha Campbell hosted a deep dive into LinkedIn, and students were able to have their professional headshots taken



Graphic Design students w/alum, Lisa Taniguchi

Industry Guests & Site Visits

Guest Speakers

- Lighting Educator & Consultant Sebastien Panouille visited fourth-year Interior Design Honours Studio class to highlight the crucial role of Lighting Designers in a project. He also provided personalized critiques, offering valuable insights into students' lighting designs and strategies.

- Mona Lemoine – Dialog- Sustainable Design Presentation
- Kirsten Reite – Architect – Healthcare
- Chelsea Leonard – Director Healthcare COI Furniture

Site Visits

- Parks Residences – Multi Unit Residential Presentation Centre
- Quarterhorse Solutions
- Hemlock Printers
- Mitchell Printers
- Vancouver Art Gallery
- Inform Interiors
- B&B Italia

Brazilian Students Explore Satirical Design in Interactive Workshop

On January 13, Graphic Design for Marketing Chair Carley Hodgkinson led an interactive activity for 40 visiting Brazilian high school students to the Wilson School of Design. Students were introduced to the idea of writing satirical copy paired with funny photos to poke fun at a trend or political movement. Working in teams of four, the students competed for the best headline based on the most enthusiastic applause. Swag prizes were very well received!



Visiting students from Brazil after workshop

OFFICE OF THE AVP, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

KPU Faculty Connect - "Speed Networking with Leadership"

Dr. Deepak Gupta participated as a leadership representative at the Speed Networking with Leadership session during the KPU Faculty Connect event on February 20, 2025, at KPU Richmond. This session provided faculty members with an opportunity to engage with KPU leadership in a relaxed, informal setting. Discussions covered a range of topics, including the key factors needed for faculty members to succeed in research at KPU.

Highlighting KPU's Agri-Food and Agri-Tech Innovations at The Langley City Council Meeting

On Monday, February 24th, along with other KPU colleagues, Dr. Gupta was invited to speak at a Committee of the Whole meeting of the Langley City Council. They are currently implementing a new Economic Development Strategy, inclusive of a proposed Innovation District focused on Food-Tech. and the presentation's purpose was to inform Mayor, Council, and staff on KPU's Agri-Food and Food-Tech contributions and activities. This was a good opportunity to demonstrate KPU's synergistic applied research presence in Langley and elsewhere, and the positive impact of our innovation in this sector.

OFFICE OF RESEARCH SERVICES

Funding Announcement – NSERC Lab to Market Grant

KPU has participated in a successful NSERC Lab to Market Grant application as a co-applicant. Lab to Market grants support post-secondary institutions and their affiliates, colleges, and college centres dedicated to developing and delivering entrepreneurial skills training. This successful application, *Lab2Market*™, is led by Dalhousie University and co-led by Simon Fraser University and the University of British Columbia, and has been awarded more than \$32 million over the next five years. *Lab2Market*™ is a national network for

innovation, commercialization, and entrepreneurship skills training of students and researchers, providing them with the essential tools, resources, and knowledge to transform academic research and innovative ideas into market opportunities and impact. These immersive, experiential, and nationally standardized training programs develop the mindset, skills, and competencies of students and researchers who go on to transform research-based ideas into innovative solutions and impact, create and grow research-based start-ups, and thrive in industry or other non-academic careers. As a co-applicant, KPU members will have access to the training programs offered by *Lab2Market*™. Amit and Keith will actively participate in regular meetings, and identify individuals with sector-specific expertise to provide strategic support when needed.

Responsible Conduct of Research Webinar

The Office of Research Services hosted a webinar on "Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)," attracting over 150 registrants from KPU and beyond. Dr. Grace Kelly, senior advisor for the Secretariat on Responsible Conduct of Research, delivered an insightful presentation on ethical standards and compliance in research, focusing on [the Tri-Agency Framework: RCR](#). Participants learned about the fundamentals of RCR, researchers' responsibilities, and practical strategies for maintaining integrity in research.

ORS Welcomes a New Research Ethics Board Coordinator and Research Communications and Events Coordinator

ORS welcomed two new team members on December 2, 2024.

Damaris Muganda joined as the new REB Coordinator. With over 10 years of experience in research coordination, she holds a master's degree in public health and specializes in research ethics. Damaris has assisted students and staff with ethics applications and acted as a liaison with national ethics authorities.

Marina Miller joined as the new Research Communications and Events Coordinator. A Burnaby native and SFU Environment graduate, she brings three years of experience in Communications and Marketing from a tech startup, including two years in London. Marina is eager to deliver creative communications and collaborate across teams.

2025 Canadian Association of Research Administrators Western Conference in Whitehorse

The Canadian Association of Research Administrators held their annual Western conference in Whitehorse, Yukon, from November 20 to 22, 2024. Catherine Parlee from the ORS and Shannon Rego from AGC attended the conference, along with approximately 50 other delegates and 20 presenters from across Canada. Notable sessions included ways to engage faculty to do research, novel approaches to building research capacity, and using knowledge translation strategies to develop research partnerships with Indigenous communities, to name a few. Particularly inspiring was a panel session of Indigenous academics who discussed 'Offsite Calls to Action: Indigenizing Research Administration in the Yukon and across Turtle Island'. Sharyn Farlinger and Sébastien Denizé from CFI also hosted a session which highlighted grant opportunities, plus a question-and-answer segment for their 2025 Innovation Fund competition.

Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) For Research Security Course

Taranum Sultana attended a one-day course organized by UBC in collaboration with Decision Space on Open-source intelligence (OSINT) for research security on November 6, 2024. The goal of the course was to teach practical skills and proven methodologies for using OSINT to conduct research security-related organizational due diligence and person-focused investigations.

SRIG Podcast

In January 2025, ORS launched both internal and external communications for [the SRIG Podcasts program](#), highlighting an episode moderated by Dr. Diane Purvey. The SRIG podcast program aims to provide insights into the research objectives, progress, and outcomes of SRIG projects. It is aimed at both internal and external audiences: To the KPU community, generate awareness for student research projects, encouraging future scholarship. And to external audiences, highlight KPU's diverse research activities and capabilities, helping secure new partnerships and boost our reputation for research.

Internal Review Process for NSERC College and Community Social Innovation Fund (CCSIF) Competition 2025

This year marked the introduction of our first internal review process for the NSERC [CCSIF grants](#), in response to the increased interest observed last year. The CCSIF grants support multidisciplinary research and collaboration on projects with community partner organizations. The funding aims to facilitate collaborative and innovative research across the social sciences, humanities, health sciences, natural sciences and engineering research fields. Here are some details about CCSIF:

- Value: Up to \$120,000 per year
- Duration: 1 – 3 years
- KPU Quota: 5 applications

Given that the program limits the number of applications per institution, we implemented the internal review process to select the 5 strongest applications that KPU submitted to maximize our chances of success.

In November 2024, we invited interested researchers to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI). We received 22 EOIs, and those applicants were subsequently invited to submit an internal application. By the internal deadline on January 3, 2025, we received 10 applications, which were reviewed by an internal review committee consisting of Associate Deans. Following this

review, 5 applications were selected to move forward.

This first internal review process provided the ORS and reviewers with a valuable learning opportunity and will be beneficial for future internal reviews. The selected applicants proceeded to submit their final applications on February 26, 2025.

AURP Spring Training 2025

Dr. Amit Shukla was listed among the attendees for the Association of University Research Parks (AURP)'s annual Spring Training from February 24 to February 27, 2025, at the Omni Tempe Hotel at Arizona State University. This year's theme, "NEW BEGINNINGS: Voices of Impact," focused on interactive sessions covering critical topics and current challenges in the industry. Participants had the opportunity to engage with experts and peers, facilitating a dynamic exchange of knowledge.

N2 Canada Conference 2025

Dr. Taranum Sultana attended the virtual Network of Networks Canada (N2 Canada) Conference titled "N2 Conference 2025: The Next Chapter in Clinical Research: Tomorrow Starts Today" on February 11 and 12, 2025. The conference emphasized the importance of evolving clinical research paradigms and provided insight into ethics, AI, and clinical trial modernization. Topics included fostering inclusive research with Indigenous Peoples through relational approaches, enhancing Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion within clinical trials, and addressing the enduring impacts of COVID-19 on the field.

RESEARCH ETHICS BOARD

REB Appointments

REB is pleased to welcome two new members in January 2025. Their expertise and insights will be invaluable in reviewing applications and supporting the continued growth of the REB. We look forward to their contributions and collaboration in ensuring ethical and high-quality research.

- [Paula Hirschmann](#) is a faculty member in the Faculty of Arts, department of Criminology.
- [Melissa Cuthill](#) is the Data Librarian at the KPU.

ANIMAL CARE COMMITTEE

November ACC Site Visit

KPU has made significant progress toward achieving Good Animal Practice (GAP) certification and recently completed the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) inspection, submitting their application to the CCAC committee in October 2024. Following this, the KPU Animal Care Committee (ACC) conducted their annual in-person site visit in November 2024. During this visit, any outstanding action items were addressed, and feedback was provided to ensure continued compliance with GAP certification requirements for the fish facility at the Surrey Campus and the Farrier program at the Cloverdale Campus.

Monthly PAM Visits

Additionally, monthly Post-Approval Monitoring (PAM) visits with the facility staff manager and the Animal Care Coordinator have been initiated and are ongoing to ensure adherence to GAP certification standards.

Bi-Annual ACC Meeting

In December 2024, the ACC held its bi-annual meeting, during which three current protocols were renewed, and a new amendment to the Zebra Fish protocol for 2025 was discussed and approved. The committee also reviewed notes from the site visit, veterinary reports, and new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), all of which were approved.

APPLIED GENOMICS CENTRE

Events

On November 13, 2024, Sarah Watts-Rynard, Chief Executive Officer, and Vincent Custode, Director of Policy, of Polytechnic Canada visited KPU and had a tour of the AGC.

Staffing Updates

On November 4, 2024, the AGC welcomed two new student research assistants: Renzil Estrella, a second-year student in KPU's Bachelor of Science in Health Science program, and Taran Reed, a second-year student in KPU's Bachelor of Horticulture Science program.

On November 25, 2024, the AGC welcomed Hadi Shaikh to the newly created Media and Outreach Student Assistant position. Hadi is a first-year student of KPU's Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in Marketing Management program.

On January 2, 2025, two of our international student employees extended their contracts: Eileen Faith Biswayan moved from her co-op placement into a casual service contract position, and Kevin Saulog was awarded a Student Research Assistant co-op placement.

On February 3, 2025, the AGC rehired RJ Wester for a short-term contract as a Scientific Writer until March 31, 2025. RJ completed the Bachelor of Health Science program at KPU and previously worked at the AGC as a research assistant while completing a Master's program at TRU.

Presentations/Community Activities

- On November 22, 2024, Dr. Paul Adams gave a presentation and participated in the panel discussion and Q&A session at Cultivating the Future event hosted by the BC Centre for Agritech Innovation (BCCAI) held at the SFU Harbour Centre. He provided information about how the Applied Genomics Centre at KPU collaborates with industry partners to create innovative genomic strategies for the agriculture industry in BC and research training opportunities for its students.
- On November 26, 2024, Biology faculty member Dr. Mathias Schuetz, KPU Brewing students Xibing (Simon) Bai and Lucy Chang gave a presentation at the Master Brewers Association (MBAA)

Western Canada regional meeting at Red Truck Brewing in Vancouver.

- On November 30, 2024, AGC casual and student research employees attended the Kwantlen Science Challenge at KPU's Richmond campus. Taylor Chin, Tamryn Kennedy, and Erick Samera presented posters.
- On December 10, 2024, Dr. Paul Adams gave a presentation for the Third Age Learning at Kwantlen group, explaining how genetic technology has evolved over the past few decades and how KPU's AGC leverages genetic tools to support BC agriculture.
- On December 19, 2024, Dr. Paul Adams, Abhinaya Venkatesan, KPU employees from the ORS and the Wilson School of Design visited BC Cancer Surrey to give presentations. The discussions included KPU's various areas of expertise and ideas for how KPU could help oncologists with some of their smaller research projects.
- To raise awareness of KPU's applied research and the AGC's current activities and future plans for developing tools to support agricultural innovation and sustainability, Dr. Paul Adams and Abhinaya Venkatesan met with potential industry partners in late January 2025, including:
 - Escarpment Labs
 - ClearView Horticultural Products
 - Segra International
 - ONES Non-alcoholic wines
 - Nurture Growth Bio
 -
- From January 23 to 25, 2025, seven AGC employees participated in the Pacific Agriculture Show at the Tradex in Abbotsford. They set up the booth to promote the research taking place at the AGC and KPU's agriculture and horticulture programs.

Funding Advancement

Following the submission of the Letter of Intent (LOI) in August 2024, Dr. Paul Adams is now developing the final proposal for the Technology Access Centres grant, requesting funding of \$350,000 annually for five years.

Publications/Scholarly Activity

- On November 20, 2024, an article titled “*A structural analysis of the splice-specific functional impact of the pathogenic familial hemiplegic migraine type 1 S218L mutation on Cav2.1 P/Q-type channel gating*” was published in the Springer Nature open-access, peer-reviewed journal *Molecular Brain*. AGC employees Erick Samera, RJ Wester, and Dr. Paul Adams are the authors of this publication. You can read the full article on [the publisher's website](#).
- With funding received in 2023 from Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Province of B.C. through the British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund, the AGC developed a more reliable and practical diagnostic test for a key bacterial pathogen affecting salmon. In collaboration with the Animal Health Centre at the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the AGC sequenced and analyzed bacterial genomes to create a highly specific qPCR test. To support further research, the genome sequences have been made publicly available on NCBI's database. This new test enables rapid and reliable diagnosis, enhancing salmon health and conservation efforts.

Other News – Dream It Be It - Girls Conference 2025

On February 8, 2025, AGC employees took part in the Dream It Be It - Girls Conference 2025, which took place in the Spruce Atrium at the Surrey KPU campus. At this event, youth aged 15 - 19 learned about the resources, educational opportunities, and volunteer experiences available to them in our communities.

INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Events

- Naomi Robert and Micheal Robinson organized a site visit to Golden Maple Farm, Salt Spring Island to meet with farmers and plan dry farming research trials for 2025 on January 6, 2025.
- Naomi Robert and Micheal Robinson visited Golden Maple Farm on Salt Spring Island, on January 6, 2025, to meet with local farmers and plan for dry farming research trials.
- Micheal Robinson presented at a career night event and hosted a seed-saving workshop alongside the launch of the seed library for the Xwisten community on January 14, 2025.

Staffing Updates

- On December 21, 2024, Meredith Papatsie was promoted to the Research and Extension assistant position to assist in farm school and indigenous outreach activities.
- On January 2, 2025, Maayan Kreitzman was rehired as the Research and Extension Associate, Organic Regenerative Agriculture, to assist in the Food Supply Chain project.
- On January 13, 2025, Griffy Vigneron was rehired as the Research and Extension Associate – GIS Analyst to assist in the Food Supply Chain project.
- Talia Parfeniuk and Ariel Vigil Aleman have joined as part-time Research Assistants, with Talia starting on February 3, 2025, and Ariel on February 18, 2025.
- On February 24, 2025, Clifford Capezzuto joined ISFS as the Extension Assistant at the Sik-E-Dakh Farm School.

Presentations and Community Activities

- Naomi Robert was interviewed on [Mornings with Simi](#), CBC Global News Radio, 980 CKNW, on Jan 29, 2025 to share about the Dry Farming project. ([Apple Podcasts link](#))

- Naomi Robert's dry farming project was featured on the KPU employee portal: [Farming with drought? How KPU researchers are helping farmers go 'dry'](#). She was also interviewed by other media platforms. Interview articles can be found on [Small Farm Canada](#), [Farms.com](#), and [Link Newspaper](#).
- Dr. Kent Mullinix was interviewed on *Shuswap Food Conversations* with Warren Bell on [The Voice of the Shuswap](#), CKVS - 93.7, episode #118 on Jan 24 (available on [Apple Podcasts](#)).
- Naomi Robert was interviewed on *Shuswap Food Conversations* with Warren Bell on [The Voice of the Shuswap](#), CKVS - 93.7, episode #119 on Jan 31 (available on [Apple Podcasts](#)).

Funding Advancements

- Naomi Robert received funding of \$10,000 from the LUSH Valley Food Action Society and the Village of Cumberland for a small project in local food procurement and emergency food planning.
- Micheal Robinson, ISFS extension associate, received funding of \$10,788 from Bridge River Indian Band (Xwísten) for a small project on community farm site assessment.
- ISFS has received \$18,000 in funding from SaliEarth Environmental Inc., a BC-based company dedicated to showcasing the value of salicornia (or sea asparagus) in the Canadian market. This funding will support market analysis, identify marketing strategies for environmental cleanup in Canada, and facilitate the development of new salicornia-based products using raw or processed salicornia materials as part of the project titled "SaliEarth Market Analysis," running from January to July 2025.
- Mitacs Business Strategy Internship awarded \$30,000 to ISFS for hiring two

interns to support the SaliEarth Market Analysis project from January to July 2025.

- ISFS received \$201,692.06 from the Sik-E-Dakh (Glen Vowell Band) for providing agriculture training and consultation services to the band members in 2025.

Initiatives

ISFS has entered into a collaboration with SFU under the SSHRC Partnership Grant proposal for a project titled "Planting the Seed: Food Literacy for an Equitable and Climate Resilient Food System." The expression of interest for the Stage 1 proposal has been submitted, and more details will be released in June 2025.

Other Updates

ISFS created two videos promoting the Richmond Farm School program: [video 1](#) and [video 2](#).

INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE HORTICULTURE

Staffing Updates

ISH welcomed Dr. Sarah Murria as a Post-Doctoral Fellow in December to work with Dr. Li Ma on a three-year NSERC ARD + MITACS project with Sollum Technologies entitled "Optimization of Greenhouse Strawberry Production and Disease and Pest Management with Dynamic LED Lighting".

Initiatives

ISH and KPU are co-lead applicants for a CFI Innovation Stream 1 grant, with Toronto Metropolitan University with two other university partners; University of Ottawa and University of Windsor, numerous industry and other institutional collaborators in a proposal entitled: "Advancing Agri-Innovations within a Networked Research Ecosystem for Fostering Innovation and Sustainability in Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA)" with an estimated total value of \$10M in infrastructure across the four institutions. If successful, the infrastructure at KPU would be an expansion of the ISH research greenhouse on the Langley campus to incorporate a cool-crop compartment with high tech features and climate and nutrient automation, two small self-contained vertical farm units and novel equipment to direct

air capture CO₂ for use in the growing infrastructure. Besides supporting our industry partners with state-of-the-art CEA facilities for research, it will provide opportunities for Horticulture students to experience the newest technologies in CEA production. With or without this grant, ISH is involved in establishing a national CEA research network to better coordinate research efforts and respond to industry priorities.

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 Cohosted with our colleagues from BC Campus – the Digital Pedagogy Lab. This event was attended by educators from across the province and beyond.

TL Commons hosted a table at the Faculty Connect Event at KPU Richmond on February 20th as well as creating the template for the opportunity guide used at the event.

In an effort to spark dialogue and critical discourse, the TL commons is hosting the voices of KPU faculty sharing their disciplinary perspectives and practical applications of Generative AI. 3 webinars have been offered, with more to come:

- November 29, 2024 Serena Neumerschitsky - [Empowering Faculty: Creating Your Own AI Assistant for Teaching and Research](#)
- January 22 2025, [Rebecca Yoshizawa, How and Why ChatGPT Apologized to Me: Automation, Fabrication, and AI in Education and Research](#)
- February 21, 2025: Prompting Creativity with Generative AI – Generative AI: Faculty Perspectives Webinar

Updates

TL Commons has released its February 2025 Newsletter. View it [HERE](#)

As we await 2025 enrolment numbers and their impact on department budgets the TLIF and OER Grant submission cycles will not be occurring as scheduled. Targeted funding may be available for specific initiatives at a later date.

The Teaching & Learning Commons will be Repurposing innovation funds to enhance our ability to support targeted OER creation as a strategy to support KPU reputation enhancement and enrolment efforts.

Publications/Scholarly Activities

On Thursday Dec 12, Amanda Grey spoke at an Open Education Network Community Conversation on Maintaining Momentum with Faculty. View [panel video recording](#).

KPU had a strong presence at OE Global 2024 in Australia (Nov 13-15). All presentation slides will be available on KORA.

- Amanda Grey and Dr. Nishan Perera presented “Mapping the KPU Open Education Landscape” about our current research study, and “ZTC Degree Mapping: Unraveling the Credential Maze” about our newly created (for internal use only) ZTC data dashboard.
- Amanda Grey, Dr Nishan Perera, and Karen Meijer presented “Riding the Waves of Open Education”, the history of Open Education at KPU.
- Amanda Grey and Karen Meijer presented “A Look Under the Hood: The Nuts and Bolts of KPU’s ZTC Initiative” about how ZTC works at KPU and our partners across the institution, and “Workflow Optimization for Inclusive OERs” about how we have included accessibility in all stages of OER publication.
- Dr. Leeann Waddington and Lisa Gedak had a chapter published in Case studies in Blended Learning in Higher Education. *Growing from experience: Appreciative inquiry- based faculty development to support blended learning*. They subsequently presented a reflective practice workshop at the Hawaii International Conference on Education.

Initiatives/Activities

Learning Technologies

Kaltura has now shifted smoothly from the US to the Canadian cloud. The functionality testing is complete, and we have had no issues so far.

The Learning Technology team has pushed forward with a production environment for Simple Syllabus,

and live testing with pilot faculty is now underway. Feedback and fine-tuning are expected within the coming weeks as we prepare to release Simple Syllabus to a wider audience for Summer 2025.

Open Education

OPUS has launched their revised [OPUS Publishing Workflow](#), streamlining the publication process and identifying the supports and services that we offer at every stage

Newly published OERs include:

- [Making Sense of a Global Pandemic – Relationship Violence & Working Together Towards a Violence Free Society \(2nd Edition\)](#) edited by: Balbir Gurm and Jennifer Marchbank. This book provides a critical understanding of relationship violence. It is used at KPU in the BSN program, at Douglas College in Early Childhood program, Gender and Sexuality Studies at SFU and Criminology at KPU and SFU. It has chapters on the NEVR Model used for collaboration, on violence against all genders, in the workplace, in post-secondary institutions and a chapter on burnout.

KPU is expanding its ZTC Initiative to include materials that have Low Textbook Costs (LTC). A low-cost designation allows for instructors to assign materials that may be necessary for their course while remaining mindful of high costs and making decisions to keep total course costs under a certain threshold.

Open Ed curriculum mapping project – analysis of KPU courses with OER was completed to determine which would be most beneficial in increasing the number of ZTC programs at KPU.

LIBRARY

Presentations / Community Activities

LibLearnX

Librarians Cleire Lauron and Kelsey Chaban presented at the American Library Association's LibLearnX in Phoenix, Arizona in January with a session titled, *Reimagining Library Space and Classification: the ḫwəḫwéyəm Indigenous Collection at KPU Library*. They also spoke about the decolonization initiatives at KPU Library. Chaban also presented on accessibility at KPU Library, with her presentation, *Let's talk Accessibility: Five Ideas to Support Equitable Library Service and Practice*.

Open Education Global Conference 2024

In November, Librarian Karen Meijer and Amanda Grey and Nishan Perera from the Teaching and Learning Commons presented at the Open Education Global conference in Brisbane, Australia. This is the largest conference devoted exclusively to open education, attracting participants from over 30 countries. The conference is the main venue for Open Education practitioners, policy builders, advocates, researchers, students, and decision-makers to share practices, network, and initiate collaborations.

Following the conference theme "Open is Everyone's Business," Karen, Amanda, and Nishan gave five presentations in total:

- Mapping the KPU Open Education Landscape (Nishan and Amanda)
- ZTC Credential Mapping Pathways: Unraveling the Credential Maze (Nishan and Amanda)
- Riding the Waves of Open Education: KPU's Open Ed Journey (Nishan, Amanda, and Karen)
- Workflow Optimization for Inclusive OERs (Amanda and Karen)
- A Look under the Hood: the Nuts-and-Bolts of a Zero Textbook Cost initiative (Amanda and Karen)

Initiatives / Activities

Increasing Accessibility and Inclusion at KPU Library



KPU Library launched our [Braille Printer Service](#) at the end of January. The purpose of this service is to provide access and equity in printing for library users who wish to print documents in Braille. Like our other printers on campus, this embosser supports printing within Canadian copyright fair dealing guidelines and personal documents. This service increases inclusion at KPU Library and is another way we are supporting KPU's Accessibility Plan.

The creation and implementation of this service was coordinated by Kelsey Chaban, Interim Indigenous and EDIA Liaison Librarian, and has involved all levels of library staff and working closely with KPU IT. The successful launch of the Braille printer can be attributed to the contributions of everyone involved. There has been media interest over the launch, including from CBC, Global News, Surrey Now-Leader, and Fairchild TV.

The library also recently introduced a new option in our [LinkScanOpen](#) service: KPU Library now provides scans with increased accessibility by request. An 'accessible PDF' at KPU Library has been scanned using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology and has been reviewed and

edited to ensure basic document tags (headings, titles), reading order, and alternate text have been applied. Previous to this offering, scans provided with this service were not reviewed or edited.

New Research Help Sign



Langley Library's recently renovated Research Help Desk now has a bright new "Ask Us" wall decal. The decal serves to encourage library users to ask questions to library staff and librarians. At all KPU Library locations, research help is available. Librarians can help users explore their research topic, search and evaluate sources, and recommend resources.

Research Help and Research Appointments

KPU Librarians answered 1,062 walk-in questions at the Research Help Desk over the Fall Semester. Most questions came from students and the remaining came from faculty, alumni, staff, and community borrowers. There were also 73 one-on-one research appointments with Librarians. After having a research appointment with Librarian Mirela Djokic, students had the following to say:

"I really had a great and knowledgeable meeting with Mirela, as she asked me about the selection of my topic, later on she helped me with the type of essay like I should go for literature part or the fiction part. It is proved helpful for me because while searching the article on the University library

website, I got easy access on the exact type of article which I was looking for"

"I want to start by saying I've never used the library search engine before and for Mirela to teach me step by step on how it works and how easy it is to navigate was very helpful! She even sent me links during our talk after finding some articles for me that were relative to my essay. She showed me the buttons on the side that can narrow down the search even more, and also told me how to identify a solid peer review article by pinpointing a few things."

Appointments with liaison librarians can be booked from our [Contact your Librarian](#) page.

Our online chat reference service, AskAway, was used 1,183 times in the Fall Semester. AskAway connects users to real librarians for research help through a chat box.

Finally, Library FAQs were viewed 1,284 times during fall. Some of the most viewed questions included: How can I find peer reviewed articles? How do I get a KPU card? How do I know what textbooks are required for my course? How can I check if these sources actually exist?

KPU Library looks forward to answering many more questions in the semesters to come.

Library Instruction

KPU Librarians taught 132 instructional sessions in the Fall 2024 Semester. These sessions covered basic or subject specific research strategies, including how to effectively search for information, evaluate resources, cite information, and how to create research questions.

Tree of Cans

In December, KPU Library collected non-perishable donations for our Holiday Tree of Cans at our Cloverdale Library. All donations benefitted the Surrey Food Bank. Thank you to everyone who donated!



Initiatives

Library Research Tutorial

The KPU Library Research Tutorial was completed by 309 students in Fall 2024. Launching at the end of last summer, the tutorial is designed to cover essential library research strategies. Content includes tips and guidance on developing and searching research questions, searching in Summon and in databases, and evaluating and understanding different types of sources. The tutorial is self-enrolled and badged in Moodle and consists of five core-modules. Instructors can assign the tutorial as a badged option or embed the modules into their courses. After completing the tutorial, feedback from students included:

"This tutorial is great in helping students find good sources for their assignments."

"The tutorial was very insightful and it enhanced my knowledge greatly."

Events

Climate+ Book Club Challenge

In November, KPU Library hosted Climate+ Challenge Book Club. This fall's pick was *The Right to Be Cold: One Woman's Story of Protecting her Culture, the Arctic, and the Whole Planet* by Inuk activist, Sheila Watt-Cloutier. The discussion was led by KPU Indigenous Studies Chair, Allison Hotti.

End of Semester Events

To support students in navigating their busy exam time studying, KPU Library hosted events to connect students to academic resources and

stress relief activities. This included the 4th edition of *Long Night Against Procrastination*. This time, around 200 students attended the event at Surrey Library for stress relief activities, tea and coffee, therapy dogs, and support from librarians and campus partners such as Sports and Recreation, Academic Integrity, and the Learning Centre.



At Langley and Richmond Libraries, KPU Library hosted *Warm Up and Wind Down* at the end of November. This event encouraged students to drop by, enjoy a free hot drink, make a bracelet, and pet therapy dogs from St. John Ambulance. KPU Librarians were available for research and citation help at both of these events.

Finally, KPU Library's BreakAway tables provided students with puzzles, games, and Lego to use while taking a break from schoolwork in the library. The BreakAway tables are put out around the end of every semester as a way to let students relax in a welcoming library space.

Staffing

Staffing

Leslie Jenneson and Danay Robinson are the successful candidates for the Library Resource Technician positions. Leslie and Danay will replace longtime cornerstone KPU Library employees Ruth Mullane and Debbie Smith as they prepare to retire at the end of May. Welcome Danay, and welcome back Leslie!

Other KPU Library openings have been filled by Alex Knopp, as the Interim Collections Maintenance Technician and Emma Wills as the Interim Cataloguing & Metadata Technician. Cataloguing & Metadata Technician Brigitte Liang is on maternity leave, recently welcoming a beautiful baby. Congratulations Brigitte!

KPU Library has a new Student Ambassador, Harmanjot Kaur. Harman, a current student at KPU, will help KPU Library promote services to students through assisting at campus events and creating content for social media and webpages. Welcome Harman!

Van Nguyen has been hired as the Student Assistant at Surrey Library. Welcome Van!

Finally, Langley Campus Library Supervisor Tammy Paton has been selected to join KPU's Accessibility Consultation Committee (ACC).

vehicles, prevailing weather conditions, road characteristics, and geographical contexts.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Organizational Development

Employee Engagement

To foster connection and wellbeing across the university, ongoing Campus Engagement events are being held monthly at various campuses. These events offer an opportunity for colleagues to come together and strengthen community ties through a variety of engaging activities.

The recruitment process for the new Employee Engagement Committee (EEC) began in November and the final selection of seven committee members was completed in February. This diverse group has been chosen to represent various departments and perspectives, ensuring a well-rounded approach to enhancing employee engagement across the University. Each member brings unique insights and expertise.

In an effort to enhance faculty wellbeing and engagement, HR partnered with the President's Office to launch a new event for faculty members called *Faculty Connect*. The theme was Discovery, Community and Wellbeing. The event was a huge success and over 250 faculty members attended for a day of connection, learning and self-care.

Programs

The launch of *Elevate: KPU's Leadership Foundations* program was announced in October. This leader enablement initiative is specifically designed for new leaders, aiming to provide the training and tools needed for success in people leadership roles at KPU. Monthly sessions have been held regularly since the program's inception.

Employee Workshops

Human Resources offered several professional and self-development workshops and webinars to KPU employees during this reporting period which included: Taleo Hiring Manager/Recruitment Support Training, Effective Feedback and Evaluation Techniques, Essential Awareness & Knowledge on Overdose Prevention and Naloxone, True Colors, Healthy Eating, Diabetes, and Blood Sugar

Management, Hiring Best Practices, Understand Calibration in Performance Management, Debt Freedom, Cultivating Calm: Mindfulness, Stress, and You, Improving Workplace Communication, Influencing Without Authority, Generative AI, Authentic Communication, How the Drama Triangle Supports a Productive Mindset, Being Strategic, and Mental Health First Aid.

The team also facilitated a variety of needs-based sessions for various departments/areas at KPU.

People Services

Compensation

The Compensation Team, along with other key parties, completed and submitted KPU's first ever Pay Transparency Report (available by clicking this link: [Pay Transparency Report](#)) as required by the Government of British Columbia as part of the Pay Transparency Act introduced in 2023.

Health and Benefits

The first of two phases of the Employee Health and Wellness Strategy has launched with the creation of new SharePoint pages dedicated to Employee Wellness, Employee Supports and Resources and Relationship Violence. These initiatives provide KPU with a venue to showcase the various supports, offerings and resources that KPU has available for employees.

The revision of HR18 Job Accommodation for Employees Policy and Procedure was approved by the University Executive on December 18, 2024, and become effective on January 1, 2025, after extensive consultation and multiple amendments.

Human Resources Information Systems

The HRIS team created a new Admin Third Party employee class to track third-party hires from agencies who need access to Banner or FAST, improving reporting and access control capabilities.

People Relations

Talent Acquisition Team

Senior Searches Underway:

- Director, Internal Audit
- President and Vice Chancellor

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

- Admin – 11
- BCGEU – 34
- Faculty – 32

Risk and Security

Emergency Planning

KPU participated in the Great British Columbia ShakeOut which involved conducting a university-wide earthquake drill to test the Emergency Notification System and reinforce Drop, Cover, and Hold On procedures. Emergency Planning also facilitated a fire drill with horses at the Farrier Barn (Tech Campus) to meet Animal Care Committee certification requirements. Awareness efforts continued through presentations to the Academic Council and Student Affairs.

A new evacuation procedure has been introduced, outlining key responsibilities for all employees. This update reflects the challenges of a hybrid work environment, where campus presence varies daily. To support this transition, the Emergency Procedure online course was updated and now includes a detailed section on employee roles and responsibilities.

Additionally, designated Refuge Zones have been established in stairwells for individuals requiring evacuation assistance. These areas are clearly marked with signage indicating their exact location and emergency contact information.

Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S)

The OHS Team continues to support the University's commitment to a healthy and safe environment for employees and students. Recent initiatives include:

- Collaborating with Facilities to complete First Aid Assessments at each campus, ensuring compliance with WorkSafeBC's requirements.
- Organizing annual training for Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee members, focusing on Incident Investigations.
- Publishing the third edition of the OH&S at a Glance report which includes a number of safety metrics.

Risk Management

Risk continues to support the university with various ongoing engagements including the renewal of KPU's Kidnap and Ransom insurance policy and the optional insurance program. In addition, Risk met with functional leads across the university as part of the annual risk review process resulting in an updated high-level risk register.

Security Operations

During this reporting period, Campus Security Operations generated approximately 317 Incident Reports, addressing a variety of issues including alarms, property crimes, suspicious activity, trespassing, harassment, and sustained issues surrounding the Gateway of Hope shelter in Langley. In response, Campus Security engaged a third party to assess the safety and security situation at the Langley Campus. Ongoing discussions have been held with Shelter Management, nearby businesses, City Bylaw and RCMP leadership.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Finance Department

The Finance department's winter social event was held in December 2024 at Murrayville Community Hall, celebrating the season and New Year. Highlights of the gathering included a lively white elephant gift exchange, an ugly sweater contest, and a blindfolded obstacle course that tested teamwork and agility. A delicious turkey lunch buffet, hot chocolate bar and personalized cookies added to the merriment, fostering connections and warmth among colleagues before the holiday closure. The event also included a winter clothing drive, with staff donating items to support those in need within our community.



Finance Department Winter Social



Finance Department Winter Social – Obstacle Course

The Finance Department is geared up to complete another successful year-end for March 31, 2025, and the external auditors will begin their work in early April. At the same time the Budget and Planning team is preparing the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget for Board approval on March 26, 2025.

Staffing

Peter Smailes, Vice President Administration has stepped in to provide coverage for Chervahun Emilien, Chief Financial Officer, who unfortunately is on an unexpected leave.

Deepali Ahuja, Confidential Assistant to AVP Finance (interim), joined Finance on November 4, 2024, while Catherine Denton is supporting the VP Administration for the course of the Executive Assistant, Administration's maternity leave until March 2026.

Financial Services

The Financial Services teams recently welcomed new members:

- Finance: Carole Laplante, Director, Financial Services Budget and Reporting (interim)
- Financial Reporting Team: Dylan Sall, Manager, Financial Reporting.
- Budget and Planning Team: Sam Anderson, Accountant
- Financial Services Team: Tanvi Shorey, Manager, Financial Operations (interim)

Stefanie Singer, Manager, Budget and Planning, resigned in November 2024, and Debb Moffatt was promoted to Manager, Budget and Planning, from her Accountant role. Thank you, Stefanie, for your contributions to KPU and congratulations to Debb.

Recruitment is underway:

- Finance: Director – Internal Audit, Director Financial Services - Operations and Systems and the Director Financial Services - Budget and Reporting.
- Budget and Planning Team: Accountant

Procurement Services

The procurement team took part in the Fall BCNET Member Forum, chaired by the KPU Director of Procurement, on November 6. This forum served as a Community of Practice dialogue that focused on strategic trends in Diversity and Inclusion within

Procurement, while also addressing the rising costs associated with technology sourcing.

Despite experiencing a high turnover of resources in the Financial Services area, the procurement team concluded the year on a positive note by successfully completing 24 major procurements, an increase from 17 the previous year.

Activities, Initiatives and Achievements

The department revived quarterly procurement KPI reporting as of Q3-FY3 to track performance and compliance to procurement policy.

Strategic Priorities in Procurements Cycle

For the period from November 2024 to February 2025, the following competitions are either being prepared, in progress, or have had contracts awarded:

- Furniture for KPU Langley Library tender was completed and contract awarded in December 2024;
- KPU Furniture Replacement Project tender, consisting of eight projects at the Langley, Richmond, and Surrey campuses was completed and contract awarded in January 2025;
- Electrical Repairs Maintenance Services solicitation closed on February 4th, and is currently evaluating the proposals;
- Richmond Air Source Heat Pump Feasibility Study competition closed on February 5th, and is currently evaluating the proposals;
- Specialty Paper Supplies competition is currently posted and will be closed for submission on February 13th;
- Design Work - Lighting Conversion to LED solicitation is currently posted and will be closed for submission on March 6th;
- Modernization of Accessibility Ramp North at KPU Richmond is currently posted and will be closed for submission on March 21st;
- Heat Recovery Design in Richmond competition is currently in preparation stage with a planned date of posting on February 13th

- Glazing upgrade phase 1 in Richmond competition is currently in preparation stage with a planned date of posting on February 14th
- Exterior Doors Replacement in Cloverdale competition is currently in preparation stage with a planned date of posting on February 18th
- Plumbing Services for all campus's re-procurement competition is currently in preparation stage with a planned date of posting on February 19th
- Public Artwork for KPU Surrey Child Care Centre competition is currently in the needs assessment phase of the planning stage;
- Humanitix event management system is currently at contract negotiation;
- Finance Office Renovation competition will be posted on February 12th;
- Traditional Chinese Medicine department renovation competition is currently at the planning stage; and
- Prequalification for Procurement Consultants will be solicited jointly with University of Fraser Valley, this competition is currently in planning stage with aimed posting date of March 3rd.

Business Performance and Advisory Services (BPAS)

The Senior Business Advisor completed two advisory projects for Fiscal 2024/25 have been completed. Two investigations have been closed.

The recruitment of the Director, Internal Audit position and Business Advisor position are underway.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & MAJOR EVENTS

Winter Term

Community Engagement and Major Events enjoyed an energetic winter strengthening connections in our campus communities, planning and executing a variety of events focused on student recruitment, sponsor and donor stewardship, and community engagement.

October 2024 to February 2025 Events Recap

- October 5 – KPU Open House



Open House attendees pose with CEME staff.

- October 24 – Richmond Regional Donor Reception for donors to KPU Foundation.



Elder Lekeyten welcomes guests at the Richmond Regional Donor Reception.

- October 31 – Surrey Campus Halloween Social



Office of Planning & Accountability staff visit our selfie photobooth at the Halloween Social.

- November 21-22 – 24-Hour Bike-a-thon for Men's Mental Health



Off-duty members of the Surrey Fire ride in the 24-Hour Bike-a-thon for Men's Mental Health.

- November 22-January 6 – Cloverdale Christmas Tree Festival
- November 23 – Surrey Tree Lighting Festival



CEME Community Ambassador Rahul Chauhan hosts KPU Trivia at the Surrey Tree Lighting Festival.

- November 23 – President's Seasonal Reception
- December 1 – Surrey Santa Parade of Lights
- December 12 – Surrey Fire Fighters' Charitable Society Charity Gift Wrap Lounge



Board members Amanda Smith-Weston and Kim McGill working the charity gift wrap lounge.

- February 24-28 – February Convocation
- February 25 – Faculty Connect

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Minister of Post Secondary Education & Future Skills Visits KPU

KPU's government relations team was one of the first in the province to host Minister Anne Kang, who was reappointed to the Ministry of Post Secondary Education & Future Skills. Kang was joined by Surrey Newton MLA Jessie Sunner, Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives and Amna Shah MLA for Surrey-City Centre and Parliamentary Secretary for Mental Health and Addictions and Deputy Government Whip. The trio toured the KPU Tech campus, including: electrical, plumbing and carpentry programs. Minister Kang even learned how to use a power actuated tool (photo) to attach studs to concrete and other materials.

Post-Provincial Election Outreach

Following the results of a close provincial election, the government relations (GR) team has also been busy meeting with newly elected MLAs, including: MLA Elenore Sturko (BC Cons), MLA Hon Chan (BC Cons), MLA Judy Toor (BC Cons), MLA Harman Bhangu (BC Cons), MLA Misty Van Popta (BC Cons). The GR team also attend events with Minister Garry Begg, Minister Jagrup Brar, and Deputy Premier Niki Sharma.

OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT & ALUMNI AFFAIRS

Since the previous Board of Governors' report (October 2024), the Office of Advancement raised \$766,380. Annual fundraising to date for the fiscal-year-ended March 31, 2025, is \$2,154,800, which is about 150,000 over last year.

Y.P. Heung Foundation pledges \$300,000

The Y.P. Heung Foundation, a charitable organization based in Vancouver, was established in 2012 by Raymond Heung and his wife, Terry, to honour his late father, who arrived in British Columbia in the 1960's to seek a better life for his family. The mission is to positively impact British Columbia by providing grants to support programs that benefit youth in the areas of Arts, Culture, Education, and Health.

Their first gift to KPU was \$10,000 in 2014 to support a media and digital literacy program.

Since then, the Y.P. Heung Foundation has established several awards for students across multiple faculties and program areas at KPU, including Arts, Design, Horticulture, Science and a dedicated award for Indigenous students.



In 2023, the Y.P. Heung Foundation provided \$18,000 to support Sustainable Agriculture and address food insecurity among the KPU student population making fresh produce accessible and available to KPU students.

In 2024, the Y.P. Heung Foundation donated \$50,000 to the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security Program and the KPU Farm to purchase an industrial refrigerator. This made a significant impact to the fresh produce that the KPU Farm can bring to market and to food banks.

Their most recent pledge of \$300,000 over five years, will support 16 annual awards ranging from \$2,500 to \$5,000 each across multiple program areas over the next five years. The Y.P. Heung Foundation now has an accumulated lifetime-giving to KPU of more than \$630,000, making them one of the KPU Foundation's top donors.

ALUMNI AFFAIRS AND KPU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

KPU Alumni Association holds 3 Year Strategic Planning

The KPU Alumni Association met on Saturday, Feb 8 for their day long planning session. The session provided the framework for the Alumni Association's three-year strategic vision, which will serve to guide the activities of the KPU Alumni Affairs office. Led by

Chair, Jacqueline Tarantino, Executive Director, Nancy Armitage and John Grant, Facilitator.



KPU Alumni Association, Back, Dilraj Singh, administrative assistant, Henry Flowers, vice chair, Monty Puaar, director, James Grange, past chair, Deepak Gill, director, Haney Romana, director, FRONT ROW: Priya Johal, treasurer, Elizabeth Penner, director, Jacqueline Tarantino, chair, Damanpreet Garcha, director, Colby Davidson, director, Lovepreet Kaur, director, Nancy Armitage, executive director.

Alumni Engagement Survey

Alumni Affairs hired Engagement Analysis Inc. (EAI) to conduct a survey of KPU alumni. This robust survey used response data and KPU data to examine the current level of alumni engagement and gather alumni interest in programs and services.

The process provided valuable insight into the level of engagement of KPU alumni, the key drivers of that engagement and how KPU engagement compares to Canadian scores (overall and peer group). Special focus will be given to understanding the differences in engagement across key demographic segments (age, region) and KPU groups. The findings and Index scores will support the development of Alumni Affairs next 3-year business plan.

Alumni Communications

We are pleased to report that as of the February convocation ceremonies we crossed the threshold of over 75,000 alumni.

In addition to the monthly alumni e-newsletter that we send to over 40,000 alumni, we also send targeted communications to our graduating students through our Welcome Newsletter introducing our newest alumni to all the perks and privileges of being KPU alumni.

In addition, we supported numerous segmented communications to alumni on specific topics for Faculties, programs and departments.

Alumni Events and Activities

Coop Connect: Alumni Bridging the Past and Present

Last October the KPU Career Development Centre and the Alumni Affairs office collaborated on a successful networking event that fostered meaningful connections between co-op students and co-op alumni. This event, generously sponsored by the KPU Alumni Association, provided students with a safe environment to develop their networking skills while connecting with alumni, and an opportunity for alumni to share their expertise, and strengthen their ties to the University, fostering connection with KPU. Twenty-five co-op alumni participated providing powerful examples to our students. Seventy-three alumni, students, faculty and staff attended this successful inaugural event.



Co-op Connect event students and mentors

Alumni Chapters

KPU Alumni Affairs office recently supported the development and launch of the Psychology Alumni Chapter. In addition, we are working with interested alumni to launch a Brewing Alumni Chapter this spring.

Alumni Chapters are a great way for alumni to stay connected with their KPU network after graduation, and the Alumni Association currently has four active chapters:

- Accounting Alumni
- Creative Writing
- Interior Design Class of '93
- Wilson School of Design Alumni

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 THE VICE PRESIDENT, STUDENTS

The following reports from Student Services (Office of the Registrar, Student Affairs and International) outline the key activities undertaken recently by the departments under the Vice President, Students. It is with great appreciation and acknowledgement of the hard work, dedication to student success and commitment of all staff serving KPU within this portfolio that the following reports are presented.

KPU Global Strategy

Since my last update, we have taken the work of the Global Education Advisory Committee (GEAC) through a campus-wide consultation process across the summer and fall terms. We made revisions based on what our campus community shared with us and now have a finalized document that Polytechnic University Executive (PUE) endorsed on Jan. 14, 2025.

Next, we will share this with the Senate and Board of Governors. Meanwhile, we have engaged Marketing to build out promotional collateral so we can continue to generate awareness and support for Internationalization across KPU.

From here, we will ask that academic, administrative and service units consider alignment with this plan when developing their own operational plans. We will revisit and review regularly to ensure consistency with institutional objectives and responsiveness to emerging global opportunities and challenges.

As it continues to evolve, this strategy will guide KPU in creating transformative opportunities for students, faculty, staff, and alumni and strengthen our position as an innovator in internationalization.

Notable Events Attended by the Vice President, Students

- Education Advisory Board facilitated a KPU academic advising workshop at KPU Richmond (Oct 22, 2024)
- International Consultants for Education and Fairs (ICEF): Annual conference and premier event for international student recruitment (Berlin, Germany. Nov 3-7, 2024)
- NASPA engagement for Student Affairs Professionals in High Education: "Building a Student Success Center: Collaborating with

Faculty and Staff to Support Student Success Inside and Outside the Classroom" (Nov 12, 2024)

- Greater Vancouver Board of Trade Event: A Conversation with The Honourable Marc Miller (Nov 13, 2024)
- Shih Chien (Taiwan) University Delegation Visit at KPU's Richmond Campus (Nov 14, 2024)
- President's Dialogue Series: Dr. Maria Strack, Professor, University of Waterloo "Peatlands as Natural Climate Solutions: From Global Potential to Local Action" (Nov 20, 2024)
- EDI Training for Student Services, facilitated by *Senomi Solutions* (Nov 21, 2024)
- KPU Dialogue Event with David Coletto, CEO and Co-Founder, Abacus Data, market research and strategy (Nov 25, 2024)
- City of Surrey Forum: Exploring challenges and solutions to support international students in Surrey (Nov 27, 2024)
- Education Advisory Board 2025 State of the Sector: Unpacking the Crisis of Public Confidence in Higher Ed (Jan 16, 2025)
- BC Cabinet & First Nations Leaders Reception at the Vancouver Convention Centre (Jan 20, 2025)
- BC Council on International Education (BCCIE) 2025 Symposium: Advancing International Student Support, hosted by Vancouver Community College (Jan 30-31, 2025)
- Minister of Post-Secondary Education & Future Skills – meeting and tour of KPU Tech Campus with MLAs Jessie Sunner (Parliamentary Secretary: Anti Racism Initiatives, Surrey-Newton) and Amna Shah (Parliamentary Secretary for Mental Health & Addiction, Surrey City Centre) – Feb 6, 2025

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Building Out Housing Resources

As KPU advances its business case for on-site housing, we continue to seek opportunities to ease the burden

of the housing crisis. To that end, Student Affairs has signed an MOU with [SpacesShared](#), an innovative online home-sharing platform that is helping to solve the growing challenge of affordable student housing. SpacesShared uses an online platform and a team of people to match students looking for safe and affordable home sharing with hosts evaluated by SpacesShared. A formal announcement is anticipated in mid-March.

Complementing this initiative is the launch of a [student housing resources webpage](#). This page consolidates information previously spread across our site under one roof for consistent and easy reference. Information regarding SpacesShared will be added following the formal announcement.

Strong Student Employment Continues

The Career Development Centre (CDC) shows 783 new students registered on KPU's student job board, [Career Connection](#), with students assisted through 63 career advising appointments, 207 resume reviews, and 59 employer introduction meetings. 288 co-op jobs are currently available for the Spring 2025 work term.

The CDC hosted the annual [Trades and Technology Career Fair](#) which saw 300 student participants and strong employer engagement. The CDC launched a new initiative, [Co-op Connect](#), in partnership with KPU Alumni Affairs and the KPU Alumni Association. This well-attended gathering created opportunities for our current students to engage alumni in networking, glean industry insights and fostering career development.

Launch of Awards Advisory Committee

The Student Awards Advisory Committee held its first meeting on February 7. Established under Policy ST1, the committee aims to advise regarding student awards policies and practices at KPU.

Supports Through Counselling

KPU's Counselling Services now offers a monthly *Cultural Connect* drop-in group at KPU Richmond, and a weekly drop-in support group, *Snack and Chat*, to help support community building and combat

loneliness among international and domestic students.

Counselling is also continuing with the [GuardMe Student Support Program](#), which provides 24/7 support to students, with a contract renewal starting in February.

Sport and Recreation Events

Over the winter months, events have seen great turnouts, including:

- Indoor soccer tournament
- FIFA campus gaming event
- *Introduction to the Fitness Centre* workshop
- Dodgeball tournament

Thrive Month

October saw Student Health Promotion lead the 9th annual [Thrive Month](#) health and wellness program with more than 20 on-campus events on all five campuses hosted by campus partners such as Human Resources and Campus and Community Planning. This year, activities were focused on self-care and social connection and were well received by the KPU community.

Pride Peer Drag Show

KPU student assistants working as Pride Peer Leaders hosted the first-ever [Pride Peer Drag Show](#) at KPU on November 8. The event consisted of fabulous performances by KPU students and fostered a welcoming and inclusive environment for fun and celebration!

Student Mental Health Fair

The 3rd annual [Student Mental Health Fair](#) was hosted at KPU Surrey, providing students with resources and education to support their mental health and well-being. Activities included colouring, video games, and information booths with representatives from KPU, the KSA and the external community.

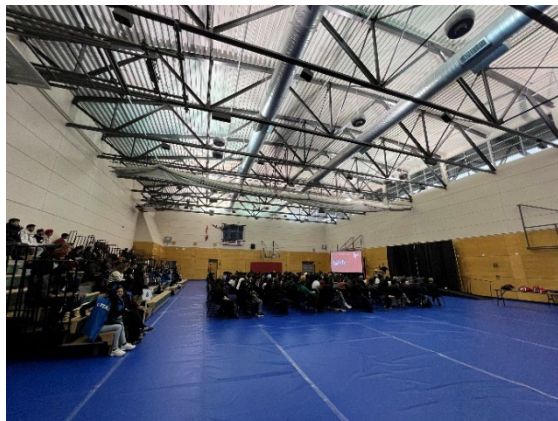
Naloxone Training at KPU

Harm reduction teams from Fraser Health & Coastal Health visited all five campuses throughout October with information and resources about substance use and the toxic drug supply in BC. They also provided

on-the-spot naloxone training and an in-person workshop where students got hands-on naloxone training and an opportunity to learn from community members.

Welcoming New Students this Spring

350 new students attended [New Student Orientation](#) events across all KPU campuses where they learned about the different resources KPU offers. Thank you to the small army of 35 student leaders and 30 KPU employees for their support across these activities!



The [KPU Collective](#) peer mentorship program has amassed a team of 60 domestic students who connect with their mentors through educational/social programs and weekly communication.

Student Awards and Financial Assistance (SAFA) Supports Students in Need

SAFA saw an unprecedented 1,003 student applications for the [full-time bursary program](#), indicating a need of nearly \$2.5 million. SAFA distributed \$860,550 in assistance to 448 students facing considerable financial hardship.

SAFA launched a new [Food Relief Program](#) in partnership with Save-On-Foods, providing vital support to 108 students with dependents with \$250 food vouchers.

Relationship Violence Webpage

The Student Rights and Responsibilities Office (SRRO) and HR partnered to launch a new [relationship violence resources site](#). This webpage is a direct result

of an idea born at the SVM Advisory Group as a proactive response to an increase in reports about relationship violence from both students and employees.

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OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

Updates from the Future Student's Office (FSO)

The Future Student's Office has been promoting KPU at many events and community activities to showcase KPU and ensure our domestic recruitment activities reach as many prospective students as possible. Here are some of the highlighted activities they have undertaken throughout this period.

Make It Safe Vancouver 2024 - NGen Youth Challenge

KPU attended this event alongside UBC, BCIT, and Langara to engage students in Occupational Health and Safety and Manufacturing fields, showcasing KPU's programs and career opportunities.

WorkBC Job, Education, and Resource Fair Maple Ridge

KPU participated in this event designed to connect job seekers, students and those looking to further their education/training. The team engaged, networked,

and shared information about academic programs and career opportunities.

Creative Connections at KPU Richmond

We showcased KPU's creative programs to high school students and their families, boosting recruitment efforts and community visibility.

PSBC Surrey Week

This week provided the opportunity for post-secondary institutions to visit high schools across Surrey. We engaged with high school students across Surrey, promoting KPU's diverse and unique offerings and discussing academic interests.



Counsellors' Conference

We hosted 100 counsellors on the Surrey campus, providing updates on KPU's programs and admissions processes, with a keynote speech by Dr. David Burns. This event helps strengthen these vital relationships

with the educational counsellors who play a key role in advising students on their post-secondary aspirations.

Fraser Valley PSBC week

This focused on high school recruitment in Hope, Agassiz, Mission, Chilliwack, and Abbotsford, allowing direct outreach to a wide range of high school students to help them make informed choices as they consider KPU's programs as their choice for post-secondary education.

Education Career Fair at Aria Banquet Hall

We engaged with high school students from across the Lower Mainland, answering questions about KPU's programs, admission and student life. Recruiters interacted directly with students and families, building relationships and adding a personal touch to our recruitment efforts.

Education and Career Fair in Kelowna

We connected with students, young adults, and new immigrants at this event which was held at the KF Centre for Excellence, Okanagan Aerospace and Aviation Centre. It was a key event showcasing KPU's programs to potential students in the Okanagan region.

WSD Virtual Information Session

This session provided an overview of KPU's eight Design programs to over 100 prospective students specifically interested in studying design, giving them the opportunity to ask about course structure, admission and careers in the design field.

Dual Credit Orientation Sessions

We held Spring 2025 orientation sessions for Dual Credit students from Surrey, Richmond, and Langley. Programs showcased were the Surrey HSOC Dual Credit and Nursing Prep Dual Credit, giving students valuable insights into course content, expectations, and academic opportunities available to students in these programs.

Digital Media Youth Expo

This event focused on ENTA programs, engaging with prospective students and their families. This provided an opportunity for direct interaction with many faculty members from ENTA, Arts, and WSD to speak about career paths in the creative and entertainment fields and promote KPU programs.

Campus Tours with local high schools in December

We hosted 240 students at KPU Surrey over 3 days, showcasing KPU's academic programs and facilities, engaging with faculty, and getting a feel for what life at KPU is like. This tour was part of ongoing efforts to raise awareness about KPU and create strong connections with local high schools.

Vancouver Education Career Fair

This is BC's largest career development fair. This event provided opportunities for our recruiters to connect with secondary students preparing for higher education and exploring career options, young adults looking to transfer their work experience & skills to a different industry, and new immigrants seeking employment and further training to integrate into Canada.

Future Business Leaders (YELL) Conference

We hosted grade 11/12 students interested in entrepreneurship and leadership at KPU Richmond and Surrey. Teams of students participated in team activities, developed business ideas and pitched their ideas. Prizes for tuition waivers motivated students to explore KPU's business programs.

Capstone Interviews at Clayton Heights Secondary

We helped grade 12 students understand their career paths and how KPU can support their aspirations with guidance from our recruitment team.

Career Life Education (CLE) at West Vancouver Secondary

Our team had the opportunity to introduce KPU's academic programs to grade 10 students. This was the first CLE presentation at this school and feedback from both the professors and the school's counsellor indicated that KPU made a positive impression on the students, providing valuable information for their future decisions.

SD42 and SD43 Trades Info Nights

Provided information about Youth Train in Trades programs. This event provided essential information about trades education, helping students and families make informed decisions about their future career paths.

KPU's Discovery Days

We held immersive events across Richmond, Langley, and Surrey campuses for prospective students in a hands-on, engaging environment.

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Career Fair at Queen Elizabeth Secondary

Discussed KPU's programs, support services and career paths with prospective students.

Dual Credit Orientation for Surrey SD Nursing Prep Cohort Students

Dual Credit students were introduced to the program's curriculum, expectations, and faculty members, and discussed upcoming courses.

Declaration Day Partnership

Student Enrolment Services (SES) collaborated with Degree Advisors in Arts, Business and Science during Declaration Day in January. Students could drop by the event to speak with a Degree Advisor regarding program declaration eligibility and receive on-the-spot support from an SES Officer to submit their declaration. Program declaration requests doubled on the day of the event as a result of these collaborative efforts.



Career Fair at Queen Elizabeth Secondary

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Policies

The Office of the Registrar completed updates to the following policies/procedures:

- AR10 Priority & Scheduling of Registration
- AR17 Academic Schedule & Course Timetables
- AR18 Final Examination & Overloads

KPU INTERNATIONAL

KPU International Recruitment Activities and Events

Key Takeaways from Fall 2024 International Recruitment

- There is an increased global demand for STEM, AI-related programs, and master's degrees.
- Canada's standing as a preferred study destination has been affected, highlighting the importance of strong agent relationships and KPU's presence in markets.
- KPU's global engagement included attending over 20 recruitment events and visiting more than 35 high schools across 14 countries.

Regional Recruitment Progress

- **South Asia:** Hosted Pre-Departure Sessions in India and Nepal, engaging with newly admitted students, families, and agents. KPU will also attend the ICEF South Asia conference in February 2025 to strengthen agent partnerships.
- **Southeast Asia:** Hosted "Study in BC" in Manila with six BC institutions to rebuild Canada's study abroad brand.
- **Latin America:** KPU welcomed 40+ Brazilian students to the Richmond campus for an interactive session. High school and fair visits in Guatemala and El Salvador successfully promoted KPU's programs.
- **Middle East:** Attended KPU-focused agent events in Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Dubai to expand KPU's presence despite visa challenges. A return visit is planned for 2025.
- **East Asia:** Senior leadership visited top agencies in China to strengthen

collaborations. Conducted agent training and recruitment events in Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, and South Korea, strengthening relationships through program updates and leadership engagement. Notable events included Shu-Zen College in Taiwan, an agent appreciation event in Guangzhou, and CPF Beijing.

- **Local Efforts:** Participated in Richmond School District fairs, supported international students requiring second-language assistance, and held agent training sessions in December.

Agent Management

An Agent Welcome Package has been launched, the Agent Relations webpage has been enhanced, and refund processes have been revised for greater transparency. Policies have been aligned with BC's International Education Code of Practice.

International Advising

The International Advising Unit conducted a virtual registration webinar to support new international students in their preparation for studies at KPU. With attendance exceeding 300 participants, the session delivered comprehensive information on important



topics such as course registration, academic requirements, and visa-related procedures. By addressing these fundamental areas, the webinar equipped students with the necessary tools and confidence to successfully navigate the registration process and commence their academic journey. The team collaborated with community partners to create a career initiative program for international students seeking jobs in Canada; equipping students with the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to navigate the Canadian job market effectively. The

program included 85 international students. Feedback showed that participants found the program relevant and practical, with many saying they felt more confident and prepared for their job search.

International Student Life

The International Student Life team offers both on-campus and off-campus activities to help students integrate into the KPU community and adjust to life and studies in Canada. Student life events are crucial for integration and success. Below are some events that have been organized in recent months:

Thanksgiving Cooking Workshop

The International Student Life team hosted two Thanksgiving cooking workshops, where students teamed up to prepare traditional holiday meals.



For many, it was their first-time celebrating Thanksgiving in Canada. The workshops concluded with a shared dinner, offering students with the opportunity to enjoy delicious food and make new friends.

Halloween Costume Contest 2024

At the end of October, the team organized a university-wide Halloween celebration, featuring a costume contest with prizes. Attendees arrived in creative costumes and enjoyed a vibrant atmosphere, complete with themed decorations. The event offered Halloween-themed snacks, beverages, games, pumpkin carving, and dancing. With over 150 participants, it was one of the most well-attended events of the year.

Diwali 2024

A vibrant Festival of Lights celebration brought together over 200 attendees. The event featured incredible performances by talented singers and dancers, creating an energetic and festive atmosphere. Guests enjoyed delicious food, lively music, and hands-on activities such as Diya crafting and henna. A photo booth added to the fun, allowing everyone to capture special moments. With a mix of culture, creativity, and community, the event was a huge success.

Fall Mentors' Socials



The International Peer Mentors hosted a variety of activities across the Lower Mainland to help first-term international students connect in a fun and welcoming environment. They organized outings like laser tag, trips to



Fly & Dine: Holiday Edition

Students kicked off the holiday season with the Fly & Dine event, experiencing a thrilling virtual flight across Canada that ended at the North Pole through FlyOver Canada. The adventure continued at the Vancouver Christmas Market, where they explored a festive outdoor marketplace, sampled seasonal treats, and browsed over 80 vendor stalls featuring traditional German food and holiday gifts.

International Peer Mentorship Program Events

Granville Island, visits to Bear Creek Park, the Richmond Olympic Oval, and Central City Park. These events gave students the chance to meet new people, explore their community, and build friendships outside the classroom.

Appreciation Day for Mentors

KPU International organized several events to recognize and appreciate the contributions of mentors in supporting the transition of new international students to life at KPU and in Canada. These gatherings provided an opportunity to celebrate their efforts in fostering a welcoming and supportive community for incoming students.

Spring 2025 Orientation and KPU Welcomes You

The International Student Life and Transitions team supported new international students through a virtual orientation session, which drew approximately 70 participants. In addition, the team played an active role in the *KPU Welcomes You* event for all students, by setting up interactive booths tailored to international students. These booths served as a key resource for students to learn about available services, upcoming events, and ways to get involved. Mentors and staff engaged with students, answered

questions, and distributed KPU-branded swag and snacks. The International Peer Mentorship booth also helped students connect with their mentors, providing guidance as they adjusted to life in Canada. Over the course of two days, around 200 new students visited the booths at the Richmond and Surrey campuses, helping to foster a sense of community from day one.

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Tenant Rights Webinar

In collaboration with the Tenant Resource and Advisory Centre (TRAC), a webinar was hosted to educate students about their rental rights and responsibilities in BC. Topics included landlord obligations, lease agreements, and key considerations when renting.

Social Insurance Number (SIN) Webinar

A session was delivered in partnership with Service Canada to provide students with essential information about the Social Insurance Number (SIN). The webinar covered the importance of the SIN, the application process, and best practices for protecting it from identity theft.

Partnerships

State of Mexico Short-Term ESL Program



The State of Mexico Short-term ESL Program, held from October 7 to 31, 2024, successfully concluded with a second group of 30 students at KPU. KPU International provided comprehensive support including homestay coordination, arranging for temporary medical insurance and transportation via Compass cards, and organizing a pre-arrival webinar, orientation event, various extracurricular activities, and a graduation ceremony. The students' feedback was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting significant improvements in their English language skills and the formation of friendships with KPU volunteers.

Development Projects

Canadian International Development Scholarships (BCDI) 2030 Proposal Success

KPU's proposal for the [Canadian International Development Scholarships \(BCDI\) 2030](#) has been successfully approved, resulting in an agreement with Global Affairs Canada to secure approximately \$500,000 in funding. This grant will support KPU in hosting 25 students from Tunisia from 2025 to 2029, reflecting the university's growing role in international development projects. The collaboration involves Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) and University Ibn Khaldoun (UIK) in Tunisia, where the students will join KPU as visiting students to enhance their learning experiences.

Kenya Blue Economy Skills Training (KBEST) Proposal to CiCan

KPU's participation in a consortium with NAIT for the [KBEST](#) proposal marked a significant advancement, reaching the competitive second stage of proposal submission and funder interview. Although not ultimately selected, the experience underscored our growing expertise in proposal development and collaboration with the Dean of Trades. This initiative provided a valuable learning opportunity and demonstrated our potential for success in future projects.

Delegation

From October 2024 to February 2025, KPU hosted several key delegation visits focused on strengthening international partnerships and exploring new opportunities:

Visits

1. **Lille Catholic University from France** visited on October 21, 2024, to discuss potential exchange partnerships.
2. **Centro Studi Italiani** from Italy visited on October 23, 2024, exploring field school and summer programming opportunities in Italy for KPU students.
3. The **Myanmar Trade Commissioner** visited on October 29, 2024, to learn about the student recruitment market and partnership opportunities in Myanmar.
4. Representatives from **DUNIS in Senegal** visited on November 7, 2024, to continue discussions around articulating a 2+2 program into our Melville School of Business and a Political Science degree in Arts.
5. **Nottingham Trent University from the UK**, an existing student exchange partner, visited on November 12, 2024. They met with the Dean of Design to discuss expanding partnerships for design students and introduced a one-year top-up international fashion business degree. An information session on January 30th attracted over 20 interested students from the Wilson School of Design.
6. **Shih Chien University in Taiwan**, also an existing exchange partner, visited on November 14, 2024, to discuss hosting their lecturers at KPU through the Huayu Best

Talent program. We are expecting a visiting scholar in March 2025 to provide workshops and extracurricular activities through our Asian language and cultural programs.

7. **Bond University in Australia** visited on November 25, 2024, to discuss potential pathway progression for KPU students into their JD in Law program, primarily targeting our Faculty of Arts and Melville School of Business.
8. The **Brunei Trade Commissioner** visited on November 29, 2024, to explore the recruitment market and potential partnerships in Brunei.
9. **Al Baha University from Saudi Arabia** visited on January 7, 2025, to learn about KPU and our Nursing programs.
10. **CSCSE (Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange)** and the **Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China in Vancouver** visited Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) for the first time on February 11, 2025, and signed an Agreement of Cooperation. This agreement will enable KPU to conduct visits, exchanges, promotions, or other activities with CSCSE Partner Universities related to the SQA programs, as well as engage in commercial cooperation with Partner Universities concerning the SQA programs in China. The delegation expressed their admiration following tours of the Traditional Chinese Medicine department, ENTA, School of Design, and KPU's Agriculture Farm.

These visits highlight KPU's ongoing commitment to expanding and strengthening its global educational partnerships.

International Focus Week

The 15th annual International Focus Week took place from November 18 to 22, 2024. The campus wide celebration continued the theme of 'Around the World in 5 Days', bringing a journey of world cultures to KPU's campuses through student, staff, and faculty events. A pop-up Global Fair traveled between 3 campuses—Richmond, Civic Plaza, and Surrey Main—featuring a carnival of interactive games and trivia, tea and snacks from around the world, a gaming station, virtual reality global travel, and more.



OFFICE OF EQUITY AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Events

OEIC hosted an encore presentation of the one person show 'Fat Joke' addressing Fat Liberation on November 13, 2024.

The OEIC collaborated with Tim Reitsma of [Invisible Condition](#) to provide KPU employees with four online workshops to deepen learning around disability inclusion. The 90-minute workshops were offered between November 2024 and February 2025 with a total number of 120 registrations.

As part of its Black History Month celebrations, the OEIC collaborated with Dr. Nicole Kaniki of [Senomi Solutions](#) to offer a series of online workshops designed to expand employees' understanding of anti-racism. The three workshops focused on EDI in Academia, Black History and Culture in Canada, and anti-racism and anti-oppression strategies. They were offered in January and February of 2025 with a total number of 80 registrations.

On January 29, 2025, the OEIC and University Executives wore green squares on their lapels as part of The Green Square Campaign. This campaign occurs annually during the week leading up to January 29th to honor the victims and survivors of the Quebec City mosque attack and to raise awareness about Islamophobia.

Trina Prince of the OEIC hosted their workshop "Oops, the power of learning from mistakes" twice at the Faculty Connect Event on February 20, 2025. Over 15 people attended each workshop.

Staffing Appointments

Trina Prince was appointed as the Director, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (Gender and Sexual Equity and Disability Justice) in the Office of Equity and Inclusive Communities (OEIC), November 2024. Trina previously served as the Manager, Culture and Wellbeing in the OEIC.

Presentations/Community Activities

VP Sayed provided updates on the OEIC and its ongoing projects at Faculty Council meetings for the Wilson School of Design and the Faculty of Academic & Career Preparation, January 10 and 13, 2025.

Initiatives/Activities:

Trina Prince attended the Indigenous Wellness and Disability Gathering on behalf of OEIC, November 19-21, 2024.

Members of the OEIC attended the Disability at Work Conference online on December 5, 2024.

VP Asma Sayed hosted monthly "Coffee with the VP" drop-in meetings, both virtually and in-person, where KPU employees gathered to share ideas and ask questions about advancing equity-related initiatives at KPU. These meetings took place on December 3, 2024, January 22, 2025, and February 12, 2025.

Members of the OEIC gathered with the KPU Community at the Surrey campus for a memorial honouring the fourteen women who lost their lives at École Polytechnique Montréal on Dec. 6, 1989. Hosted by the KFA and KSA, December 6, 2024.

OEIC set up a booth for Welcome Week at the start of the Spring term on Surrey Campus, January 7, 2025.

VP Sayed attended the B.C. Cabinet & First Nations Leaders Gathering Welcome Reception, January 20, 2025.

VP Sayed attended and presented at the CANNEXUS 25 Annual Conference on career development, in Ottawa, January 27- 29, 2025.

VP Sayed attended the Scarborough Charter Engagement Session, January 30, 2025.

VP Sayed attended the Climate Strategy Core Team Meetings 1 and 2, February 4 and 11, 2025.

Steve Adames, Divisional Business Manager of the OEIC, joined the Employee Engagement Committee as a member. He attended the first meeting of the year on February 14, 2025.

OEIC set up a booth for the Faculty Connect event held in Richmond campus, February 20, 2025.

At the Faculty Connect event, VP Sayed participated in a Speed Networking session, where faculty had the

opportunity to meet with key university leaders in an informal setting, February 20, 2025.

The OEIC created an Opportunity Guide for the Faculty Connect event which included an overview of the OEIC, its purpose, ongoing initiatives, available resources, and contact information to help faculty become familiar with the office.

VP Sayed attended KPU convocation ceremonies from February 25-28, 2025.

Program/Policies/Initiatives

The Inclusive Washroom Guidelines are complete and live for everyone to access: [All-Gender Washrooms at KPU | Kwantlen Polytechnic University](#), January 28, 2025.

Accessibility Consultation Committee: OEIC formed this new committee to address the growing number of requests for consultations on various institutional projects that require an accessible and disability justice lens. The first meeting was held on February 24, 2025.

Accessibility Committee: The Accessibility Committee continues to support the work of the implementation of the recommendations from the Accessibility Plan launched in October 2023.

UDEC Sponsorship Fund: Two funding proposals were approved during this period. The UDEC Sponsorship Fund is provided through the OEIC and it supports events and initiatives that further the goals of equity, diversity, inclusion, anti-racism, accessibility, decolonization, and intersectional social justice at KPU.

OEIC Sponsorship Fund: Two funding proposals were approved during this period. The OEIC Sponsorship Fund is designed to support innovative projects, events, and initiatives that champion equity, diversity, inclusion, anti-racism, decolonization, social sustainability, accessibility, and intersectional social justice at KPU.

Anti-Racism Toolkit: The Anti-Racism Toolkit, developed by Teaching and Learning Commons with VP Sayed, will be launched on March 21, 2025 at the Third Annual Anti-Racism Symposium.

OEIC, and its committees, provided EDI-lens feedback on several new and under-revision policies across the institution.

OEIC website continues to be updated as we streamline events and portfolios:

<https://www.kpu.ca/oeic>

VP ADMINISTRATION

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY PLANNING

Campus and Community Planning has initiated work to update KPU's Official Campus Plan: KPU2050.

This update will:

- Ensure KPU2050 is aligned with policy and legislative changes that have occurred since it was first adopted;
- Add scope and detail to KPU2050, such as more detailed open space plans, specific performance metrics, and an implementation plan; and,
- Advance planning and preparation for the development of KPU Communities Trust (KPUCT).

The first phase of the work, focused on technical assessments, is underway, and includes:

- Soil testing to inform hydrogeological assessments;
- A number of site servicing studies to assess the condition and capacity of existing services;
- Updates to environmental and geotechnical assessments;
- The preparation of draft stormwater management plans for each land-based campus; and,
- An assessment of potential shadowing and view impacts to inform subsequent planning efforts.

Surrey Child Care and ECCE Facility Update

In January 2025, a building permit application was submitted to the City of Surrey for the future KPU Surrey Child Care and Early Child Care and Education facility. While the design team awaits feedback from the City, the project team is concurrently finalizing the working drawings in anticipation of preparing the Issued for Tendering drawings later in the Spring.

Salmon-Safe Certification Update

Administered by the Fraser Basin Council, Salmon-Safe British Columbia is one of Canada's first and only peer-reviewed certification programs that evaluates the impact of land management practices on urban watersheds for the protection and enhancement of salmon health and habitats. As salmon are a keystone species, the health of their population signals the health of an entire ecosystem.

KPU's interest in the Salmon-Safe certification originated during discussions with the Surrey Learning Gardens and Welcome Plaza Working Group. We explored different Salmon-Safe certification options and found that a single institution-wide certification for all KPU campuses would be the most cost-efficient and impactful approach for KPU.

In 2023 and 2024, KPU's four land-based campuses were evaluated using Salmon-Safe's Urban Standards, by an interdisciplinary team of scientists with expertise in aquatic ecosystems, storm water management, and landscape architecture. As part of this evaluation, a draft report with site-specific recommendations and KPU-wide recommendations was prepared for KPU.

The draft recommendations have been shared with KPU Indigenous Leadership and Facilities Services teams. The draft report is also being reviewed by an indigenous assessor - George Chaffee, a Councillor with the Kwikwetlem First Nation, who is highly involved in Kwikwetlem's work to protect and improve salmon habitat within their traditional territory. Following review, the draft report will be updated with recommendations provided.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Information Security Services

Student Multifactor Authentication (MFA) Expansion

MFA has been applied to all active KPU student accounts which was completed in early 2025. As of December 31, 2024, 70% of these accounts had been successfully enabled with MFA.

Privilege Access Management (PAM)

All three phases of PAM implementation were successfully completed by the end of 2024. All KPU accounts that have privileged access (special access or abilities beyond that of a standard user) are now protected and audited.

National Cybersecurity Assessment (NCA)

NCA commissioned by CANARIE, was conducted through a collaborative series of workshops facilitated by IT, involving cross-functional teams including Privacy, Enterprise Risk, Legal, Records and Information Management (RIM), and Campus Safety and Security. This thorough self-assessment examines the institution's security controls to evaluate its cybersecurity readiness with results expected by March 2025.

IT Application Services

Ellucian Experience Portal – Self-Service Portal (MyKPU)

The student self-service portal has been successfully implemented for current students. The next phase of this project will concentrate on the development of the employee and faculty self-service portals.

Ellucian Customer Relationship Management (CRM) Advise

New Advising cards were made available on MyKPU self-service portal in January 2025. The Ellucian CRM Advise project is on track for phase 2, focusing on early alerts.

Waitwell Implementation

KPU has procured a new solution named Waitwell to manage student lines effectively. This new system provides enhanced tablet and mobile features for appointment booking for the Office of the Registrar, Student Services and International offices across all campuses.

OneCard Migration to Cloud

The OneCard Project team has successfully migrated the student and employee card system to the Ellucian OneCard cloud. This migration enables KPU to utilize digital ID cards for mobile access to doors, library services, printing, and other related functionalities.

IT Infrastructure Services

Childcare Project

IT has been involved in plans for the childcare facility and child development program's space. A site visit was conducted and a pathway for network connectivity has been identified. Electrical engineers are currently assessing whether the existing KPU generator has sufficient capacity to supply emergency power to the childcare facility. If the current capacity is found to be inadequate, the KPU IT generator will be utilized, as it has been confirmed to have sufficient capacity for this purpose.

Langley Music Program Renovation Project

IT has been approved to purchase all necessary IT, audio & video, and networking hardware for the Langley Music Renovation Project.

Hacking Lab / Front-End Web Development Project

IT has been involved with the classroom setup for the Front-End Web Development program which completed in August 2024 with the program proceeding in Fall 2024. The internet connection and systems for the hacking program have also been set up, in anticipation of the next program start date. This concludes the project.

Non-Banner Cloud Project

All targeted systems have been migrated to the AWS Cloud, completing this project.

Audio & Video and Digital Classrooms

- Surrey and Richmond Conference Center AV refresh and upgrades completed
- 20 new laser projectors were installed to replace old end-of-life units
- Decommissioned end-of-life Sony AV classroom in Civic Plaza (603) and completed conversion to a standard digital classroom
- Set up four high fidelity sim rooms to support live streaming within KPU's Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program completed
- Installation of four new outdoor digital signage completed Surrey in tandem with Facilities.

MARKETING SERVICES

Faculty Campaigns

Faculty marketing and recruitment campaigns launched successfully over the past few months. KPU introduced a digital ad strategy and billboard ads in Surrey for Continuing and Professional Studies, along with a short-term digital campaign for Graphic Design for Marketing. Digital assets for the Front-End Development program were refreshed, with ads displayed on digital billboards at key locations including the Alex Fraser Bridge and Tsawwassen Springs.



Other marketing and promotions initiatives included ads in industry-specific publications including the BC School Counsellor's Association, City of Surrey Recreation Guides, PLAN Canada, and Fraser Valley Current E-newsletters.

Two paid campaigns also completed:

- The Total R3call Contest on Jack 96.9 featured KPU over 500 times on air and social media over three months.
- PSAs on the Telus network aired 3,848 times from end of October to end of December, 2024.

Recruitment \ External Event Support

Marketing supported major recruitment events including the KPU Open House and Creative Connections. Both required significant resources to ensure their success. Creative Connections helped strengthen ties with the Lower Mainland design community, while the Open House continued its annual success with prospective students and their influencers.





Marketing also created ads to support external affairs and various community partnerships, including the Cloverdale and Langley Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards.

Creative Connections Campaign:

- Results: 372,281 impressions, 32,282 clicks, 88 conversions, and 14 info session sign-ups.
- TikTok performance: 122,946 impressions, 22,762 reach, and 29,268 clicks.
- User demographics: Most clicks were from mobile devices (1,018); the 25–34 age group had the highest engagement.

The campaign effectively engaged the target audience, driving significant interest and conversions.

Social Media

Marketing continues to analyze social engagement data and has begun implementing new tactics and segmenting specific messaging on social media to speak to both prospective students and current students. Additional strategies to put specific and contextual messaging in front of current students has boosted engagement rates, link clicks, and followers across all platforms. Instagram and LinkedIn saw notable gains, with engagement up 25% and link clicks up 46% compared to 2023.

CRM Strategic Work & Domestic Recruitment Efforts

Throughout the past year the Marketing Department inherited new responsibilities to enable the institution to utilize the CRM to its full recruitment potential. New workflows, email automations, and valuable reporting have been set up to better engage with prospective students. Marketing is now able to provide real-time reporting to multiple areas of the institution to better understand the results of marketing and recruitment efforts both offline and online.

Marketing initiated a project to develop visualizations of CRM data to share recruitment efforts and the prospective student funnel from an advertising perspective. These reports are being shared with respective teams across the institution and have become a great collaboration tool with valuable data analysis for many faculties and departments.

Additionally, lead forms were added to the bottom of most program pages on kpu.ca and has resulted in a significant increase in leads on the website that are being sent through to the Future Students' Office. An analysis of those leads is in progress. A new automatic response to all prospective lead submissions was also created and implemented to support the Future Students' Office recruiters in communicating with prospective domestic students.

Info Session Analysis

Marketing has started to utilize the CRM's data to visualize information session data and the results of the sessions across the institution.

In total this year KPU had 3,493 prospective students registered for information sessions across the institution. Of those registrants, 343 students applied to KPU, resulting in a 9.8% conversion rate. This ongoing data will be valuable for planning information session strategies.

Digital Advertising

- The "Celebrating KPU Grads" convocation video and TikTok reels continue to receive high impressions, reach, and clicks.
- The KPU brand banner ad resulted in ~80 conversions, with the "What will it mean to

you" form achieving the highest Google Ads conversion rates.

- Facebook campaigns generated 1,038 sign-ups, including "Get Started" and info session forms.
- Most website traffic came from Google and TikTok.

Website Analytics

The KPU website recorded 2.94M pageviews, 1.4M sessions, and 665K total users, including 606K new users (not active in over 3 months). Most website visitors came from Surrey, Vancouver, Richmond, Langley Township, Burnaby, and Delta.

Device usage:

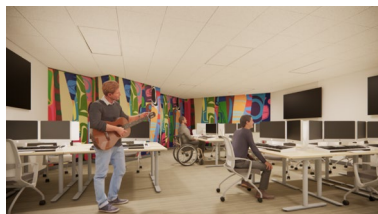
- Mobile: 315,000
- Desktop: 220,000
- Tablet: 136,000

FACILITIES SERVICES

Design & Capital Projects

Music Wing Renovation

The renovation of the Music Wing on the Langley Campus has successfully completed the concept and design phases. The project will revitalize the space with new finishes and state-of-the-art audiovisual equipment in the multipurpose room and study areas, fostering collaboration and creativity.



One-Time Funding – KPU Pathway to Systemic Transformation

KPU's Indigenous Committee allocated \$20,000 for two major projects: the Langley Campus Music Wing and Surrey Campus Black Box Theater Renovations. This funding will help hire a local indigenous artist to create custom artwork for both projects, enhancing their cultural significance. This initiative supports KPU's Pathway to Systemic Transformation, fostering a culture of inclusivity and emphasizing the vital role each employee plays in promoting positivity and respect.

Black Box Theater Renovation

The Black Box Theater at the Surrey campus has reached the construction drawing phase. Preparations are also in progress to submit the Building Permit application, a key step toward completing the project.

Electrical Shop Renovation

The electrical shop renovation at the Tech campus is now in the construction stage for the south workshop, which is expected to take three months and be completed by early April 2025. With available funding, we are renovating the existing teaching lab and building a new lab to enhance the educational experience and better prepare students for careers in the electrical field.

Surrey Courtyard – Digital Signage

The old pylon signs are showing their age, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain the accuracy of information and physical appeal. The efforts to modernize these signs continued in 2024, with four additional signs upgraded to digital signage boards. The locations include Arbutus, Birch, Cedar Northeast & Cedar Northwest.



Before

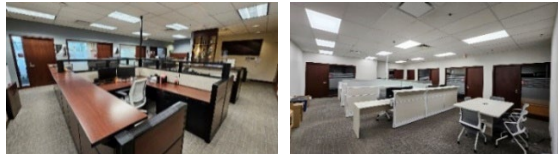


After



Surrey Executive Suite – Office Renovation

The waiting area was renovated to create an open and welcoming entrance space, adding extra workstations and an informal meeting area.

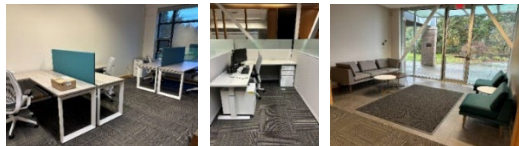


Before

After

Langley Executive Suite – Furniture Refresh

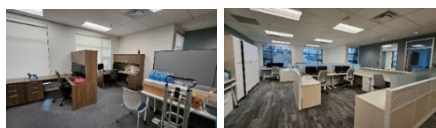
This furniture was refreshed in October 2024. Along with the updated quality of furniture, improved ergonomics, and a fresh coat of paint, this refresh also increased the number of desks and workstations in many areas, allowing more employees to work out of this updated space. An updated entry and lounge area created a welcoming space for incoming visitors and an elevated feel to the overall space.



After

Langley Faculty of Science, Dean's Office – Furniture Refresh

The furniture in the Faculty of Science, Dean's Office Suite was updated to provide greater functionality and ergonomics for all team members. Accessibility considerations include having wide floor spaces to support easy maneuvering and a reception desk with a lowered counter and open knee spaces underneath for users in wheelchairs.

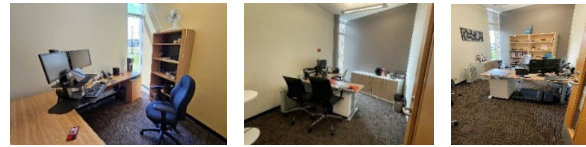


Before

After

Tech Faculty of Trades & Technology, Dean's Office – Furniture Refresh

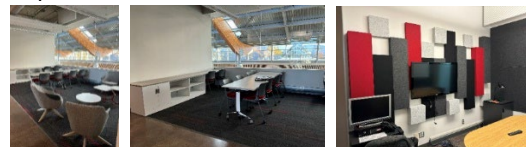
The Dean of the Faculty of Trades & Technology and her team received a furniture update to replace outdated furniture in their four offices.



Before After

Surrey Maple 3881, Criminology Department – Furniture Refresh

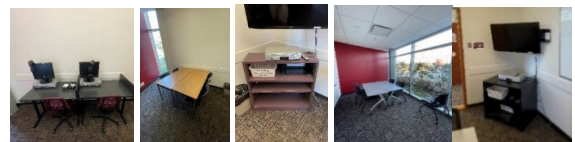
The Department received a refresh in October 2024, adding a mixture of furniture, including a computer workspace for students, a collaboration area, and a lounge space. The department has communicated how happy the students are with the new space and has already seen an increase in usage of the area. To finish the project, acoustic panelling was added to the department's podcast room, which has helped improve the room's acoustics.



After

Tech Library Study Rooms – Furniture Refresh

Partnering with the Library team, the library study room furniture was upgraded with moveable tables and chairs for active learning and functionality.



Before

After

Langley & Richmond Library – Additional Furniture

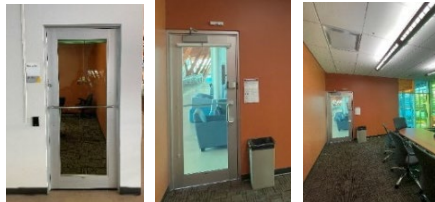
New curved bookcases were added to accommodate the expanding Indigenous, Wellness, and New materials collection.



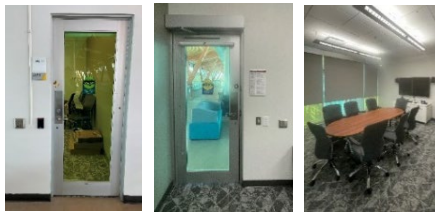
Tech Meeting Room 2210 - 2220 – Furniture Refresh

Phase one of this project included increasing accessibility, updating finishes and reducing eye strain for both rooms. Accessibility updates included replacing battery-powered card readers with

hardwired readers adjacent to new door actuators, relocated light switches and new automatic blind controls adjacent to the entry door. Updated finishes included grey and white tones for the walls and a color-neutral carpet selection. Lastly, in an effort to reduce eye strain, automated blinds were installed to filter the glare and tinting from the coloured glazing.



Before



After

Richmond Main 2320 - 2370 Research Hub Centralization

Facilities assisted in consolidating and increasing the footprint of the Research Hub into a centralized area on the second floor of the main campus. All furniture was repurposed inventory to give a fresh new look for the teams.

Richmond Main 3030 - 3034 – FOA Criminology Relocation Centralization

Facilities assisted in consolidating the Faculty of Arts – Criminology into new offices of an underutilized 3rd floor of the ENTA space. This move provided the group with more office space, a meeting room for faculty meetings, student one-on-one meetings, and space to hold virtual classrooms while other faculty occupy their offices. All furniture was existing built-in millwork or surplus new-to-user inventory.

Richmond Garden City Lands, ISH

Facilities completed the installation of concrete slabs inside and outside the storage area, along with electrical work and interior and exterior lighting installation.



Before

After

Faculty of Arts, Arbutus Building

Facilities installed new kitchen cabinets, including a sink and a refrigerator.



Before

After

Maintenance and Operations

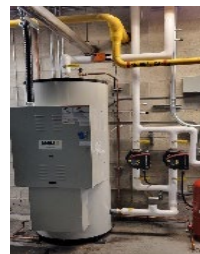
Surrey Campus Electrical Upgrade project – recent milestones

This two-year, \$4.5 million project will upgrade the existing electrical supply to KPU's Surrey Campus, adding 55kv of new capacity to current 25KV service. When complete, this additional capacity will allow for future decarbonization of the campus' HVAC units as they reach end-of-life, eliminating a major source of KPUs greenhouse gas emissions.



Richmond Campus DHW Heater

The Richmond campus has been upgraded from natural gas-fired to an all-electric DHW heater. This new equipment will help reduce KPU's carbon footprint while providing hot water.



All Campuses Low Carbon Feasibility Study

The completed study identifies and evaluates pathways for optimizing heating system equipment and electrification to reduce carbon emissions. This study information was used to develop our carbon reduction plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at KPU as required by the BC Government.

Ancillary Services

Campus Store

The Campus Store has recently transitioned to a new, more accessible website template, enhancing the online shopping experience. The Campus Store actively engages with the KPU community by participating in orientation events and providing a relaxing space within the store for students and staff.



Food Services

With the support of mid-year funding, a food open house event was organized across the Surrey, Langley, Richmond, and Cloverdale (Tech) campuses. The project aimed to increase foot traffic and visibility while informing staff, students, and faculty about Dana's offerings and catering options.



Food Operations

A review of current natural gas cooking equipment was completed to understand where we can move to electrified equipment. This approach will allow further reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The first stage of this project is complete, and infrastructure requirements will be reviewed next to determine the full scope of this change.

Fleet

A new hybrid vehicle was acquired for the KPU fleet pool.



