

Applied Research Strategic Plan 2009-11

Our aspiration by developing this strategic plan is to provide the framework by which the College seeks to accomplish its applied research objectives by 2011, and for an interdisciplinary applied research model that focuses on real world problems with immediate outcomes. As research is critical to underpinning the scholarship, quality and relevance of our academic programs, we will, by means of this framework, also ensure that the practical knowledge gained from seeking innovation solutions to practical problems is channeled back into curriculum development and instruction for the benefit of our learners.

Vision

To sustain excellence in conducting quality, relevant applied research activities, in transferring our results to the broader community, and in evaluating the larger societal and economic contributions of these efforts.

Principles

- All of our activities will be relevant, practical and meaningful and contribute positively to the College community, our learners, and to the well being of the broader community.
- All of our activities will be conducted in a responsible, safe, and ethical manner.
- All participants will operate under a model of shared responsibility and, to this end, will work collaboratively and respectfully, supporting each other's contribution and cultural diversity.
- All of our activities will be compliant with applicable legislation as well as adhere to College governing policies and processes.
- All of our activities and results of our efforts will be of the highest quality.

Our Commitment

We are committed to fostering the collegial spirit of creativity, inquiry and discovery.

- We encourage, support and value an environment of free inquiry in which to conduct and lead quality research, scholarship and creative work.
- We are dedicated to integrating research, teaching and learning, and innovation and to mobilizing our discoveries to the community.
- We promote and actively seek opportunities to engage our students in these activities, thereby improving their preparedness for the workplace, enriching their College experience and strengthening their contribution to society.

Priority Areas

Our research strengths are grouped into 5 priority areas.

1. Leading innovation in sustainable energy technologies through our new Sustainable Energy Centre and associated Research Pavilions.

2. Advancing optimal utilization and management of our natural environment including investigations related to impact assessment and monitoring (i.e., wildlife, air quality, water management/treatment).
3. Leading research regarding learning disabilities practices and assessments in the post secondary environment with particular emphasis on post assessment success, best practice, and the impact of assistive technology on learning.
4. Exploring creative and practical applications of integrating mobile technology with curriculum delivery specifically targeting learners in remote and rural Aboriginal communities.
5. Exploring interdisciplinary innovations in health sciences and emergency services.

Key Strategies

1. Support a culture for applied research and innovation at Cambrian College.
2. Advance applied research and scholarship integrated within curricula providing opportunities for student and faculty engagement in meaningful applied research and innovation activity.
3. Build on existing and emerging strengths to achieve excellence in selected applied research areas.
4. Actively engage with industry and the community in applied research projects for mutual benefit.

* Approved by Executive Committee on May 27, 2009.