Scholarship, Research and Creative Activity

FOUNDATION PLAN

Transforming Learning Through Knowledge Creation

2022 - 2027

VANCOUVER ISLAND
UNIVERSITY

Hay ch qu’ sii’em siye’yu mukw mustimuxw

(Thank you respected ones of this place)

The Vancouver Island University community acknowledges and thanks the Snuneymuxw, Quw’utsun, Tla’Amin, Snaw-naw-as and Qualicum First Nation on whose traditional lands we teach, learn, research, live, and share knowledge.

Vancouver Island University's Strategic Plan: People, Place, Potential sets out six commitments for the University to pursue between 2021 - 2026. The strategic plan will be achieved through six foundation plans including the Academic Plan; the Scholarship, Research, and Creative Activity Plan; the Student Affairs Plan; the Operations Plan; the Community Engagement Plan; and the People Plan. Each of the foundation plans outlines the priority areas for divisions and details goals, objectives and strategies to achieve them.

A message from Nicole Vaugeois

Associate Vice-President, Scholarship, Research and Creative Activity

This foundation plan ***Transforming Learning through Knowledge Creation*** establishes the priority goals, objectives and strategies for Scholarship, Research and Creative Activity (SRCA) at Vancouver Island University (VIU) over the 2022-27 timeframe. The document provides a blueprint to guide the future development of SRCA at VIU. The purpose of this document is to provide the foundation and direction for VIU to enable and support employees and students to engage in SRCA. The plan will also support VIU in strategic level resource allocation decisions to also ensure that the benefits of engagement in SRCA are realized by our students, employees and the communities we serve.

This plan will enable VIU to continue the impressive track record established during the 2017-22 foundation plan. During this time period, VIU has created new opportunities for our students and employees to engage in, and learn from SRCA experiences. Our reputation as an institution has been enhanced by the numerous and impactful contributions of new knowledge that have emerged. As we have profiled this work, the expertise within VIU is being increasingly sought by more community partners, government bodies, and external academic partners who wish to collaborate and support our work. Where our 2017-22 plan focused on building a culture of SRCA, this plan aims to expand access to opportunities for those who wish to engage in SRCA and continue to build individual and institutional capacity for inclusive excellence. The first part of this plan describes the institutional context where SRCA occurs including definitions, guiding principles and aspirations. The plan then describes the existing strengths of the SRCA contributions from VIU in seven thematic areas. The plan then identifies the goals, objectives, strategies and metrics that will be undertaken over the next 5 years to support inclusive excellence using a life-cycle framework that will invest in the intellectual, human, social, physical, technological and financial capital required to ensure that learning opportunities through SRCA are accessible across the institution.

This plan is **an institutional plan** that identifies strategies by a host of facilitators and enablers at VIU. In order to achieve the goals outlined in the plan, we will need to value the role of SRCA and actively collaborate across institutional departments with a commitment to success. I look forward to leading this work and witnessing the **people** in this special **place** to realize their **potential** through SRCA.

Nicole Vaugeois, AVP Scholarship, Research and Creative Activity

Additional content specific to SRCA is also located in VIU's Academic Plan 2022-27 Weaving our Journey Together (Goal 3; Advance the Practice of Inquiry), our 2021-26 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Plan (Goal 6 Embrace EDI Best Practices in SRCA) and the Community Engagement Plan (Goals 2, 3 and 4).

Table of Contents

1. Context for Scholarship, Research and Creative Activity **5**

2. SRCA Strengths and Focus Areas **7**

Health, resilience and well-being 7

Integrated sciences, technology and environment 7

Resilience of island, coastal and rural regions 7

Innovation, entrepreneurship and social change 8

Cultural, Heritage and creative expression 8

Equity, diversity and social justice 8

Teaching and learning 8

3. Pathway to excellence **9**

Goal 1: Cultivate talent among employees and students to enable engagement in SRCA 12

Goal 2: Connect and Collaborate to co-create knowledge outputs 13

Goal 3: Create knowledge, applications, innovation and works 14

Goal 4: Communicate SRCA outputs into the public realm 15

Goal 5: Celebrate and commit to continuous improvement 16

4. Measuring Success and Reporting Back **17**

5. Development Process **17**

6. Acknowledgements **18**

Appendix A. **19**

1. Context for Scholarship, Research and Creative Activity

VIU's Strategic Plan: *People, Place, Potential* identifies bold and inspiring goals related to SRCA. We recognize that powerful and transformative learning happens when people are provided access to opportunities to learn in places and in partnership with those in our communities. Our plan includes a commitment to grow to be the region's hub for research and expertise so that our communities reach out to VIU as their partner of choice to help them address social, economic and environmental challenges. VIU also aims to become a leader in learning for new generations by researching and sharing pedagogies for success.

VIU's Academic Plan: *Weaving our Journey Together* aligns with our commitment to access by incorporating a goal to increase the number of students at VIU who will have an opportunity to engage in research, inquiry, and discovery learning. We recognize that these experiences provide valuable and transformative learning opportunities for our students and we aspire to create an environment where all of our students can participate in them early and often in their education journey.

AT VIU, RESEARCH AND TEACHING ARE COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES AS BOTH CONTRIBUTE TO THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF THE INSTITUTION – HIGH QUALITY LEARNING EXPERIENCES.

VIU employees are engaged and interested in a wide range of SRCA. They are motivated by their desire to contribute knowledge to their discipline, enhance their teaching practice, mentor students in deep learning experiences and/or to engage with external community partners. Additionally, VIU is home to a number of research institutes and centres that encourage employees to undertake community-engaged and interdisciplinary inquiry aligned to address pressing environmental, economic and social/cultural priorities. These entities provide significant opportunities for student learning experiences through SRCA.

Students are the primary beneficiary of this plan. Research shows that the earlier and more frequently students are provided opportunities to engage in research, the deeper and more transformative their learning experience becomes. VIU aspires to provide all of our learners with opportunities to engage in SRCA as early and as frequently as possible. Our track record shows that we excel in providing students with opportunities to work alongside exceptional faculty mentors. Our annual celebration of research excellence among students, called CREATE, has grown annually and showcases a wide range of SRCA. The continued growth of graduate programs has increased the number of research endeavors taking place at the institution. This plan lays the foundation to build upon the excellent track record that VIU has established in student research and aims to provide greater access and resources to ensure that students across the institution are able to become involved in research within their discipline and beyond.

Definitions of Scholarship, Research and Creative Activity

SCHOLARLY OR CREATIVE ACTIVITY IS DEFINED AS THE PROCESS OF RESEARCH LEADING TO SCHOLARLY OR CREATIVE PRODUCTS AND THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN ONE'S DISCIPLINE OR IN INTERDISCIPLINARY WORK.

This plan aims to enhance the environment for scholarship, research and creative activity to thrive at VIU. Scholarship, particularly in comprehensive teaching universities must be framed in a way that it is inclusive of a range of scholarly activities. VIU utilizes the expanded definition of scholarship and research which classifies four types of scholarship as proposed by Ernest Boyer. These include: 1) the **scholarship of discovery** which includes original research that advances knowledge, 2) the **scholarship of integration** which includes synthesis of information across disciplines, across topics within a discipline or across time, 3) the **scholarship of application** which involves the application of disciplinary expertise with results that can be shared external to the University, and 4) the **scholarship of teaching and learning** which allows for public sharing and the opportunity for application and evaluation by others. The **scholarship of engagement,** often regarded as the fifth type, refers to the use of scholarship to understand and solve pressing social, civic and ethical problems.

We recognize and celebrate that scholarship at the University looks different among the disciplines but that the following principles identify activity as scholarship or scholarly activity[3] 1) it contributes to the creation, dissemination, or exchange of knowledge or creative activity within one's teaching, one's discipline, or the academy; or, it contributes to the development of new concepts of discipline or inter-/ multi-discipline; 2) its results are publicly available or displayed, and therefore subject to peer review; 3) it employs the professional expertise of the faculty member, and 4) methods and approaches are professionally rigorous and appropriate to the field.

[1] *Definition originally from the UNC Asheville: 3.0 Faculty Rights, Responsibilities and Evaluations.*

[2] *Boyer, E.L. (1990) Scholarship reconsidered: Priorities of the Professoriate, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.*

[3] *Statement on Scholarship: Vancouver Island University, approved by Senate, October 4, 2012.*

2. SRCA Strengths and Focus Areas

Our SRCA focus areas reflect an inclusive sphere of interdisciplinary themes that align with existing strengths and priority areas of the institution and region. Figure 1 illustrates the seven areas of SRCA strength and focus at VIU.



Figure 1: SRCA strengths and focus areas at Vancouver Island University

Health, resilience and well-being

This theme focuses on the study of human and environmental health with the aim of improving the adaptive capacity of humans and systems such that greater levels of resilience and well-being are achieved. Contributions of VIU employees and students over the past five years aligned to this theme have been considerable resulting in innovative health initiatives, impactful health outcomes and mutually beneficial partnerships with Island Health, the Ministry of Health and numerous community partners.

Integrated sciences, technology and environment

This theme focuses the contributions that VIU scientists and technologists from different disciplines take to identify new and impactful approaches to tackle complex issues related to sustainability, climate change and the environment. In the past decade, VIU researchers have pursued bold and impactful work to measure progress on the sustainable development goals, measure chemical pollutants in air and water systems, identify impacts of thermal changes on fish and shellfish, changes in coastal snowpack and forest cover. These contributions have resulted in VIU being recognized for its expertise within the region, Canada and beyond.

Resilience of island, coastal and rural regions

VIU is located in an island and coastal region comprised of mostly rural communities who have been experiencing numerous and significant shifts due to globalization, climate change, demographic shifts, and population migration. These shifts have presented opportunities and challenges for the region, pressuring it to adapt and remain resilient. This theme captures VIU studies that profile the realities, adaptive responses and challenges of people, communities and organizations in island, coastal and rural regions. The outputs have been critical for our partners to inform regional planning, management and development decisions while contributing the growing literature on resilience in numerous disciplines.

Innovation, entrepreneurship and social change

The rapid and widespread changes taking place in the public, private and not for profit sectors to innovate, create economy and better society provide significant opportunities for VIU. This theme profiles the work being done to identify and monitor changes in the business and management models used across sectors as well as the associated outcomes of innovation and social change. When mobilized, these knowledge outputs have resulted in advancements and improved practices in a range of non-academic settings as well as the expanding literature in numerous disciplines.

Cultural, heritage and creative expression

This thematic area deepens inquiry and creative activity to explore the various ways a culture, or cultures, use or have used literary, political, social, and artistic forms of creative expression. Exploration is done through the examination of and analysis of texts and images, the restoration and presentation of works of art, the critical evaluation of elements of historical and modern culture, the theory informed study of past human activity and the creation of new knowledge and art and its performance.

Equity, diversity and social justice

VIU is committed to respect, diversity and to promoting respectful, informed discourse about reciprocity and reconciliation as identified by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action. Issues of equity, diversity and social justice have gained elevated importance and urgency in recent years in order to ensure that access to social and economic resources are provided to everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexuality or social class. VIU employees and students have made tremendous and impactful contributions in this thematic area resulting in greater understanding and informed practice on equity and social justice issues.

Teaching and learning

VIU has developed considerable expertise in innovative teaching and learning practices. This inquiry has practical value in that it enhances the learning experiences of students, while enabling faculty to continuously improve their teaching practices. Engaging in this process also allows faculty members to consider their practice, obtain evidence of their impact on student learning and make informed decisions about next steps for enhancing learning experiences. Faculty inquiry and reflection also has scholarly value to external audiences when it is shared beyond the University. This focus area will enable VIU to continue make significant contributions to the scholarship of teaching and learning.

3. Pathway to Excellence

The pathway to excellence in SRCA at VIU will be facilitated by using a life-cycle framework (figure 2) whereby actions are taken by the institution at all stages of the research process to support the development of talented individuals and clusters to enable them to create knowledge, application and works that are shared with, and impact our society. These learning achievements are celebrated internally and externally and result in growth and development of our people; contributions to disciplinary knowledge; and solutions to societal, economic and environmental issues.

This lifecycle framework provides the structure for the goals and objectives of this strategic plan. The design of the framework recognizes that excellence in SRCA will be achieved by cultivating talent among students and employees; enabling collaboration through clusters and university-community partnerships; providing supports for new knowledge, applications, innovation and works to emerge; actively communicate these outputs into the public realm; and celebrating achievements and excellence in SRCA across the institution. The framework provides individuals and groups opportunities to access services and supports that align with their needs. Each of the five components of the framework will be described in the following sections along with the five goals and 11 objectives to be implemented over the five-year timeframe of the plan using a collaborative, cross-institutional approach that utilizes resources and expertise from the institutional enabling and facilitating bodies.

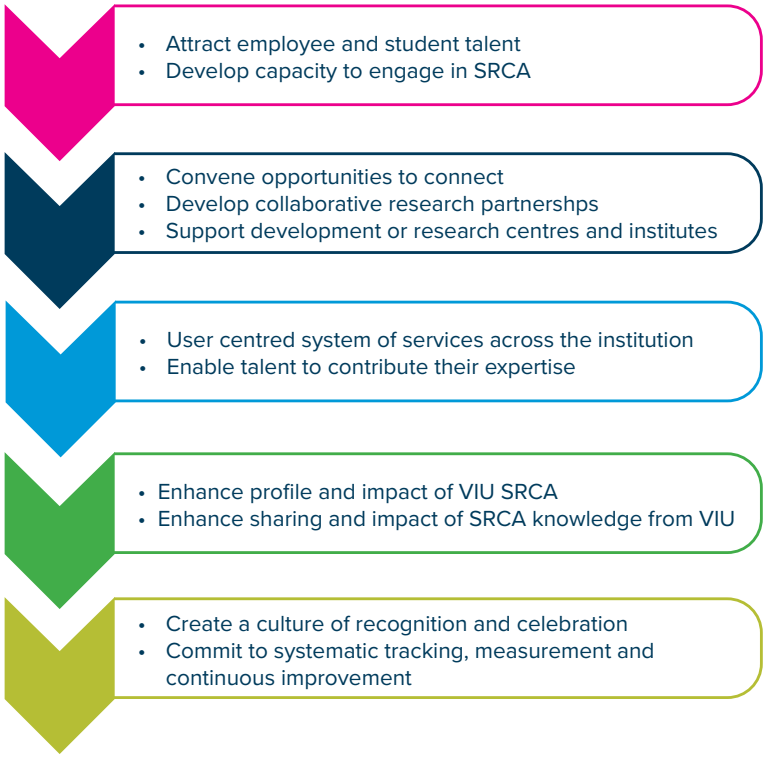

Figure 2: Lifecycle framework to developing inclusive SRCA excellence



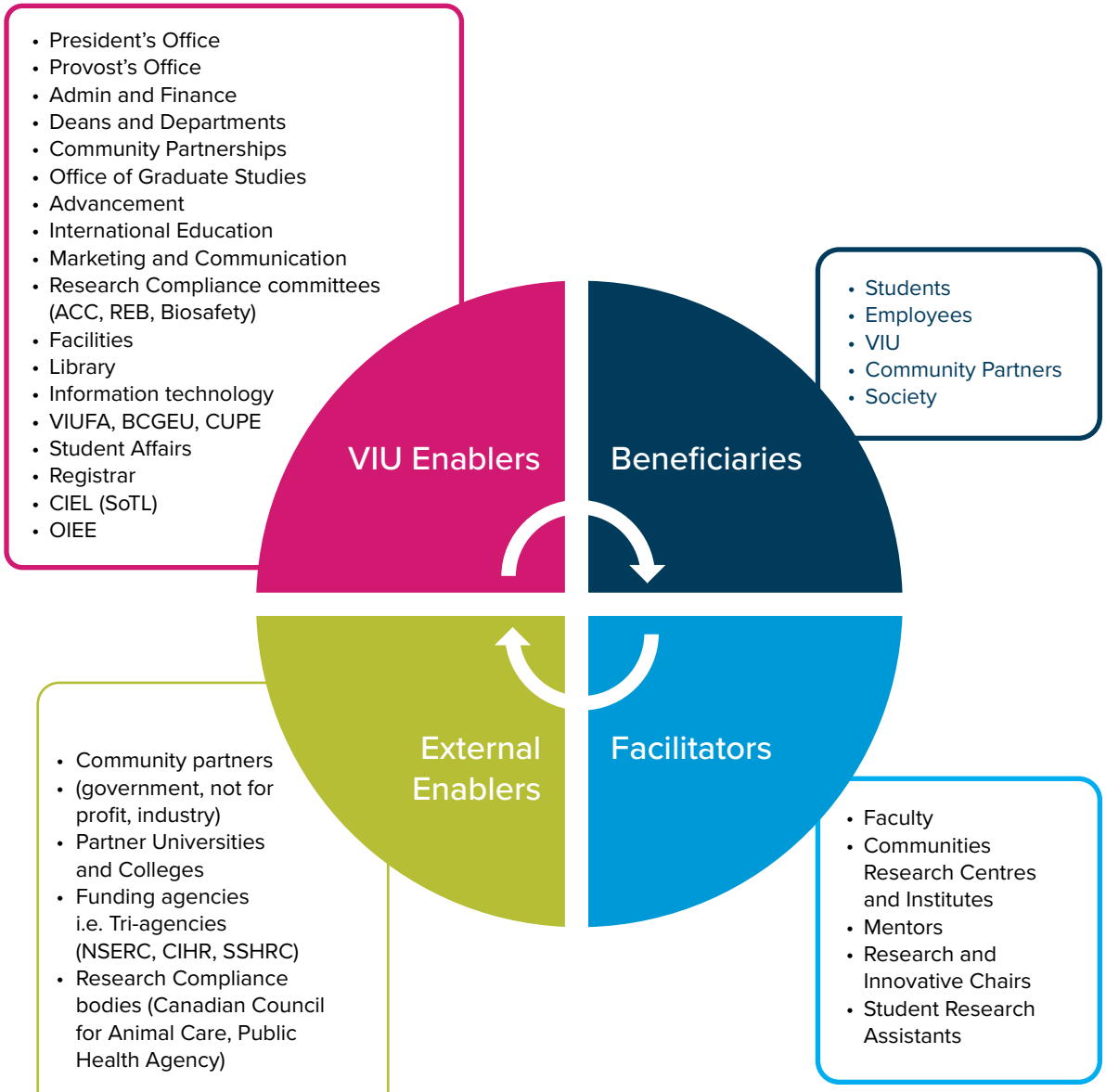

Figure 3: Collaborative, cross institutional approach

Cross-institutional approach to implementation

This plan is an institutional plan that will be implemented using a collaborative, cross-institutional approach (figure 3) that incorporates the resources, services, supports and expertise in internal and external enabling and facilitating bodies. The SRCA office will oversee the completion of the plan by identifying and securing resources, coordinating initiatives, and monitoring progress.

Goals, Objectives and Strategies

PEOPLE | Goal 1: Cultivate talent among employees and students to enable engagement in SRCA

VIU aims to provide opportunities for employees and students to develop their potential. These opportunities result in growth and development for individuals, the University and our external partners. Cultivating talent in SRCA is a primary and ongoing focus of the lifecycle approach to developing SRCA excellence. The emphasis is on supporting people to develop the knowledge and skills to successfully engage in SRCA endeavors.

Objectives	Strategies	Milestones and Metrics
1.1 Attract employee and student talent to contribute VIU expertise to society.	• SRCA, Human Resources, Marketing and Communications will elevate the profile and impact of VIU's SRCA activity to support employee and student recruitment (i.e. promotional videos, stories) • SRCA and Advancement will identify and secure resources to establish new research and innovation chairs aligned with VIU SRCA strengths. • SRCA and Human Resources will collaborate to create tools and resources to support employee recruitment. • SRCA will host an annual new employee orientation to SRCA each September. • Marketing will work with Deans to review existing websites and develop templates to better profile faculty andtheir SRCA engagement to support student recruitment.	**Milestones:** • Recruitment resources developed for hiring committees by March 2023 • Website templates for faculty in place by September 2023 **Metrics:** • Increase in the number of employees attending the SRCA orientation annually • Increase in the number of students engaged annually in SRCA activities • Increase in the number of participants in the annual CREATE conference
1.2 Develop capacity to engage in SRCA among employee and students	• Human Resources, the Provost, and SRCA to consider the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training recent guidance for teaching institutions and related labour relations guidelines on research, for application at VIU. • Deans will ensure that the workload assigned for mentorship of students engaged in SRCA is aligned with the intent and relevant provisions in Collective Agreements. • Human Resources will review the formula for faculty mentorship of students involved in SRCA. • SRCA and Advancement will identify and secure resources to provide competitive funding resources for employees and students. • SRCA to complete and launch EDGE, a researcher development program to provide ongoing professional development opportunities in SRCA. • SRCA to conduct a review of internal funding sources/awards for employees and students to engage in SRCA to ensure adequate resources are in place to support the direct costs of research, dissemination and the hiring of student research assistants by March 2023. • Deans will identify annual priorities to support Faculty goals related to SRCA. • *NOTE: Goal 3 in the Academic Plan is to Advance the Practice of Inquiry. This goal identifies strategies that will build capacity in SRCA via program curriculum.*	**Metrics:** • Increase in the number of employees with protected time for SRCA engagement • Increase in the number of faculty involved in mentoring students in SRCA • Increase in the number of employees and students participating in modules in the researcher development program. • Increase in the number of employees applying for and receiving internal and external grants and awards for SRCA • Increase in the number of students applying for and receiving internal and external grants and awards for SRCA

PLACE | Goal 2: Connect and Collaborate to co-create knowledge outputs

Creating knowledge is seldom a solo adventure. The second goal in this plan is to facilitate collaborative relationships across disciplines within the University, with external partners, and with academics at other universities across Canada and internationally. These collaborative endeavors will create reciprocal relationships and enhanced social capital resulting in new insights, discoveries and applications.

2.1 Convene regular opportunities for VIU employees and students to connect and identify potential collaborative projects	• The SRCA Office will convene 8-10 events/opportunities where VIU employees and students can connect and share their SRCA projects.	**Metrics:** • Achievement of the target of 8-10 events held is met • Increase in the number of participants at events
2.2 Develop collaborative research partnerships and networks within VIU, with external partners and other universities	• SRCA and the Office of Community Partnerships will identify and connect external partners with VIU talent to engage in SRCA projects. • *Note: The Community Engagement Foundation Plan has a goal (#2) to connect with and build reciprocal relationships with community partners including an objective to identify and profile VIU expertise.* • External Relations and the Scholarship, Research and Creative Activity Office will fundraise to maintain the Regional Initiatives Fund program to leverage VIU expertise in the region. • SRCA and Communications to identify, write and profile a minimum of 10 SRCA partnerships via different media platforms. • SRCA to track and measure the impact of partnered research projects for students, employee and partners. • SRCA and the OIEE will collaborate to ensure that tools and resources are available to enable respectful and reciprocal partnerships with Indigenous communities by September 2023. • International Education and SRCA will identify the interests, needs and current engagement among VIU employees with international partners by September 2023.	**Milestones:** • The Regional Initiatives Fund will be replenished by September 2023 and maintained annually **Metrics:** • Achievement of a target of 5 new collaborative or interdisciplinary SRCA projects annually at VIU • Increase in the number of new research partnerships with external partners (by type, industry, not for profit, government, regional to international) • Achievement of target of 10 stories profiling research partnerships between VIU and external partners • Impact measures on the benefits of collaboration by employee, students and partners
2.3 Support the development and success of research centres and institutes	• Deans and the AVP SRCA to promote and support proposals for existing and new research centres and institutes. • Directors of existing centres and institutes that wish to continue will develop a proposal and receive approval by Senate by December 2023. • Directors of research centres and institutes will develop annual activity reports and share with Senate. • SRCA and Communications will profile the work of VIU research centres and institutes via different media platforms.	**Metrics:** • Number of research centres and institutes approved through Senate • Impact data provided in the annual reports from research centres and institutes to Senate

PLACE | Goal 3: Create knowledge, applications, innovation and works

The energy and enthusiasm generated by talented and curious people and collaborative teams must be supported by systems and infrastructure to undertake SRCA. This goal aims to ensure that the services, supports and resources that are required in order to facilitate and enable the creation of knowledge, innovation, works and applications of scholarly endeavors are in place.

3.1 Ensure required supports and a user centreed system of services for SRCA are available and accessible across the institution	• SRCA will share insights from the "What we heard report" with Human Resources, Finance, IT, Communications and Facilities by December 2022 to identify opportunities and commit to providing more efficient systems and supports for employee and students engaged in SRCA. • SRCA will initiate a taskforce to improve efficiencies in services and supports for SRCA by December 2023. • SRCA will provide opportunities for annual feedback on institutional services and supports for SRCA.	**Milestones:** • Taskforce report on efficiencies in SRCA completed by September 2023. **Metrics:** • Level of awareness and satisfaction with research services at VIU by employee and students
3.2 Enable VIU talent to contribute their expertise to create new knowledge or innovative/creative outputs	• SRCA and OUPA to compile annual reports from Faculty Activity Reports (where permission is granted) to identify and highlight VIU's SRCA impacts to society.	**Metrics:** • Compiled reports/highlights on data from Faculty Activity Reports (aggregate data) • Increase in the dollar value of external grants and contracts to VIU annually

POTENTIAL | Goal 4: Communicate SRCA outputs into the public realm

When SRCA is mobilized to audiences that can benefit from them, the learning benefits continue and expand beyond their originators. The fourth goal is aimed at communicating and mobilizing knowledge that emerges during the creation process so that it can impact society via academic and non-academic outputs. This will result in enhanced profile of VIU, our knowledge creators, students and our contributions to disciplinary and societal knowledge.

4.1 Enhance the profile and impact of VIU employee and student SRCA	• SRCA and Communications to develop a research communications strategy by March 2023. • SRCA to encourage and support knowledge mobilization events by employees by providing tools, procedures and resources by January 2024. • Office of Community Engagement and Scholarship, Research and Creative Activity to encourage and support knowledge mobilization events by September 2023. • Deans to encourage and support speaker series events and other knowledge mobilization activities by September 2023.	**Milestone:** • Tools to encourage and support knowledge mobilization events released by January 2024. **Metrics:** • Number and reach of annual media stories from VIU • Number of and attendance at knowledge mobilization events annually • Number of videos produced of research in action
4.2 Enhance the sharing and impact of SRCA knowledge created at VIU	• SRCA, the Library and IT will develop and publish VIU's Data Management Strategy by March 2023 as required for compliance by the Tri-agencies. • SRCA will conduct a review of existing resources to identify best practices in knowledge mobilization by June 2023. • SRCA will develop modules for the EDGE program on knowledge mobilization and research data management. • The Writing Centre and SRCA will collaborate to host an annual writing retreat for employees. • The Library and SRCA will collaborate to identify and provide supports for scholarly publications based on the needs of faculty. • The Library and SRCA will identify and provide supports to enable open access publication as required by the Tri-Agency Research Data Management policy. • SRCA and the Library will develop a dash-board of indicators to monitor the impact of VIU scholarly publications by January 2024 (i.e. number of VIU authored publications in major commercial scholarly publishers, VIU deposits of data into Dataverse, number of ORCID affiliates).	**Milestones:** • Research Data Management Plan by March 2023. • Modules in the Researcher development program on knowledge mobilization and research data management will be available by May 2023. **Metrics**: • Number of participants completing the modules on knowledge mobilization and data management in the EDGE program • Number of participants in the annual writing retreats • Number of faculty and number of contributions to VIU's Institutional Repository VIU Space

POTENTIAL | Goal 5: Celebrate and commit to continuous improvement

The outcomes of SRCA result in numerous and significant benefits for individuals and society. The contributions and achievements of the people involved in these activities merits internal and external recognition. The fifth goal is to identify and recognize excellence in SRCA undertaken by VIU students, employees and teams and to commit to continuous improvement. This will result in a culture of recognition and celebration across the institution and an ability to maintain a supportive environment for SRCA to thrive.

5.1 Create a culture of recognition and celebration of SRCA	• Deans will identify and support recognition and celebration of SRCA activities each year. • SRCA and Advancement will fundraise to increase funding for student awards at CREATE 10% annually. • SRCA and Communications will develop and release an Annual Research and Creative Activity Highlights Report by September of each year. • SRCA will host an annual recognition event for internal award recipients each year.	**Metrics:** • Number of nominations for Provost Awards for SRCA annually • Number of awards during CREATE and the Annual Research and Creative Activity Symposium • Number of internal and external awards for employee and students • Number of on campus celebration events
5.2 Commit to systematic tracking, measurement and continuous improvement of SRCA services and practices	• SRCA and the Office of Institutional Planning and Analysis will design a dashboard for SRCA and report out annually on metrics. • SRCA to provide opportunities for annual feedback on institutional services and supports for SRCA. • SRCA to develop a process to provide employee and students with opportunities for feedback on what is working and where improvements are needed to support engagement in SRCA. • SRCA and Deans to conduct annual meetings with Research and Innovation Chairs and Tri-agency grant holders to assess the level and types of supports needed for their success.	**Milestones:** • An SRCA dashboard will be developed by June 2023. • System for annual feedback in place by June 2023. • Annual meetings with Research and Innovation Chairs completed by May each year. **Metrics**: • Improved metrics on an annual dashboard for SRCA

4. Measuring Success and Reporting Back

This plan commits to a continuous improvement approach to ensure that progress on the goals and objectives are measured, tracked and used to adjust as needed during implementation. The metrics and milestones identified in section 3 will be used to develop a dashboard specific to this foundation plan. The data will be updated each year in May and select metrics will be highlighted in the annual Research and Creative Activity Highlights report which is shared with internal and external stakeholders each September. The SRCA Office will review the metrics and milestones each June and identify priorities and work plans for staff in the division. Additional reporting is required for the Tri-agencies each June.

5. Development Process

The direction set forth in this plan emerged after a consultative process between September 2021 to February 2022 whereby approximately 560 people provided input on the plan. The consultative process included input from:

1. The Deans of each Faculty unit provided an overview of what SRCA looks like in their area, their aspirations and plans, challenges or barriers, and resource needs (space, technology, funding).
2. Faculty were invited to provide input via an online survey which assessed current engagement and interest in SRCA, motivations, awareness and use of institutional supports for SRCA, importance and satisfaction of services and supports, alignment with research themes, suggested enhancements to improve SRCA at the institution.
3. Students were invited to submit input on an online form and to participate in focus groups to explore their experience in undergraduate research at VIU, their motivations, benefits and suggested enhancements.
4. A series of open lunch conversations were held with the AVP, SRCA.
5. Data related to SRCA from the VIU Strategic Plan consultation was reviewed.
6. An external scan of changes happening in the Canadian research ecosystem was completed.
7. Members of President's Council provided input on the draft plan.

A steering committee comprised of 20 VIU employees as well as an undergraduate and graduate student guided the development of the plan (see acknowledgements). The committee met four times between September 2021 and March 2022 to provide feedback on the consultation process, review the evidence gathered, identify future directions and review the draft of the plan prior to release.

6. Acknowledgements

This plan was led by Nicole Vaugeois, Associate Vice-President, Scholarship, Research and Creative Activity. It was developed through a consultative process that incorporated input from faculty, students and staff at VIU. Thank you to VIU employees and students who provided input to the direction set forth in this plan. Thank you also to Brandon Nelson in the Office of University Planning and Analysis for providing assistance in the Faculty SRCA Experience Survey.

The Scholarship, Research and Creative Activity Plan Steering Committee members included:

- Camie Augustus, Professor, Indigenous/Xwulmuxw Studies
- Chai Duncan, Professor, Visual Arts and View Gallery Curator
- Dana McFarland, Librarian and Coordinator, eResources and Scholarly Communication
- Farhad Moghimehfar, Professor, Recreation and Tourism Management
- Graham Sakaki, Manager, Regional Research Institute
- Jasmine Janes, Professor, Biology
- Jean-Guy Robichaud, Professor, Hospitality Management
- Pam Shaw, Professor Geography and Director of Master of Community Planning
- Piera Jung, Professor, Nursing
- Rachel Moll, Associate Dean, Education
- Robert Mahikwa, Navigator, Indigenous Education and Engagement
- Sally Vinden, Associate Dean, Trades and Technology
- Tim Green, Canada Research Chair, Shellfish Health and Genomics
- David Drury, Instructor, Welding
- Andrew Krause, Professor, Kinesiology
- Charlene Stewart, Instructor, Adult Basic Education
- Alison Taplay, Adjunct Professor, Powell River
- Jennifer Sills, Manager Education Abroad, International Education Department
- Lisa Kremer, Student Representative
- Julia Tippett, Student Representative
- Kendra Stiwich, Student Research Engagement Coordinator
- Roisin Mulligan, Manager of Research Development

Appendix A

Research and innovation chairs are key positions that contribute to research excellence at VIU. The chairs provide leadership in the institution and community, build external collaborations and partnerships, strengthen teaching and learning, and enhance contributions to institutional research themes. VIU currently has four Tier 2 Canada Research Chairs and two BC Regional Innovation Chairs as well as two Michael Smith Research BC Award holders. The titles of these chairs, their current status and alignment with institutional research areas are denoted in Table 1 and a short description of each chair follows.

Chair Type	Chair Title	Tier	Research Discipline	Current Status	Granting Agency	Research Strength and Focus Areas
Canada Research Chair (CRC)	Shellfish Health and Genomics	2	Evolution, genetics, breeding and environmental adaptation	Filled	NSERC[4]	• Integrated sciences and environment • Resilience of island, coastal and rural regions
Canada Research Chair (CRC)	Human Dimensions of Sustainability and Resilience	2	Forestry, agriculture GIS	Filled	SSHRC	• Health, resilience and well-being • innovation, entrepreneurship and social change
Canada Research Chair (CRC)	History of Women's Health	2	History, health indigenous knowledge	Filled	SSHRC	• Equity, diversity and social justice • Cultural, heritage and creative expression
Canada Research Chair (CRC)	Community Based Research	2	Education, indigenous knowledge	Filled	SSHRC	• Teaching and Learning • Equity, diversity and social justice
BC Regional Innovation Chair (BCRIC)	Aboriginal Early Childhood Development	NA	Childhood development, education, indigenous knowledge	Filled	BC LEEF/BCIC	• Resilience of island, coastal and rural regions
BC Regional Innovation Chair (BCRIC)	Tourism and Sustainable Rural Development	NA	Economic development, sustainability, tourism management	Filled	BC LEEF/BCIC	• Innovation, entrepreneurship and social change
Michael Smith Health Professional Investigator		NA	Nursing, psychedelic assisted therapy	Filled	MSHRBC	• Health, resilience and well-being • Equity, diversity and social justice
Michael Smith Health Research Scholar		NA	Nursing, brain injury	Filled	MSHRBC	• Health, resilience and well-being • Equity, diversity and social justice

Table 1: Research and Innovation Chairs at VIU by type and research focus area

[4] NSERC is the acronym for the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, SSHRC is the acronym for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, CIHR is the acronym for the Canadian Institute for Health Research, BC LEEF is the acronym for the BC Leading Edge Endowment Fund now administered by the BC Innovation Council.



Description of Research chairs

BC Regional Innovation Chair in Aboriginal Early Childhood Development (AECD)

The vision for the AECD Chair is to strengthen the local and cultural relevance of education for ECD practitioners that would enhance promising practice, and to create new opportunities to develop innovative, high quality, locally relevant, community-based programs and services that will positively influence the holistic development of Aboriginal children, families, and communities. The collaboration between VIU, First Nation communities and Aboriginal organizations and agencies holds great promise for strengthening educational preparation and professional development of ECD practitioners and will ultimately positively influence the health and development of children and families in Aboriginal communities.

BC Regional Innovation Chair in Tourism and Sustainable Rural Development

The vision for the BC Regional Innovation Chair in Tourism and Sustainable Rural Development is to support the sustainable introduction and development of tourism in BC's rural communities through collaboration with industry, community and government. The Chair currently focuses on three interrelated areas of innovation in tourism across the province of BC - Indigenous tourism (as a form of endogenous economic development), creative tourism (especially in 'creative outposts'), and tourism evolution (long-term economic changes).

Canada Research Chair in Shellfish Health and Genomics

A Tier-2 focuses on expanding the knowledge base in the field of invertebrate immunology by identifying new immune pathways in the oyster. Focused on BC, this research examines the response of the Pacific oyster to two climate-change exacerbated threats, ocean acidification and Vibrio bacteria. In the first term, this Chair will study the genetic and epigenetic mechanisms of shellfish adaption to these stressors. By determining the mechanisms involved in evolutionary adaption, an expected outcome is the implementation of a selective-breeding program to future-proof the Canadian shellfish industry against these challenges.

Canada Research Chair in Community-Engaged Research

A Tier-2 Canada Research Chair in Community-Engaged Research in Education focuses on collaborative, creative and cross-cultural youth-led community research. In the first term, the objective of the innovative research program is to stimulate culturally responsive learning through youth-led public art projects involving literacies and participatory visual methodologies, such as theatre, mural painting, spoken word poetry, hip-hop music, and digital story-telling.

Canada Research Chair in Human Dimensions of Sustainability and Resilience

A Tier-2 Canada Research Chair in the Human Dimensions of Sustainability and Resilience aims to clarify the extent and nature of reforestation and related wildfires around the world and improve our understanding of the nature of global forest change by developing new Earth observations that link local and regional agrarian and forestry trends. The CRC also advances new theoretical models of forest recovery and wildfires, satellite datasets and enhanced research networks. Ultimately, this research will help mitigate climate change by suggesting new techniques to restore forests and prevent wildfires.

Canada Research Chair in History Women's Health

A Tier-2 Canada Research Chair explores the history of women's pain in modern Canada. In the first term, this CRC focuses research on twentieth-century birth cultures (with a specific focus on Vancouver Island), while building collaborations in the study of gendered medical violence, and launching a new project that explores the history of women's pain across the life cycle with the ultimate goal of seeking to improve women's encounters with the Canadian health care system.

Michael Smith Health Research Health Professional Investigator

A Michael Smith Health BC Health Professional Investigator focuses on research and development in the area of resilience and psychedelic-assisted therapies. With the support of a number of collaborators and funding support from provincial, national and philanthropic bodies, the HPI has spearheaded the development of a community of practice program that facilitates resilience development with vulnerable populations with ketamine-assisted therapy.

Michael Smith Health Research BC Scholar

A Michael Smith Health Research BC Scholar focuses on the effects, underlying pathophysiological mechanisms, biomarkers, and treatments of traumatic brain injury (TBI) and related conditions. By engaging in inter-professional research, this Scholar will be supporting a community of practice critically important to VIU community partners. Collaborating with local, regional and international partners, these research outcomes can potentially have a positive impact for vulnerable populations — struggling each day with trauma and the related challenges due to socially structured inequalities.

Scholarship, Research and Creative Activity Foundation Plan

Version 1.0

April 2022

VANCOUVER ISLAND
UNIVERSITY