

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

# STRATEGIC ACADEMIC PLAN

2021-2026

SEPTEMBER 1, 2021



Thompson Rivers University campuses are on the traditional lands of the Tk'émłúps te Secwépemc (Kamloops campus) and the T'exelc (Williams Lake campus) within Secwepemcúlcw, the traditional and unceded territory of the Secwépemc. Our region also extends into the territories of the St'át'imc, Nlaka'pamux, Nuxalk, T'silhqot'in, Dakelh, and Syilx peoples.

## **TRU VISION**

Community-minded with a global conscience, we boldly redefine the university as a place of belonging — Kw'selktknéws (we are all related and interconnected with nature, each other, and all things) — where all people are empowered to transform themselves, their communities, and the world.

## **TRU VALUES**

Respectful relations define our behaviour. We respect each other (Xyemstwécw), the land, knowledge, the peoples of our region and beyond.

### **Inclusion and Diversity.**

Access is open: we welcome students, faculty, staff and communities from our region and around the world to learn from and with one another. We embrace diversity of thought and people. We commit to equity. We continually see the world and its inhabitants in new ways by re-examining our practices and their impacts.

### **Community-Mindedness.**

We come together to help one another (Pelkwaíl-c-kt esknucwentwécw-kt). Mutual benefit guides us to connect meaningfully with people in the communities we serve, contributing to an interconnected world where we all share a common future and humanity.

### **Curiosity.**

We seek out new ideas and embrace change, understanding they may involve risks. We break paths with creative, critical, yet thoughtful purpose. We push boundaries as a university and encourage students, faculty, staff, and the community to do the same.

### **Sustainability.**

The natural world inspires us with wonder and reverence. We recognize how the health of our societies, cultures and ecosystems rests upon wellness of people, biodiversity, and wise stewardship of precious and infinite resources. As a world leader in sustainability we know that the well-being of generations to come is shaped by what we do today.

## OUR MISSION

To provide access to the best, most adaptable  
Science education in Canada

### Preamble

This Plan builds on the prior Strategic Plan for the Faculty of Science (2017-2022) and has employed a broad consultation process and analysis of faculty and staff opinion. The development of the Plan recognizes the changing landscape of post-secondary education in Canada and aligns with the institutional goals that Thompson Rivers University (TRU) has set for itself as it evolves.

### Introduction

The Faculty of Science is the largest academic unit at TRU and currently serves the educational needs of nearly 4000 learners annually. The Faculty has earned a reputation for the high quality and success of its graduates and for its record of prestigious teaching, research and service awards won by faculty members. Faculty members in Science receive the greatest fraction of research funding that comes to TRU, particularly through research chairs, grants, and contracts.

Two overarching principles embedded in this Strategic Plan allow the Faculty of Science to achieve its academic goals. The first is creation of an environment — for working and studying—that values accessibility and facilitates the success of individuals from diverse places, backgrounds, and cultures. The second is a Faculty commitment to foster perspectives, research, and practices that work toward a sustainable future.

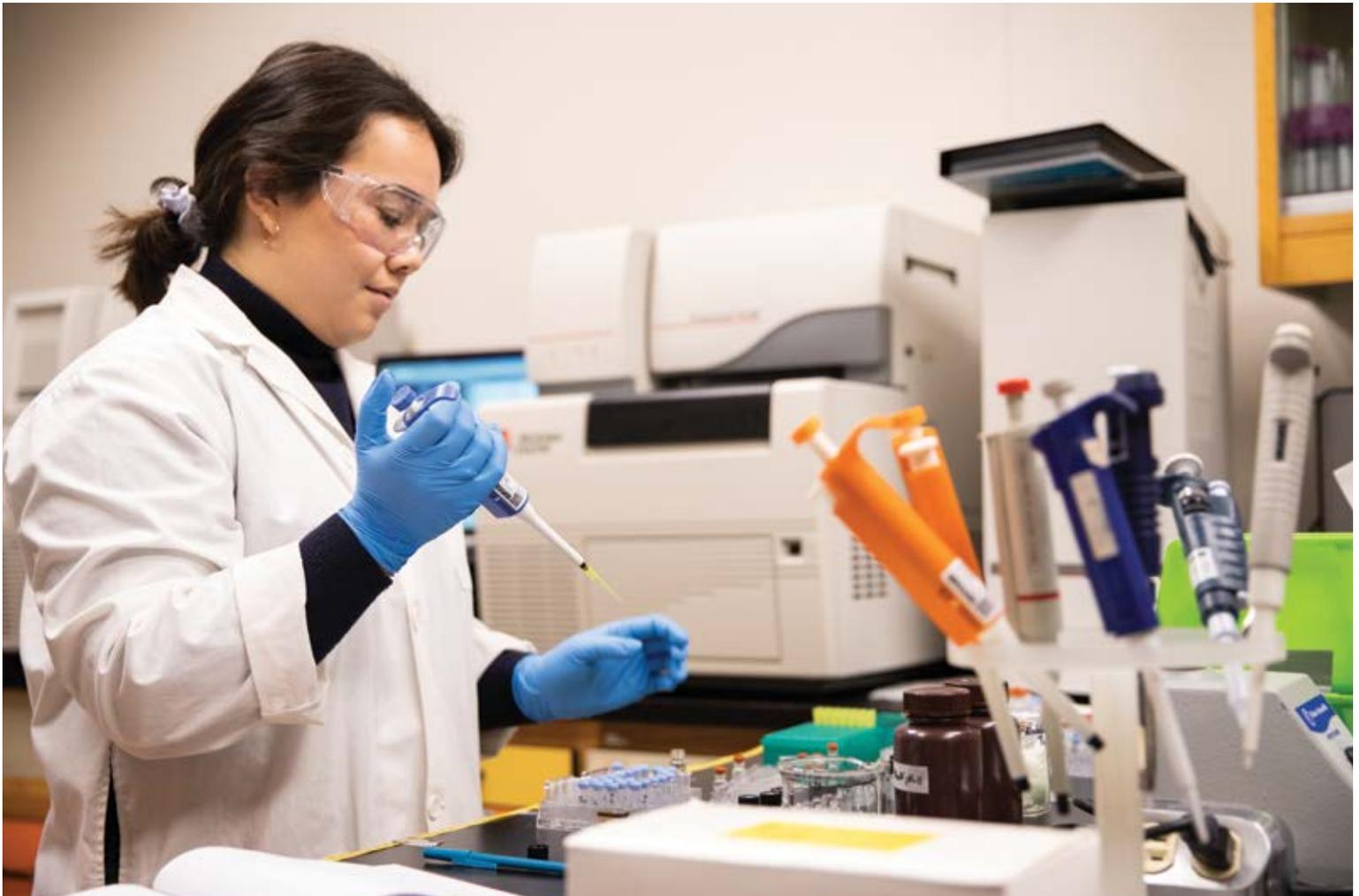


The five strategic goals outlined in this Plan identify how, over the next 5 years, the Faculty of Science will integrate its operation with the University's values and goals and achieve its academic vision. Together, the five strategic goals:

1. articulate how we approach changes in what and how we teach,
2. facilitate the impact of research and scholarly pursuits for our community and
3. support the production of graduates with the knowledge and skills to be successful throughout their lives as accomplished lifelong learners.

An essential element of this Plan recognizes the unique attributes of Thompson Rivers University that exist because of its history, place, and diversity of academic programming. The university is physically situated within the traditional lands of the Secwépemc people (Secwépemc'ulucw) and it recognizes the important role that educational opportunities for Indigenous people can play in Canada in the context of reconciliation for the harm caused by colonization. As a result, strategies that support the success of Indigenous learners are woven into the fabric of this Plan.

A second attribute that characterizes TRU (and is written into its mandate) is the important connection the university has to the regional community. This Plan thus recognizes the importance of the university to the region and its economy by strategically enhancing educational and research opportunities, that are both relevant to the region and both accessible to, and useful for, all learners from preschoolers to elders.



# Faculty of Science Strategic Goals 2021-2026

Below, the five strategic goals of the Faculty of Science are mapped to the values of Thompson Rivers University, demonstrating the Faculty's commitment to the University and its vision, mission and values.

## 1.0 Fostering diverse, inclusive and equitable learning and working environments

<b>Inclusion and Diversity</b>	Ensure that the staff and faculty complement is equitable, diverse and inclusive
<b>Community-mindedness</b>	Promote, support and strengthen a respectful, inclusive, equitable and welcoming culture for all faculty, staff and students
<b>Curiosity</b>	Foster an environment that encourages interaction and shows respect to Indigenous learning and knowledge
<b>Sustainability</b>	Eliminate achievement gaps for marginalized students

## 2.0 Creating sustainable practices that promote the well-being of the generations to come

<b>Inclusion and Diversity</b>	Incorporate Indigenous environmental and social knowledge regarding sustainability
<b>Community-mindedness</b>	Foster a climate in Science where economic and environmentally sustainable practices are a normal first choice
<b>Curiosity</b>	Support the health and well-being of students, faculty, and staff as a key part of a sustainable life
<b>Sustainability</b>	Create a financially sustainable model in Science

## 3.0 Transformational teaching and learning

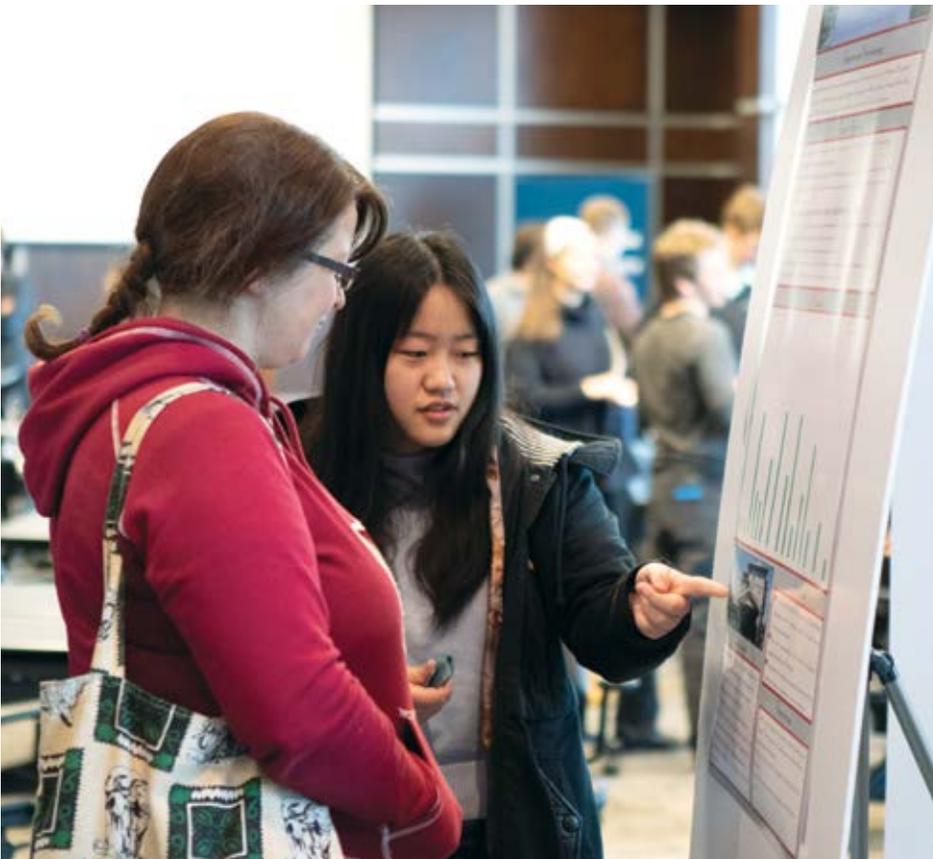
<b>Inclusion and Diversity</b>	Foster collaboration among disciplines to develop innovative and unique interdisciplinary academic programs
<b>Community-mindedness</b>	Provide space and opportunity for students to meet, study and work to develop communities of learners
<b>Curiosity</b>	Increase opportunities for experiential learning
<b>Sustainability</b>	Engage in continuous improvement in the quality and relevance of both Science curriculum and teaching methodologies

## 4.0 Transforming communities through impactful research and scholarship

<b>Inclusion and Diversity</b>	Partner with indigenous communities to meet their research needs while respecting First Nations data ownership and control
<b>Community-mindedness</b>	Increase the visibility of Science research and scholarship using multiple platforms
<b>Curiosity</b>	Increase student research opportunities
<b>Sustainability</b>	Increase research partnerships and interaction with diverse segments of the community

## 5.0 Inspiring lifelong learning through guided and skillful self-reflection

<b>Inclusion and Diversity</b>	Develop micro-credentials and other flexible, non-traditional learning pathways
<b>Community-mindedness</b>	Increase partnerships at the local, regional, and national levels to support student skill development
<b>Curiosity</b>	Develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills in all Science graduates
<b>Sustainability</b>	Invest in professional development for faculty, staff, students, and members of the community



## Strategy Map

	<b>Fostering diverse, inclusive and equitable learning and working environments</b>	<b>Sustainable practices that promote the well-being of the generations to come</b>	<b>Transformational teaching and learning</b>	<b>Transforming communities through impactful research and scholarship</b>	<b>Inspiring lifelong learning through guided and skillful self-reflection</b>
<b>Inclusion and Diversity</b>	Ensure that the staff and faculty complement is equitable, diverse and inclusive	Incorporate Indigenous environmental and social knowledge regarding sustainability	Foster collaboration among disciplines to develop innovative and unique interdisciplinary academic programs	Partner with indigenous communities to meet their research needs while respecting First Nations data ownership and control	Develop micro-credentials and other flexible, non-traditional learning pathways
<b>Community-mindedness</b>	Promote, support and strengthen a respectful, inclusive, equitable and welcoming culture for all faculty, staff and students	Foster a climate in Science where economic and environmentally sustainable practices are a normal first choice	Provide space and opportunity for students to meet, study and work to develop communities of learners	Increase visibility of Science research and scholarship using multiple platforms	Increase partnerships at the local, regional, and national levels to support student skill development
<b>Curiosity</b>	Foster an environment that encourages interaction and shows respect to Indigenous learning and knowledge	Support the health and well-being of students, faculty and staff as a key part of a sustainable life	Increase opportunities for experiential learning	Increase student research opportunities	Develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills in all Science graduates
<b>Sustainability</b>	Eliminate achievement gaps for marginalized students	Create a financially sustainable model in Science	Engage in continuous improvement in the quality and relevance of both Science curriculum and teaching methodologies	Increase research partnerships and interaction with diverse segments of the community	Invest in professional development for faculty, staff, students, and members of the community



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