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University of Lethbridge transforms the business school landscape by launching the Dhillon School of Business

\$10-million gift to drive futuristic learning

The University of Lethbridge today announces the transformation of its Faculty of Management to the Dhillon School of Business, which will have a strategic focus on finance and business innovation.

Navjeet (Bob) Dhillon, President and CEO of Mainstreet Equity Corporation, pledged a \$10-million gift to the University of Lethbridge, the largest donation in the institution's history. In recognition of Dhillon's generous contribution, the University is renaming the Faculty of Management to the Dhillon School of Business.

Along with a new name, the business school will build on its current curriculum by expanding its focus on finance and business innovation, entrepreneurship and internationalization. For example, the Dhillon School of Business will emphasize futuristic learning through innovative subject areas and new technologies such as blockchain, cryptocurrencies and new growth industries, including artificial intelligence and robotics.

As an innovative and transformational entrepreneur, Dhillon created a real-estate empire by identifying an underserved niche in the market, supporting it with resources and nurturing its massive growth. He sees the same opportunity and potential in the University of Lethbridge.

"The future of Canada depends on education," says Dhillon, who holds an MBA from the Ivey School of Business at Western University. "I wouldn't have achieved the success I've had if it wasn't for education. I'm a first-generation Sikh immigrant and I'm very fortunate that I'm in a position to make this contribution. This is my way of giving back to Canada. Supporting innovative education is key to launching Canadian talent in today's connected world."

University of Lethbridge President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Mike Mahon sees Dhillon's support as transformational.

"Our university was founded by forward-thinking mavericks, people who identified a need for a university in southern Alberta, and who pushed ahead with a wholly unique model that set the University of Lethbridge apart," says Mahon. "Here we are 50-plus years later and we're still looking ahead, pushing boundaries and creating an educational experience like no other. This gift, this commitment from Mr. Dhillon, will help drive us forward."

Dr. Bob Boudreau, dean of the Dhillon School of Business, says that both the Lethbridge and Calgary campus will offer the latest in hands-on training technology with a focus on integrating theory and research into practice.

"Our faculty has a history of creating transformational opportunities for students including: providing them with flexible learning options at our two campuses; creating access to cutting-edge technology like the Centre for Financial Market Research and Teaching, the best equipped academic trading centre in Western Canada; and immersing students in experiential education through professional development programming, co-op, international exchanges, work studies and more."

Through the U of L, Dhillon eyes opportunity in an underserved market. With strong connections to the region's business sector through industry partnerships and investment, innovative academic programming and a vibrant and growing immigrant population, he sees the framework of a destination university town rivaling any in Eastern Canada and the United States.

"I was very fortunate that the importance of education was drilled into me by my family, my parents, my brother, really everybody around me growing up," says Dhillon. "Education is what drives successful global nations and Canada is unique in that there is so much opportunity here. The U of L is a world-class university that the world needs to discover."

Dhillon is keenly aware of his position as an industry leader and similarly a pioneer for his community. He does not see his philanthropy as a solo act but rather a call to action.

"I am an immigrant and a businessman and I'm extremely thankful for the opportunities I've had growing up here in Canada," he says. "We all have a chance to give back to this country and to do so through education is critical for our country's young people. I want to see our youth succeed. I want to see Canada prosper. We can do that through education, by making the Dhillon School of Business a leader in financial and business innovation and Western Canada's destination for finance and business education."

To view the Lethbridge Livestream announcement:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0dMyYCpySQ>

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