



Strategic Priorities Report Card, 2003-07



University of
Lethbridge



The University of Lethbridge Strategic Plan, 2003-08 contained 16 Strategic Priorities, key areas in which the U of L would apply a special effort to more successfully align the institution with its Mission, Vision, and Fundamental Principles.

This Report Card documents, in brief, what we've accomplished relative to those Strategic Priorities.

Students

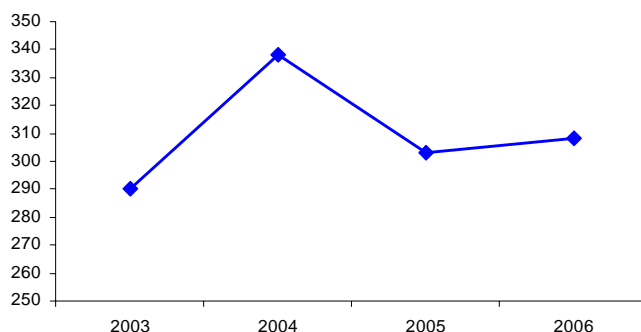
Improve student financial support through scholarships, bursaries, work opportunities, and other initiatives.

- ▶ Launched in Fall 2004, the **Supporting our Students campaign** has raised \$3.7M in funding for student scholarships and bursaries.
- ▶ The total dollar **amount paid out in scholarships** for 2006-07 was 59% higher than for 2003-04, and ten more students received scholarships.
- ▶ Since 2003, there have been 83 **new student awards and scholarships** set up as a result of gifts from donors.
- ▶ Since the **Legacy of Leadership** campaign began in 2001, \$4.8M in gifts and pledges have been directed at scholarships.
- ▶ Changes to the **University Endowment Fund Policy** resulted in up to 50% more funds available for spending from endowed student awards.
- ▶ The **Arthur J.E. Child Foundation** provided \$300,000 to endow awards in Economics, English, and History.
- ▶ The Faculty of Fine Arts offered **\$1,000 scholarships** to all students entering the Fall 2006 BFA (New Media) program.

Expand opportunities for graduate studies.

- ▶ In 2004 the U of L received approval to expand the special case Ph.D. program by offering five **new multi-disciplinary areas in the sciences**: Bio-molecular Science; Biosystems and Biodiversity; Earth, Space and Physical Science; Evolution and Behaviour; and Theoretical and Computational Science.
- ▶ In 2004 the School of Health Sciences implemented a **Master of Science cohort program** to allow students to pursue designations in Nursing, Addictions Counselling, or Health Sciences.
- ▶ For 2003 to 2007, **total graduate enrolments increased** by 6%.

Figure 1: Total Graduate Enrolments, 2003 to 2006



Foster a sense of healthy culture and community for students.

- ▶ The **First Choice Savings Centre for Sport and Wellness** opened in late 2006, and offers students the opportunity to participate in fitness programs. It includes a triple gymnasium, fitness centre, running track, climbing wall, and other fitness facilities.
- ▶ The Health Centre offers campus-wide **health education events** in the Fall and Spring semesters.
- ▶ A **computer exam centre** that hosts accommodated exams for students with disabilities opened in 2005.
- ▶ Occupational Health and Safety is developing a **pandemic response plan**.
- ▶ Developed in 2003, the **Principles of Student Citizenship** are now in the Calendar and are disseminated at student orientation sessions. The principles “define the University of Lethbridge’s expectations for the behaviour for its students.”
- ▶ **2003 revisions to the alcohol policy** encourage the responsible use of alcohol on campus. A **2004 revision of the policy on tobacco use** promotes a safe and healthy campus.

Diversity

Improve support and participation of First Nations in the University community.

- ▶ The U of L's **Native Transition Program** received ongoing funding from the Alberta Government.
- ▶ In April 2006 Dr. Howard Forsyth donated \$100,000 to the **Zella Dague Forsyth Memorial Scholarship**, targeted to assist Aboriginal students in their studies.
- ▶ Scotiabank donated a \$150,000 gift to the School of Health Sciences to support a **program that helps First Nations students adapt** to the University environment and its Health Sciences program. The program features a U of L liaison officer to work with students in their local communities.
- ▶ In June 2006, at the U of L's 100th convocation ceremony, the **first nine graduates of the Niitsitapi teacher education program** crossed the stage. Launched in 2003, this program as developed by the Faculty of Education in collaboration with Red Crow Community College to offer local First Nations students a teacher education program that incorporates Blackfoot culture, traditions, and knowledge.
- ▶ The U of L provided central funding for an annual **Native Awareness Week**, organized by the Native American Student Association, with support from Native Student Advisory and ROSS.
- ▶ In 2003 ROSS appointed Esther Healy as **Native Student Advisor**. The advisor helps First Nations students achieve success at the University of Lethbridge.
- ▶ The Faculty of Management and the Department of Native American Studies launched Alberta's first **Bachelor of Management in First Nations Governance** in April 2003.

Ensure gender inclusivity by promoting and implementing equity within the University community.

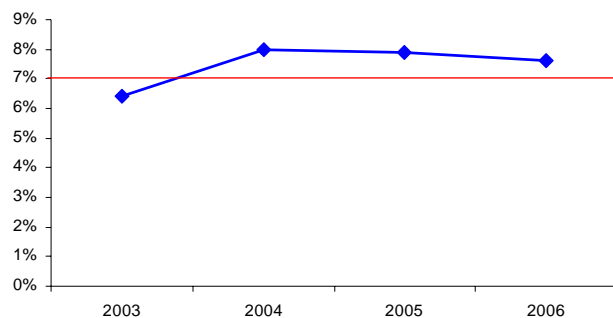
- ▶ Launched in 2004, the **Diversity Advantage** focuses on building an inclusive and equitable campus. The Diversity Advantage team's employment equity plan was accepted by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, and the team is implementing the recommendations in the plan, including running workshops and gathering data on gender and hiring.
- ▶ A joint ULFA/U of L **committee on gender salary equity** has been struck, and is presently conducting a data analysis. The objective of the committee is to complete a quantitative study of salaries across the institution to find if there is any systematic difference in salaries between women and men. The committee will present its results Fall 2007.
- ▶ A 2004 **survey of U of L employees** found encouraging results: 53% of respondents were women, 1.5% Aboriginals, 8% visible minorities, and 2.5% persons with disabilities.
- ▶ The **Women Scholars Group Speaker Series** emphasizes the scholarly careers of women in Canada, and brings 8-10 speakers to campus every year.

Diversity (cont'd)

Increase the international focus of The University of Lethbridge, through the recruitment and exchange of students and faculty.

- ▶ Since 2003, the U of L has consistently **exceeded the internationalization goal** of 7% of the student population from outside Canada, which was set by GFC.

Figure 2: Visa Students as a Percentage of Total Students, 2003 to 2006



- ▶ The U of L signed two **agreements with the Anyang Institute of Technology** in Anyang, China, which will involve exchange programs, joint research, cultural and language programs, and other projects.

Teaching and

Research

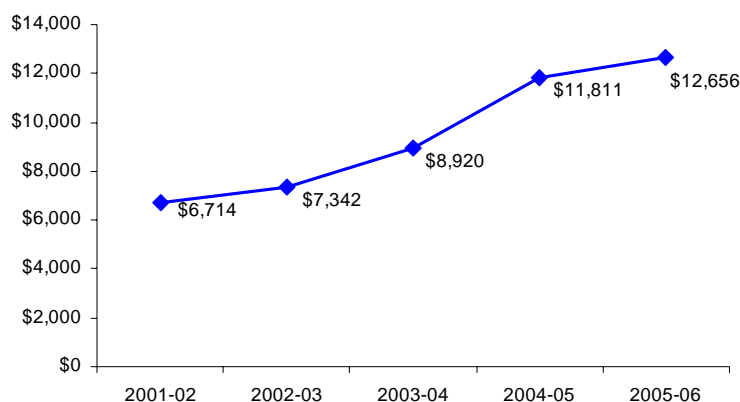
Provide support for faculty in the enhancement of effective teaching skills and strategies.

- ▶ The U of L initiated the **Centre for the Advancement of Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CAETL)** in spring 2006. CAETL will promote and sustain outstanding teaching at the University.
- ▶ In 2007, in concert with its 40th Anniversary, the U of L established two **Board of Governors Teaching Chairs** as a reaffirmation of the University's commitment to provide inspirational teaching. Competitively awarded to recognize a faculty member's meritorious accomplishments in teaching or the scholarship of teaching, the Teaching Chairs will engage in activities related to the enhancement of the teaching experience at the U of L.
- ▶ Where possible, faculties and schools have addressed **workload issues**, using a variety of administrative mechanisms.

Pursue additional funding to support scholarly activity across a wide range of disciplines.

- ▶ Since 2001-02, the **value of research grants received** at the U of L has grown by 47%.

Figure 3: Value of Research Grants Received, 2001-02 to 2005-06 (thousands of dollars)



- ▶ The inception of the federal **Indirect Costs of Research grant program** allows the U of L to provide further support for research activities.

Develop centres of research excellence across the faculties and schools.

- ▶ In late 2006, the U of L received an \$8M gift from John Prentice to launch the **Prentice Institute for Global Population and Economy**, a multi-disciplinary institute that will investigate issues related to global population change, including long-term demographic and economic cycles.
- ▶ The Canada-U.S. Fulbright Program announced the creation of the **Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in Water and the Environment** at the U of L. This Fulbright Scholar will enhance the U of L's strong water research program.
- ▶ The Faculty of Management and the School of Health Sciences established the **Centre for Health Management Research**, which encourages health-related research and facilitates dialogue between stakeholders to promote an integrated health care system that focuses on preventative health care.

Facilities

Increase state-of-the-art academic space on campus.

- ▶ The institution **reviewed and updated its list of top priority capital projects** for 2006-10: Physical Education Building upgrades; site services for the replacement service buildings; Alberta Water and Environmental Science Building (currently in the schematic and design development planning stage); Management and Health Sciences Building (currently in the architect selection stage); and Turcotte Hall addition (currently under construction). The University categorized the priority capital projects according to the Government of Alberta's Building and Land Information Management System.
- ▶ The U of L began **fundraising to support the Markin Building**, which will house the Faculty of Management and School of Health Sciences. The University received a \$3 million donation to go towards the building from Allan Markin, the current chairman of Calgary-based Canadian Natural Resources Limited and a philanthropist who has supported other educational institutions in Alberta. In November 2006, CIBC announced it will contribute \$125,000 to the Legacy of Leadership campaign; the donation will be directed towards the construction of the Markin Building.
- ▶ The University has made **extensive renovations to University Hall**, including continuing improvements and repairs to classrooms and faculty offices, numerous lab renovations, and ongoing repairs to the University Hall building envelope.

Increase student residence space.

- ▶ New **student residences** opened in 2003: six town home units that house up to 96 students in 24 four-bedroom suites.
- ▶ The U of L continues to review its **housing policy** in the context of the recruitment of new high school students.

Provide access to additional recreation and leisure space.

- ▶ The **First Choice Savings Centre** opened in 2007. This centre provides additional recreational facilities to meet the demands of the U of L and wider communities.

Expand research space in all disciplines.

- ▶ The **Canadian Centre for Behavioural Neuroscience** opened a new Imaging Centre in October 2006, which added two Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging magnet units. Both magnet units are configured for imaging the head and limbs.
- ▶ The 1,073 m² **expansion of the Canadian Centre for Behavioural Neuroscience** building was completed in 2006.
- ▶ The U of L is in the early stages of developing the **Alberta Water and Environmental Science Building**.

Outreach

Work with our alumni to help advance the mission and vision of The University of Lethbridge.

- ▶ The University Advancement office appointed its **first Alumni Relations Officer**, Jaime Morasch, who establishes and directs programs and practices that enhance our relationships with alumni. The **Alumni Relations office** offers a broad range of activities and events to facilitate relationships between U of L alumni, students, and friends.
- ▶ The U of L has **enhanced contact with alumni** through a new graduates program and by assigning responsibility for the Alumni Journal to Alumni Relations.
- ▶ The University began providing ongoing **funding to the Calgary Chapter of the Alumni Association**, to provide a greater opportunity for alumni engagement in Calgary.

Raise the profile of The University of Lethbridge in the provincial, national, and international arenas.

- ▶ The University began a **branding strategy**, which will develop a branding identity and marketing plan for the University of Lethbridge as a whole and the individual faculties and schools to increase the U of L's profile provincially, nationally, and internationally.
- ▶ The U of L has kept a consistent **presence in local, regional, and national media**, and is striving to increase its profile in regional and national media. Several U of L stories have received national press coverage.

Improve relationships and increase involvement with individuals and organizations for the good of The University of Lethbridge and the community.

- ▶ The U of L has made **regular presentations to several organizations**, including: the Standing Policy Committee on Education; Calgary caucus; Capital Area caucus; various southern Alberta MLAs and candidates for the Provincial Legislature; Lethbridge City Council; and Edmonton City Council.
- ▶ In June 2006, representatives from the University of Lethbridge signed a memorandum of understanding with Medicine Hat College and Lethbridge College to formalize a **strategic alliance to enhance educational opportunities across southern Alberta**. The agreement calls upon the three institutions to initiate agreements to provide enhanced educational opportunities in the region.
- ▶ The **Discovery Lecture Series**, a major public lecture series designed to bring to the U of L renowned speakers of interest to the University community and the general public, presented its first lecture in Fall 2004 and now offers two to three speakers every academic year. The Lecture Series Committee was formed to coordinate speaker events across campus and it organizes the Discovery Lecture Series and the Owen G. Holmes Lectures.