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# Scholarship, Research and Creative Activities Plan

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## Welcome

**Curiosity, innovation and creativity have been ingrained in Sheridan's character since our founding.**

Our applied research excellence and impact are based on an inclusive approach that supports all Sheridan faculty, staff and students in pursuing their scholarly, research and creative passions.

Today, this commitment to scholarship, research and creative activities (SRCA) is a key feature of our Academic Plan, and a priority area of impact in our institutional strategic plan, *Sheridan 2024: Galvanizing Education for a Complex World*.

By nurturing SRCA at Sheridan, we offer compelling experiences to students, provide exceptional professional growth opportunities for faculty, and deliver substantial economic and social benefits for the province by supporting local industry and community partners.

Our unique blend of teaching excellence, hands-on learning, and exceptional research, innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship prepares our students, faculty and staff to shape and navigate the future.

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#### Land Acknowledgment Statement

Sheridan acknowledges that all of its campuses reside on land that for thousands of years before us was the traditional Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Anishinaabe Nation, Huron-Wendat and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. It is our collective responsibility to honour and respect those who have gone before us, those who are here, and those who have yet to come. We are grateful for the opportunity to be working on this land.

# Who we are

*Sheridan is committed to cultivating and supporting a differentiated culture of SRCA – one that is inclusive and broad, and engages Sheridan's students, professors, staff and the communities we serve. SRCA is fundamental to Sheridan's identity, and to Sheridan's mission to cultivate resourceful, highly-skilled, and creative people and communities.*

## Our research has many dimensions that come together to create a vibrant character.

- » We are passionate about the value of research for our students. SRCA promotes deep learning through the development of critical thinking, creative problem solving and collaboration skills. Our primary aim for SRCA is to deliver compelling value for students, whether through the classroom experience, involvement in our Research and Incubation Centres, or funded research projects.
- » At Sheridan, research is faculty led and faculty driven. Fuelled by the expertise and interests of our professors, our objective is for SRCA to be truly inclusive, supporting the scholarly, research and creative passions of all faculty, staff and students.
- » All forms of research are valued at Sheridan. Our research spans business, science and technology, humanities and social sciences, health and community studies, and arts and design. From the scholarship of teaching and learning, to studio-based research that links theory and practice, our approach to SRCA recognizes all of the different ways to contribute to the advancement and application of knowledge.
- » Our research is shaped by our Senate. Sheridan's Senate is responsible for approving our research plan. We have a strong SRCA Standing Committee of the Senate that actively guides our planning and fosters our research culture.
- » We continue to nurture, evolve and take pride in our Research and Incubation Centres. The Centres provide a strong foundation for SRCA at Sheridan, yielding opportunities for students and faculty, and generating significant social and economic benefits. The Centres reflect areas that are of high value to Ontario, and to Canada.
- » Based on the model of faculty leadership, we work hard to reflect the outcomes and learnings from our SRCA directly in our academic programming and curriculum. This maximizes the experience for learners at Sheridan, and helps keep our curriculum constantly refreshed.
- » We are passionate about the importance of interdisciplinary activities. The opportunity for our faculty and students to collaborate across programs and disciplines, to promote interdisciplinary learning, and to create value for our industry and community partners, is an important part of our culture.
- » We encourage relationships with other academic institutions, including universities, in order to grow capacity and learning. The best collaborations are those where partners work together to combine strengths and areas of expertise, working towards a common goal.

- » Social innovation and impact are core elements of research at Sheridan. We actively seek opportunities to work with community partners to enhance the quality and enjoyment of people's lives. The social value of research is as important as the economic value.
- » At Sheridan, we value creativity in all aspects of our work. Creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship are all directly linked, and together allow great ideas to be realized and impact those in our society who will benefit from them. Our Intellectual Property (IP) strategy gives ownership of new ideas generated by faculty and students, to faculty and students, in order to encourage and support innovation.
- » We actively promote the sharing of knowledge both within and outside Sheridan. SOURCE, Sheridan's institutional repository, serves as a collaborative commons for SRCA outputs, enriches our teaching and learning, and expresses Sheridan's values.

*Our research character is strong, and reflects the depth of Sheridan's commitment to academic excellence.*



# Our plan

In late 2017, we embarked on an extensive internal community consultation process to develop a three-year operating plan for research at Sheridan. Previous work by the SRCA Standing Committee of the Senate had identified aspirational goals for SRCA. Our objective with this Plan was to ground those goals in a set of tangible, implementable actions.

The question we posed throughout our consultation was quite simple. We asked: “What concrete steps can we take in the next three years to help you achieve your goals for SRCA, and create value for our students, faculty and community?”

This Plan outlines the key recommendations drawn from our community's input, anchored in specific, measurable objectives. We are extremely proud of the fact that every activity included in the Plan arose from feedback provided during the consultation.

The SRCA Plan received the unanimous endorsement of the SRCA Standing Committee and was approved by Sheridan's Senate on June 21, 2018. The key themes and strategies reflect our commitment to foster a supportive environment for faculty and staff, advance our Centres, celebrate our achievements, enable collaboration and further engage students in research.



# Promoting our research

## OBJECTIVE

*To make Sheridan's research a visible and celebrated part of our identity.*

Across Sheridan, our faculty, staff and students are undertaking a remarkable range of SRCA work. We'll focus on recognizing and celebrating these achievements, and disseminating and mobilizing the outcomes of our research within our community and beyond our campuses. By amplifying our communications about research, we'll make SRCA a more visible component of Sheridan both internally and externally.

### Year 1

- » Design new research website.
- » Introduce annual faculty research award and student research award.
- » Add regular SRCA feature to the *Insider*.
- » Contribute to Library plans for online journal.

### Year 2

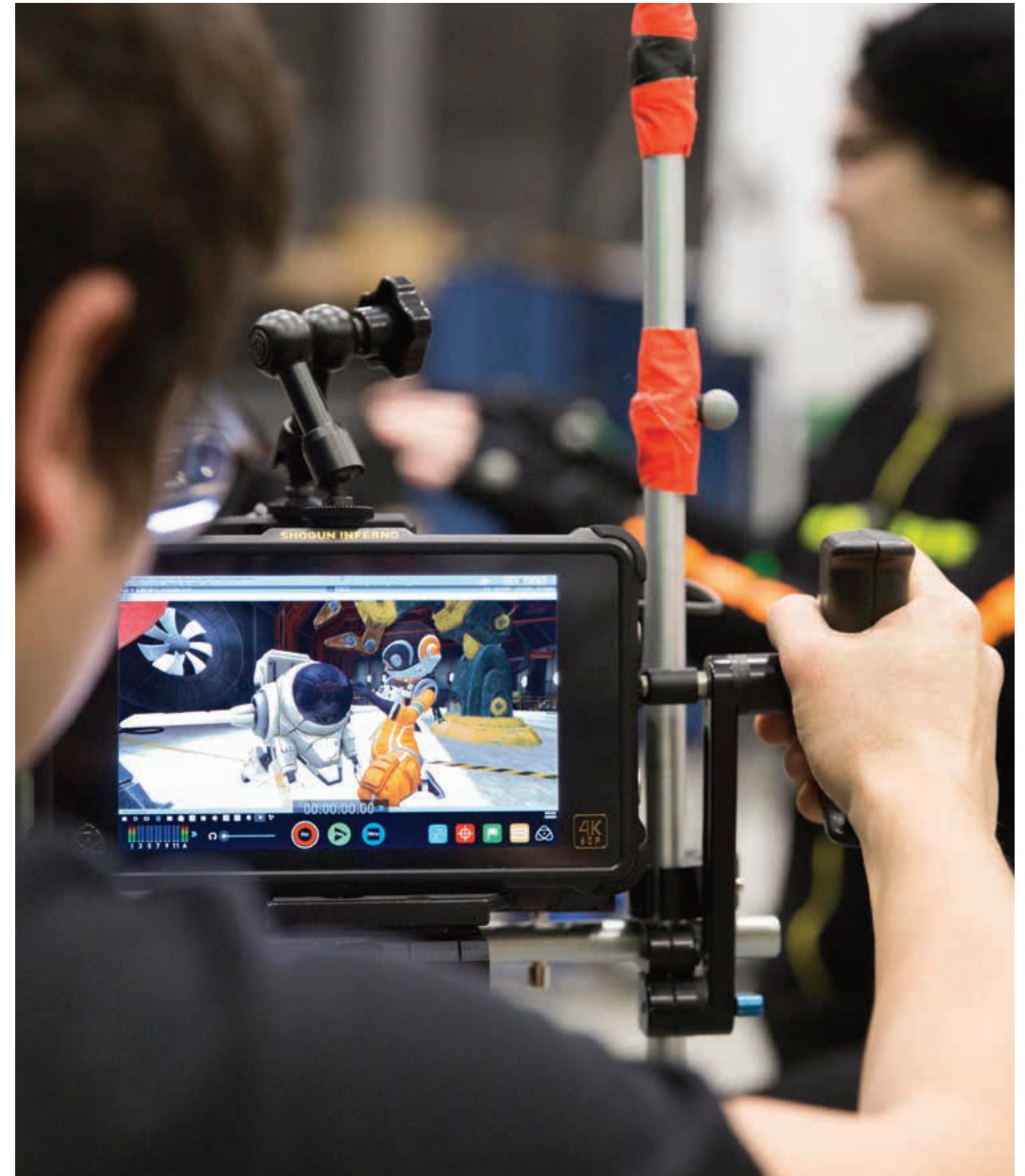
- » Put a profile for each faculty member online.
- » Undertake social media campaign for SRCA.
- » Coordinate external promotion of Sheridan's research and our centres.

### Year 3

- » Annual SRCA recognition event.
- » Create new SRCA videos.
- » Introduce dissemination fund.

## MEASURES

- Web traffic
- Number of award nominations
- Number of features
- Number of faculty profiles
- Number of social media followers



# Evolving our Research and Incubation Centres

## OBJECTIVE

To advance research, innovation and entrepreneurship through the leadership of the next generation of Research and Incubation Centres.

Sheridan's six Research and Incubation Centres are at various stages of development, but all are focal points for research and innovation. There's tremendous opportunity for our Centres to evolve and grow, and to leverage their unique capacity by bringing them together on interdisciplinary projects. We'll increase engagement with the Centres by creating ways for more faculty and students to be involved.

## Year 1

- » Complete strategic and resource plan for each Centre.
- » Do Research Centre "road shows."
- » Pursue renewed funding for Entrepreneurship Hub.

## Year 2

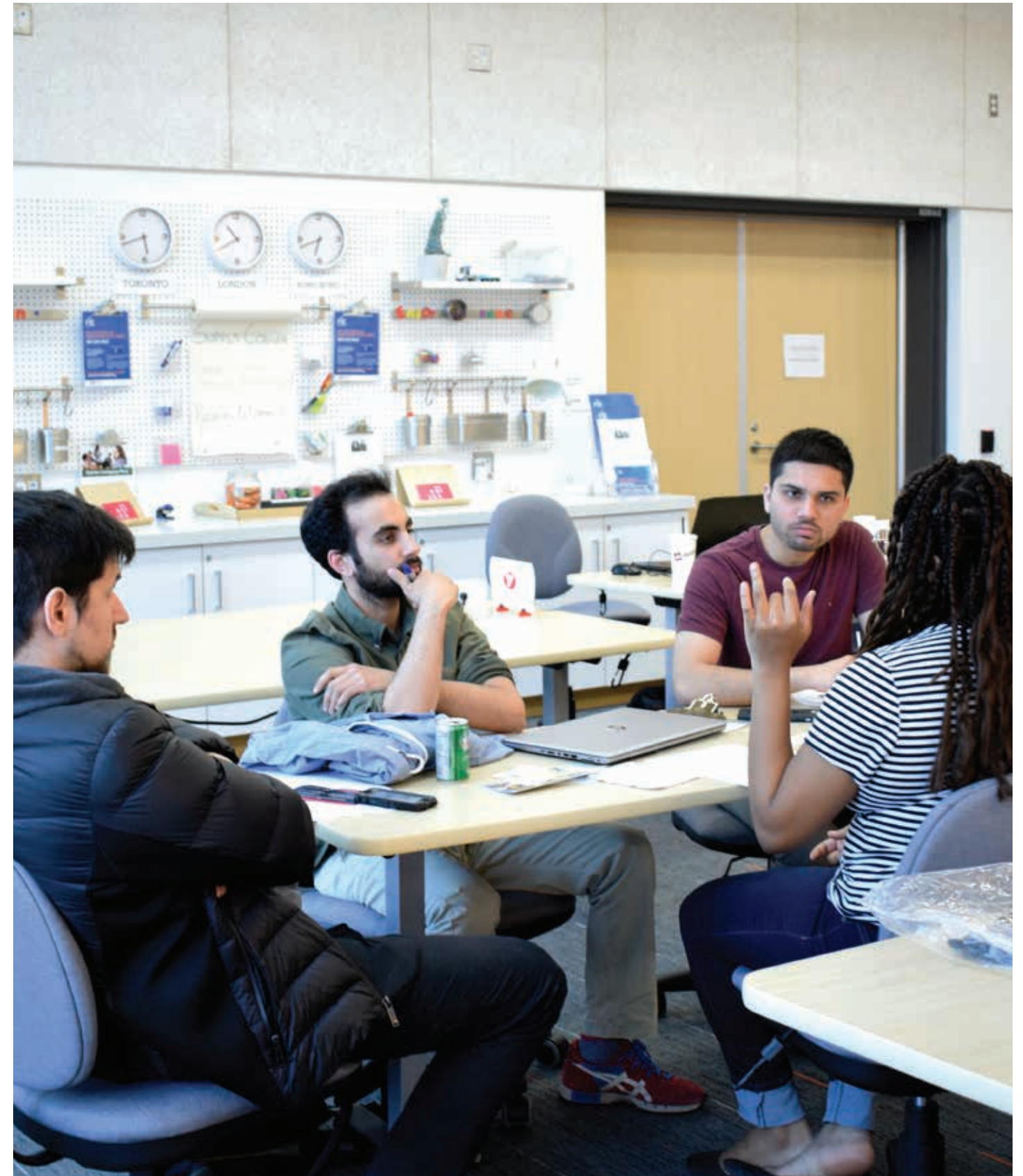
- » Expand Entrepreneurship Hub to one other campus.
- » Design a formal model for Sheridan's Research Centres to maximize internal/external engagement.

## Year 3

- » Expand Entrepreneurship Hub to all three campuses.
- » Implement the formal model for Sheridan's Research Centres to maximize internal/external engagement.

## MEASURES

- Number of events
- Number of Entrepreneurship Hub clients
- Number of event participants
- Number of faculty and students engaged with Centres



# Fostering a supportive environment

## OBJECTIVE

*To grow our research culture through enhanced supports for research and innovation.*

Sustaining and growing research at Sheridan depends on structures, processes and resources that support faculty in pursuing their research passions. We'll create practical supports aimed at strengthening our research culture. These efforts will involve close collaboration with the Faculties and with departments across Sheridan.

### Year 1

- » Implement term planning for 1 day/week for SRCA in summer 2019, constrained.
- » Expand staff resources in research office to provide supports for research.
- » Work with Faculties on effective ways to include research in SWF discussions.
- » Designate one AD per Faculty as research lead.
- » Create internal communication mechanism for research news and opportunities.

### Year 2

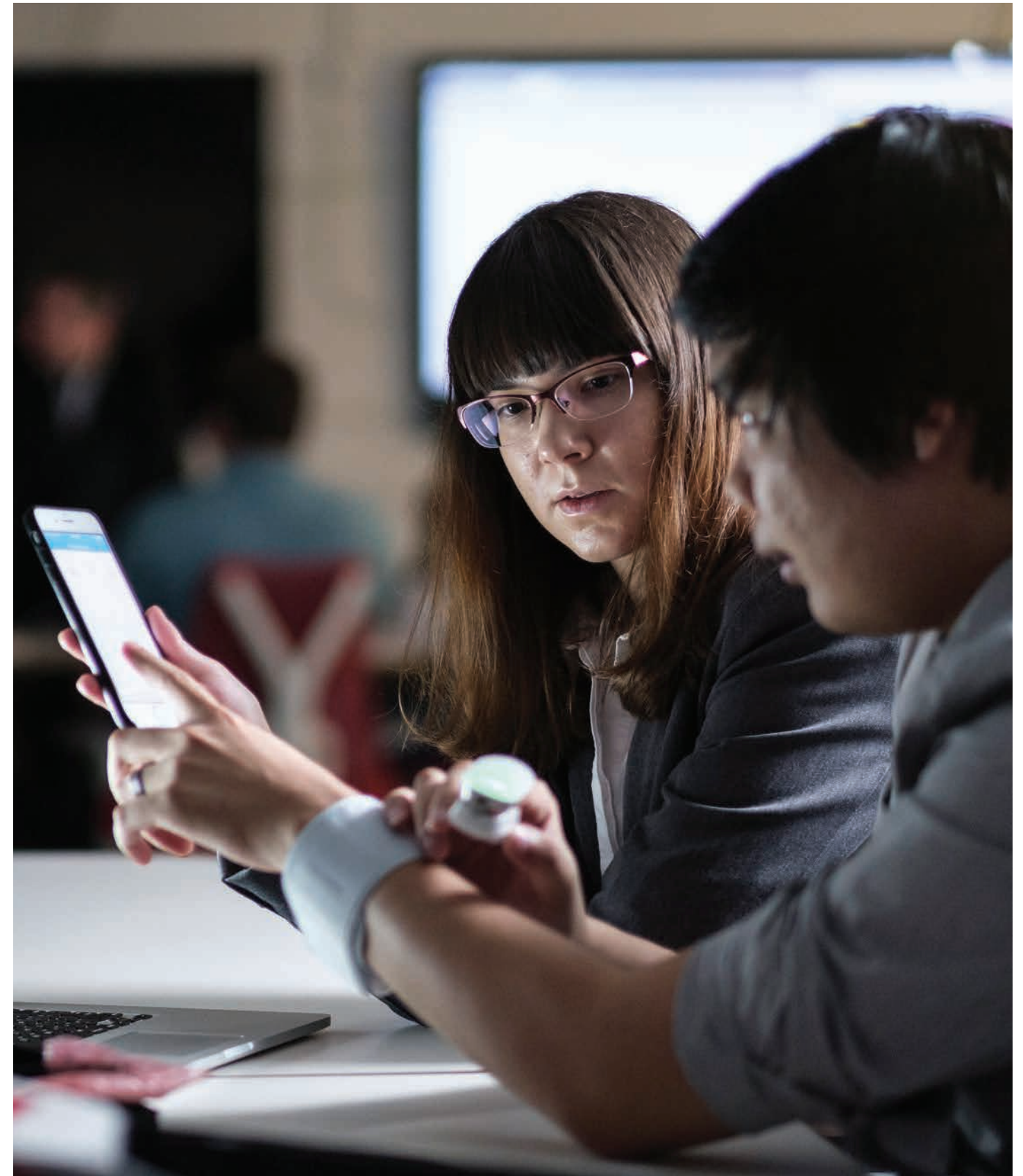
- » Implement term planning for 2 days/week for SRCA in summer 2020, 1 constrained.
- » Collaborate with the Centre for Indigenous Learning and Support to develop supports and protocol for research involving Indigenous communities.
- » Collaborate with the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) on Scholarship of Teaching and Learning tools and resources.
- » Produce templates for common proposal elements and assemble library of successful grants.

### Year 3

- » Increase SRCA GG to \$150K/year.
- » Develop model to provide peer-to-peer mentorship for SRCA.
- » Diversify SRCA funding sources, including donations.
- » Put the EOI process online.

## MEASURES

- Number of templates or tools
- Number of different funding resources
- Number of faculty with dedicated research time
- Number of SRCA Growth Grant applications/awards
- Number of external grant applications/awards



# Enabling collaboration

## OBJECTIVE

*To increase internal collaboration and create value for our communities through external partnerships.*

Research thrives at the intersections – of disciplines, of ideas, of people. We'll focus on activities that break down silos and bring people together, and mechanisms that help researchers at Sheridan find each other and help external organizations find collaborators at Sheridan. By supporting and growing our research partnerships, we'll enhance Sheridan's impact locally, nationally and globally.

### Year 1

- » Develop searchable database of research interests.
- » Start regular series of events to bring people together across disciplines.
- » Support Creative Campus Galleries in pursuing grant funding.
- » Prepare templates and processes to implement new IP policy.

### Year 2

- » Pilot one international research initiative.
- » Establish one interdisciplinary (e.g. across multiple Faculties/Centres) theme-based collaborative space for research.
- » Work with those who develop external partnerships on aligned strategy and procedures to enable institutionally unified establishment of partnerships.

### Year 3

- » Increase space footprint of interdisciplinary (e.g. across multiple Faculties/Centres) theme-based collaborative spaces for research.
- » Offer competitive internal fund to support partner engagement aimed at external funding proposal.

## MEASURES

- Number of faculty profiles
- Number of events
- Number of new spaces
- Number of applications for partnership development





# Bringing research to students

## OBJECTIVE

To enable every student to have a SRCA experience – in or out of the classroom.

We recognize that research skills are critical to the success of our students in a knowledge economy. Through curriculum, co-curricular activities and paid employment, we'll create more opportunities for Sheridan students to experience research. We see research as an important vehicle for enriching student learning, engagement and future pathways.

### Year 1

- » Create central spot to advertise student research opportunities.
- » Support CTL in their continued integration of SRCA in all program reviews and development.
- » Inventory SRCA experiences in our curriculum to establish benchmark.
- » Pursue additional funding for student research opportunities.

### Year 2

- » Collaborate with Library on repository/showcase of student capstone projects.
- » Develop modules on IP and on opportunities/services at Entrepreneurship Hub for use in capstone courses.

### Year 3

- » Promote inter-Faculty capstone collaborations.
- » Explore SRCA opportunities through student clubs.

## MEASURES

- Number of students who have a SRCA experience (unpaid)
- Number of students who have a SRCA experience (paid)
- Number of resources for use in the classroom
- Number of courses with SRCA/number of programs with SRCA



# Supporting local priorities

## OBJECTIVE

To assist the Faculties in achieving their strategic objectives for SRCA.

Our research operating plan acknowledges that SRCA is a collective responsibility, and that we all have a role to play in advancing research at Sheridan. On an annual basis, we'll work with each academic Faculty to select one activity on which we'll collaborate to help that Faculty realize its ambitions for research. These shared initiatives will reflect local priorities and their success will be assessed against measures appropriate to each activity.



## Research and Incubation Centres

### *Canadian Music Theatre Project (CMTP)*

**CMTP** is Canada's first incubator for the development of music theatre works. Through the CMTP, students in our renowned Honours Bachelor of Music Theatre Performance program work with Canadian and international composers, lyricists and book writers to develop their musicals. Since its inception in 2011, 24 shows have been incubated and many continue their development in various stages, including *Come From Away*, which received a 2017 Tony Award® nomination for Best Musical.

### *Centre for Advanced Manufacturing and Design Technologies (CAMDT)*

**CAMDT** exemplifies Sheridan's leading role as a hub connecting industry, curriculum and applied research. The Centre links companies of all sizes to Sheridan's advanced manufacturing expertise and equipment, and allows them to explore these tools with the help of Sheridan faculty and students. Our facilities include tools for advanced automation, robotics, mechatronics and cyber-physical system integration. CAMDT supports the transformation and growth of our industry partners by providing innovation support, fostering collaboration, and accelerating the adoption of advanced manufacturing technologies.

### *Centre for Elder Research*

**The Centre for Elder Research** provides a unique environment for applied research into areas of practical concern and immediate relevance to older adults. Founded in 2003, the Centre leverages the talents of Sheridan's faculty, staff and students to form multidisciplinary teams that work with a wide range of industry and community groups to conduct leading-edge research in the field of aging. The Centre is committed to developing innovative approaches to enhancing the well-being of older adults and the environments that support them, while also serving as an education and research hub for Sheridan and the broader community.

### *Centre for Mobile Innovation (CMI)*

**CMI** creates innovative solutions to healthcare problems. The Centre is focused on mHealth (mobile health), and collaborates with a wide range of industry, community and health-care partners. Through creative applications of leading mobile technologies such as the internet of things, wearable computing, augmented/virtual reality and machine learning, Sheridan faculty and students are harnessing the transformative impact of mobile computing.

### *EDGE Entrepreneurship Hub*

**EDGE** is Sheridan's hub for entrepreneurs and changemakers, and a place for innovators to connect, learn and work. EDGE fosters a culture of entrepreneurship and the development of entrepreneurial skills through events, training, mentorship and access to co-working space. Drawing on the expertise of the Sheridan community, EDGE supports entrepreneurs and changemakers to launch and build new ventures. EDGE is open to the public, and serves as a bridge to Sheridan's innovation supports as well as the wider regional innovation ecosystem.

### *Screen Industries Research and Training Centre (SIRT)*

**SIRT** supports Ontario's film, television and interactive media cluster. As a government-funded Technology Access Centre, SIRT works with a dedicated staff as well as faculty and students to conduct world-class applied research, training and other industry support activities that enable the adoption of new technology and business models for innovation. SIRT's unique capacity, enabled by trusted partnerships with key industry organizations and technology leaders, facilitates innovations within digital cinema, virtual and augmented reality, interactive media and artificial intelligence.

## GET IN TOUCH

### Davis Campus

7899 McLaughlin Road  
Brampton, Ontario L6Y 5H9  
T 905-459-7533

### Hazel McCallion Campus

4180 Duke of York Blvd.  
Mississauga, Ontario L5B 0G5  
T 905-845-9430

### Trafalgar Road Campus

1430 Trafalgar Road  
Oakville, Ontario L6H 2L1  
T 905-845-9430



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