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## NIPISSING UNIVERSITY Strategic Plan 2015-2020

Nipissing University is a young and dynamic institution making a positive impact in the lives of its students, graduates, faculty, staff, and communities.

Through innovation and a continued commitment to students, the university has grown significantly from its century-old roots in education to become a destination of choice for students seeking to reach their full potential. Primarily an undergraduate institution, Nipissing is renowned for its ability to provide a personalized education within a supportive community and with an engaged, dedicated faculty who are creating new knowledge through research that makes our communities better – locally and globally. Small classes provide students the perfect setting for meaningful interaction with faculty and collaboration with peers.

Nipissing works to meet the needs of Aboriginal and first generation learners in the north.

At Nipissing, undergraduate students have the opportunity to discover their own intellectual passions by participating in and leading original research. The university offers students outstanding guaranteed entrance scholarships, awards, on-campus employment and other opportunities to support their studies.

Graduate programs are available in education, history, mathematics, environmental science and environmental studies. Nipissing is also home to a PhD in Education with a focus on Educational Sustainability. Courses are available in a variety of formats from traditional face-to-face classroom lectures and seminars to online and blended learning models that allow students to access learning wherever they are. Nipissing offers several programs in collaboration with other universities, colleges and institutions, as well as a number of international partnerships that provide students with opportunities for study or professional placements abroad.

Researchers investigate diverse fields of study, including: literacy, aging, mathematics, computer science, neuroscience, Aboriginal education, environmental science, and health. Multidisciplinary fields include: gender and sexuality studies; postcolonial studies; criminal and social justice; international relations; cultural history; oral, community and public history; environmental studies; pedagogy and practice; and ethics and religion. As well, significant research activity is focused on environmental, cultural, societal and educational issues specific to northeastern Ontario.



# OUR PRIORITIES

## VISION

Nipissing University will provide an exceptional and personalized student experience within a collegial and diverse learning community.

We will focus on excellence, innovation, and creativity in scholarship and teaching. Graduates will embrace lifelong learning and will make a difference locally, nationally, and internationally.

## MISSION

Nipissing University will exemplify the highest standards in scholarship, teaching, and research.

In addition, Nipissing University will encourage students, faculty and staff to realize their full intellectual and personal potential to the benefit of our local, national, and international communities.

Nipissing University will recognize our particular role in supporting northern communities, and Aboriginal, first generation, and international learners.

## VALUES

Nipissing University students, faculty, and staff exemplify a values-based culture in their pursuit of excellence. As reflected in our Coat of Arms, we believe that *Integritas*, defined as principled, honest, and sincere, is a motto upon which all else is built. We are committed to collegiality, respect, and transparency in working together and with our community partners.

We embrace academic freedom.



## THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Situated in a beautiful natural environment, with outstanding spaces in which to live and learn, we have created a unique Nipissing Experience. We will maintain our reputation as a leader in student satisfaction, attributable largely to our excellence in teaching, and to the connections students make with faculty, staff, and peers.

To enhance the student experience, Nipissing University will:

- Create bridges to success, especially for students from northern communities, and Aboriginal, first generation, and international learners;
- Create opportunities outside of the classroom encompassing athletics, the arts, culture, entertainment, and healthy and active living;
- Encourage diversity in our student body, faculty, and staff.



## ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

We are dedicated to nurturing and supporting scholarship and research for the benefit of all. We believe in integrating intellectual, social, and personal development into the Nipissing Experience.

To enhance our academic and research culture, Nipissing University will:

- Encourage and support academic excellence, focusing on quality, innovative pedagogy, and accessibility;
- Foster an environment that actively supports research and creative production with an emphasis on innovation, collaboration, and student participation;
- Support faculty research and graduate programming to become a destination for research and collaboration nationally and internationally.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Connections between Nipissing University and the communities we serve are vital. Our campuses each have strong connections locally, as well as to Aboriginal communities and communities of interest. We are committed to advancing regional economic, social, and cultural development while also appreciating our role as global citizens.

To enhance the student experience, Nipissing University will:

- Embrace the communities we serve and develop meaningful partnerships of mutual benefit;
- Develop the strengths of each of our campuses and ensure access to academic and extra-curricular opportunities;
- Enhance our capacity as engines of economic, social, and cultural development for our communities in an environmentally sustainable manner.