

# **FACULTY OF OPEN LEARNING AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

2021 ANNUAL  
REPORT



**DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY**

FACULTY OF OPEN LEARNING  
& CAREER DEVELOPMENT

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Change has been the consistent punctuation mark accompanying every challenge and every achievement in 20/21 at the College of Continuing Education — now the newly named Faculty of Open Learning & Career Development. More than any year, this past year has reinforced the importance and relevance of the work we do as an education provider to a wide spectrum of lifelong learners. The year has reshaped how we can respond to the needs of our learners, partners and communities. In many ways, we celebrate the accelerated change that the pandemic has required of us. To navigate the pandemic, we have changed direction multiple times, learned new skills, made tough decisions in the midst of uncertainty, and grown individually and as an organization. This continued evolution will remain our focus in the year ahead.

In 2020/21, we made significant strides to enhance the learning experiences for our learners. Almost 100% of our courses and certificates are now offered online. Our expert instructors, subject matter experts, program managers and instructional designers worked together to seamlessly transition the majority of our courses and programs to an online format allowing you to continue to learn with us at a safe distance.

This year has reminded us that we are stronger together than we are alone. We have walked next to you on your learning journeys, supported you when you hit roadblocks and celebrated you when you achieved milestones. In the year ahead, we will be sharply focused on making more enhancements to the learning experiences we offer you.

We will do this by continuing to offer courses and programs that anticipate job trends and industry needs so you can advance or change direction in your careers.

## We want you to know that we will continue to be there for you in your learning journeys.

We will continue to work with our skilled instructors and subject matter experts to deliver engaging and practical courses that provide you strategies and tools to apply to your personal and professional lives. We will look for new ways to open doors for you to other education opportunities.

And we will continue to expand our role as a community connector and builder by bringing accessibility and inclusion into every course we offer and every initiative we undertake.

We are facilitators, curators and nurturers of learning journeys. To our partners, our employees, our learners, our instructors, and our communities — thank you. This year has tested our resilience, our perseverance, our creativity and our resolve. I am very proud of the new chapter we are beginning to write as the newly named Faculty of Open Learning & Career Development. I hope you will continue to travel on this exciting and rapidly unfolding journey with us.



Dianne Tyers, Dean



## OUR GUIDING LIGHT

**At the Faculty of Open Learning & Career Development, every day is guided by our commitment to facilitate *transformative learner-focused journeys for an evolving world.***



## OUR VALUES

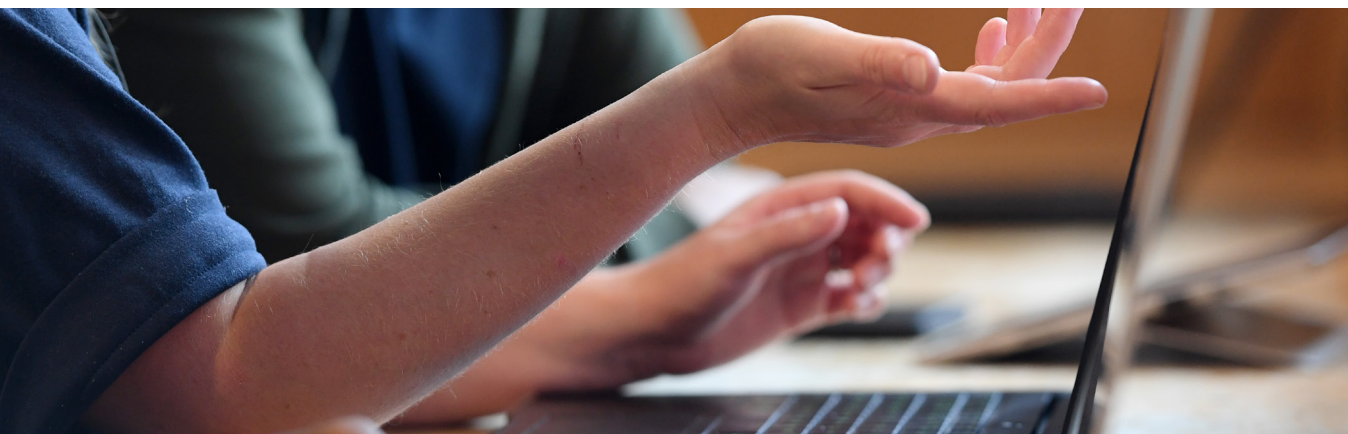
**Woven throughout our work across the Faculty are our four key values:**

- Pursuing being better through constant learning
- Working collaboratively to anticipate and respond to community needs
- Committing to action and holding ourselves accountable
- Demonstrating accessibility and inclusion in everything we do

## OUR AREAS OF FOCUS

**Supported by our values and our guiding light, the Faculty will be sharply focused on three main areas of growth and refinement.**

- Providing a superior learning experience
- Thriving financially
- Continuously improving our internal and external user experiences



## **SUPPORTING YOU ON YOUR LEARNING JOURNEY**

At the Faculty of Open Learning & Career Development, we offer more than 500 courses that can be taken individually or as part of a certificate.

We are focused on offering courses that support you in that next step in your career or academic journey.

If you're preparing for entry into a degree program or applying for a new job, we have courses to get you ready.

Our Department of English Language Studies has a range of courses to help you refine your English proficiency while our Transition Year Program and University Preparation courses help you meet the requirements for entry into the degree program of your choice.

We have introduced two new program areas in the past year, one focused on health & wellness and the other on equity, diversity & inclusion. The pandemic has highlighted the need to focus on our personal wellbeing and ongoing events have highlighted the need to dig deeply into how we relate to each other regardless of our backgrounds.

## **We remain focused on supporting you wherever you are in your learning journey.**

At the Faculty, we'll continue to introduce new courses that help you stay competitive in the labour market and connect you with industry-leading expert instructors. You can rely on the Faculty to offer courses in popular topics like project management, business economics and law, adult learning and teaching, and public relations and specialized topics like engineering and emerging technologies.

As a team, we are proud of the ways we have been able to respond to your needs over the past year by creatively moving courses online and designing new ones, developing expertise and skill in online teaching, hiring more staff, offering free opportunities to learn through webinars, introducing new program areas, introducing new ways to engage with us through social media, and so much more.

## HIGHLIGHTS

We have a lot to be proud of at the Faculty of Open Learning & Career Development.

*We have persevered, recovered and thrived in 2020/21.*

- **3,200** learners registered for our courses
- Introduced more than **20** new courses in adult education, writing & communications, English language studies, leadership, executive education and more
- More than **200** courses moved online
- Reached more than **160,000** university alumni with information on our courses
- Advised close to **250** students as they navigated next steps in their academic journeys
- Nurtured and developed **many** partnerships locally and internationally.
- **25** webinars were hosted by our expert instructors

**CONTACT US:**

**We would love to  
hear from you and  
help you navigate  
the next step in  
your learning  
journey.**

Visit our website,  
**[dal.ca/openlearning](https://dal.ca/openlearning)**  
or contact us at  
**[openinglearning@dal.ca](mailto:openinglearning@dal.ca)**  
or 1-800-565-8867

You can also find us  
on social media:

**Facebook**

**LinkedIn**

**YouTube**



**DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY**

FACULTY OF OPEN LEARNING  
& CAREER DEVELOPMENT