

FACULTY OF OPEN LEARNING AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



**DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY**

FACULTY OF OPEN LEARNING
& CAREER DEVELOPMENT

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Seeing new life emerge in spring, after a long winter, provides an appropriate background as I contemplate the journey of the Faculty of Open Learning and Career Development over the past year. Just as new plant and animal life emerges in the spring--strong, colourful and vibrant--as a Faculty, we are also emerging. I like any analogy of spring. Growth involves teamwork, navigating unexpected challenges, and the eventual joy of arriving at our goal. With the foundational expertise we've gained, the talented team we have built and the achievement of the milestones we worked toward in 2021/22, our Faculty is poised to fully arise in its new form in 2022/23.

Both intentionally and unexpectedly, the past year strengthened our resiliency, challenged our creativity and pushed our innovation. As with so many others, the pandemic continued to test us in many ways, but we dug deep, supported each other and adapted as we served our learners, partners and communities.

We didn't stand still.

In fact, we introduced new and creative courses and certificates across all of our program portfolios including in Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility. We have made hard choices about the programming that we will upgrade, restructure, replace or stop offering in the months and years to come. The introduction of hyflex learning with our Department of English Language Studies opened up and will continue to open up new delivery opportunities for our Faculty. As well, the Phase One launch of projects in microcredentials, recognition of prior learning (RPL), and DalOpen will all play a part in making our programming even more

accessible to a greater diversity of learners.

We took on a number of important funded projects throughout the year including the development of online courses in Intercultural Communication in Higher Education and Internationalization of the Curriculum, an audit of international student services in the university, the identification of technical systems for on-demand training delivery, and laying the groundwork for a pathway year program for international students, to name a few.

We not only operationalized new initiatives, we learned a lot in the past year, too. Survey research we conducted in early 2022, in partnership with market research firm, CRi, revealed, among many other things, that online learning is here to stay. Learners are interested in learning experiences that fit their lives, their career pathways and personal interests. That's why creating superior learning experiences – online or face-to-face – will continue to be a top priority for our Faculty in the coming year. This priority, in addition to thriving financially and improving our processes, will guide all of our work in 2022/23 along with setting new goals that will challenge and excite us.

This past year was a tough one for so many of us, but here we are, with countless milestones and achievements to celebrate at the end of it - including the privilege of serving you, our stakeholders, and working with a team of talented, energized, engaged and supportive people dedicated to making 2022/23 the best it can be.



Dr. Dianne Tyers

2021/22 BY THE NUMBERS

At the Faculty of Open Learning & Career Development, our people are at the core of what we do and inspire our work. Your success is our success. When we look back on the past year, we recognize the challenges we've overcome or are still navigating and celebrate our collective achievements.

THRIVING FINANCIALLY

Total enrollments **2500+**

Growth in revenue from 2020/21 **4%**

Funding received for special projects
(in the areas of microcredentialing, accessible learning, intercultural communication and international student support services) **\$400,000**

IMPROVING OUR PROCESSES

Faculties supported in continuing education administration **5**

New staff hired and positions formalized **29**

Professional development opportunities offered to staff **20+**

PROVIDING A SUPERIOR LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Learners who completed a course evaluation would strongly recommend their course **90+%**

Inquiries we received from interested learners **2,592**

Inquiries for mature student advising **300+**

Inquiries for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) **65**

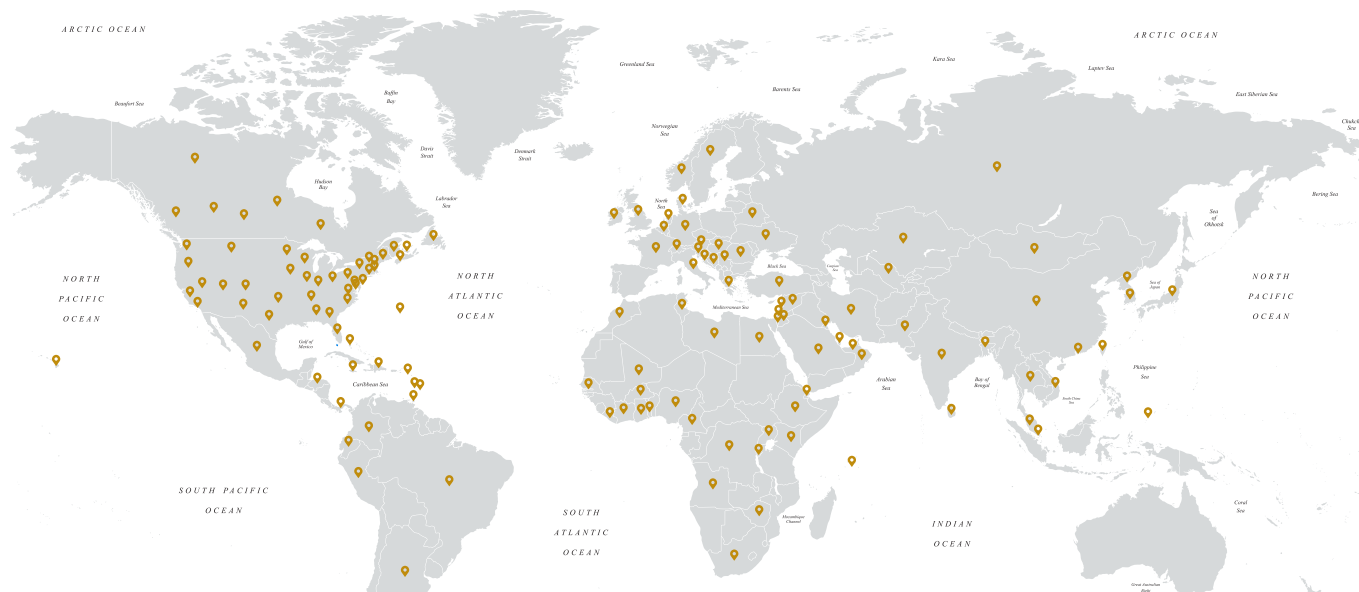
Certificates completed by learners **335**

Microcredentialed learning experiences and courses launched **39**

New courses launched **30+**

Existing courses upgraded **18**

LOCATIONS OF OUR LEARNERS



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
or contact us at
openlearning@dal.ca
or 1-800-565-8867

You can also find us
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