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.

**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

Microcredentialled learning experiences and courses launched 39

New courses launched 30+

Existing courses upgraded 18

**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+

**LOCATIONS OF OUR LEARNERS**

![Map of learner locations](image-url)
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 on social media: Facebook LinkedIn YouTube