

## PARTNER PERSPECTIVE

# The Power of Partnerships



**Patrick Deane**  
President & Vice-Chancellor  
McMaster University

as much a part of our tradition as they are our current practice and our future plans.

Working with our partners, we've capitalized on our community's inherent strengths – manufacturing and health – while diversifying our economy to build our collective capacity.

The McMaster Innovation Park is a case in point – a brownfield turned innovation hub, it is now home to world-class facilities like the CANMET-Materials Technology Laboratory, the United Nations University – Institute on Water, Environment and Health, and the McMaster Automotive Resource Centre. Each of these acts as a magnet for future partners.

We also learned early on that some of the most fruitful partnerships are those that occur, quite naturally, within the boundaries of our own campus – when researchers

from an array of disciplines come together to tackle a single issue from a variety of perspectives.

In fact, it may be our multi-disciplinary approach to research that defines McMaster best.

In many cases, these cross-Faculty partnerships precipitated the creation of our 70-plus world-class research centres and institutes. While unique in their various themes – be it aging, infectious disease, population health, peace studies, big data, healthier environments, transportation and logistics, or materials research – they share a similar philosophy when it comes to solving problems: work collaboratively, leave no stone unturned and investigate the problem from every possible angle.

Our first place ranking in Research Infosource's corporate sponsored research income category confirms that McMaster researchers are recognized leaders in their

fields. The ranking is a testament to the many ways in which their discoveries are contributing to the nation's economic prosperity – a critical function of a research intensive university.

But beyond our contributions to building a stronger economy, we are committed to strengthening social and cultural prosperity – whether by engaging with local municipalities around policies to reduce poverty and improve living conditions, or working with developing countries to remediate and manage polluted ecosystems.

McMaster's ability to attract sponsored research income has placed us among the top three research intensive universities in the country – a standing of which we are particularly proud, especially given our size. But we are not just research intensive, we are research infused: discovery is something we live and

breathe. It shapes our research and our teaching. And our students – both undergraduate and graduate – reap the rewards.

In true McMaster style, our researchers have a longstanding tradition of turning the process of discovery into a pedagogical tool. As a result, our students are nurtured in a culture of curiosity and inquiry, and continue to think critically when they enter the workplace and throughout their lives. They are, after all, our future leaders.

Our commitment to excellence ensures we continue to secure research grants across the disciplines, and our partnerships enable our research to be translated into practice. The income measure is certainly significant, but beyond our income, the true value of our research is best measured by its outcomes. It's how our faculty and students use their research to advance and serve our broader society that really matters – whether that's through the creation of new knowledge, policies, products, technologies or services. I am proud that the work of our researchers is making a huge difference and having

a profound impact on the lives of those in Canada and beyond.

The appeal and the value of partnerships – whether they're with the private or public sector, around the block or around the globe – is that they allow us to put our knowledge directly into the hands of those who can use it best. From the way that we teach our students to the way we develop our partnerships, we are continually mobilizing our knowledge and transferring our technologies for the benefit of society.

And what's best is that partnerships go both ways. The flow of information is by no means in one direction, rather we learn as much from our partners as they learn from us. Their insights, experience and challenges guide and inspire our research and inform the way we teach our students.

Together we are combining our human, financial, physical and intellectual capacity to create and support prosperity through research and innovation. Pooling our resources in this way truly means that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.