

PARTNER PERSPECTIVE

Nurturing a Culture of Scholarship, Research and Creative Activities



Cindy Gillett
Director, Office of Applied
Research and Innovation
Sheridan

Sheridan is committed to cultivating and supporting a differentiated culture of Scholarship, Research and Creative Activities (SRCA) – one which is inclusive, broad, and engages our students, staff, professors and the communities we serve. This commitment enables SRCA to be embedded, where appropriate, within the curriculum of Sheridan credentials. Our focus on

building opportunities for faculty and students to engage in SRCA activities across Faculties means innovative thinking is taking place on every campus, across a variety of disciplines – and it's creating practical solutions for our wide range of partners.

We are very proud to have a broad network of industry and community partners as part of our SRCA ecosystem. Our partners range from young local start-ups to large international market leaders. While each partnership is different, we approach every project with a few common questions: what is the right mix of students and faculty expertise for this particular challenge? How can we apply Sheridan's hallmark creativity to produce a truly practical solution for our partner? How can we ensure this experience will be a meaningful learning opportunity for our students?

Effective academic-community collaborations are win-win situations for all participants in the

process. For our partners, engaging in applied research with institutions like Sheridan provides a path to innovation and commercialization. Collaboration with Sheridan can provide access to resources, skills training and expertise while removing some of the major risks involved with research and development, such as investing in specialized infrastructure.

At our Centre for Advanced Manufacturing and Design Technologies (CAMDT), our partners will find one of the most advanced suites of additive manufacturing infrastructure of any postsecondary institution in Canada. This suite will grow this coming year with the addition of machines capable of working with polyjet and metal materials, opening doors to new collaborations with the health innovation and aerospace industries, among others.

Our Centre for Elder Research can help partners better understand how to create solutions that improve the

quality of life for Canada's rapidly growing population of older adults. The Centre's focus on creative aging, and insights into how technology can support our aging population, mobilizes Sheridan's expertise in the arts, applied computing, and much more.

From its central location at Pinewood Toronto Studios, our Screen Industries Research and Training (SIRT) Centre offers partners in film, television and digital media the chance to explore tools like high frame rate cinema, high-speed fibre collaboration, and virtual and augmented reality. SIRT is also collaborating with social innovation partners looking to integrate immersive visualization technologies into global citizenship projects.

Students in our renowned Honours Bachelor of Musical Theatre Performance program are helping Canadian and international composers, lyricists and book-writers develop their ideas as part of our Canadian Music

Theatre Project (CMTP), Canada's first incubator for the development of new musical theatre works. Working with a cast of students, writers bring their new musical to life through workshops and staged readings. In the spring of 2017, one of the first musicals incubated at Sheridan, *Come From Away*, will make its Broadway debut.

New in 2016 with the support of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Sheridan is now tackling funded social innovation projects in the areas of social isolation and bullying among older adults, the application of creative problem-solving to support a local community foundation, and video games that support the rehabilitation targets of children living with Cerebral Palsy.

Our ranking on this year's list also reflects our commitment to integrating experiential and community-based projects into our curriculum. We've worked hard to ensure students across Faculties have the opportunity to work on projects with industry clients or community partners that help them put into practice their classroom knowledge and collaborate with their peers to address a client's challenge.

In fact, in 2015 60% of fourth-year degree students participated in courses with a community-based project.

A snapshot of these curriculum-based projects illustrates our growing culture of engagement in the broad spectrum of scholarship, research and creative activities.

These include the many initiatives that take place in our Pilon School of Business, such as students developing integrated marketing communications plans and promotional tools to help community clients reach a new audience. In our Faculty of Applied Science and Technology, applied computing students are helping small businesses develop innovative apps, while engineering students are helping our local manufacturing sector integrate advanced manufacturing tools into their workflows.

As we progress on our journey to becoming Sheridan University, integrating high quality experiential learning opportunities for our students and applying purposeful creativity for the enrichment of our communities and local economies will continue to be pillars of our vision.

To learn more about research at Sheridan, please visit <http://research.sheridancollege.ca>.