

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Maple League of Universities Awards New Funds

Nine collaborative projects receive funding to pursue inter-campus initiatives in teaching, research, innovative pedagogy and more

Sherbrooke, December 9, 2019 – The Maple League of Universities – Acadia, Bishop's, Mount Allison and St. Francis Xavier – strive to build critical thinkers and leaders through the delivery of an extraordinary 21st century liberal education.

In our shared efforts, we are guided by two fundamental questions:

- What can we do together that we cannot do on our own?
- How does working together enhance what we already do on our own individual campuses?

To that end, in early September the Maple League was excited to launch four new funding opportunities to promote and facilitate collaborative research, innovative teaching, spring and international field study programs, and travel amongst our four campuses.

Fund Name	Available Funding	Awarding Committee
Online Learning/Ideas-Based Course Fund	\$25,000	The Maple League Academic Committee
Spring Institutes & International Field Studies Fund	\$10,000	The Maple League Academic Committee
Innovative Pedagogies Fund	\$10,000	The Maple League Teaching & Learning Centre (MLTLC)
Maple League Research Fund	\$30,000	The Maple League Research Committee

The awarding committees met in October and November to review and adjudicate the proposals received, and we are delighted to share summaries of the nine funded projects.

Maple League Online Learning/Ideas-Based Course Fund

- **Maple League Incubator:** A virtual incubator to allow cross-institutional student teams to submit ideas to a pitch competition annually. Successful teams will be matched with a mentor and receive funding for prototyping as well as access to a project workspace.
- **Data Science Training:** A framework to develop and instill in students good scientific computing skills and sound quantitative reasoning to aid with data collection and the analysis of complex datasets common to contemporary science.

Maple League Spring Institutes & International Field Studies Fund

- Indigenous STEAM: Experiential and Land-Based Learning: This course will immerse students in Indigenous culture, ways of knowing, traditional ecological knowledge, and contributions to science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM). Lessons will focus primarily on Mi'kmaq culture and the course will emphasize the relationship between Indigenous peoples and the land.
- Spring Institute in Arts & Health: An inaugural health innovation initiative that will focus creating a culture in which artistic expression is incorporated into health-based teaching activities, research activities and community partnership opportunities.

Maple League Innovative Pedagogies Fund

- Interactive online concussion education tool: This project will see the design of a tool that engages students in realistic concussion scenarios, which will integrate the knowledge and practical skills required to effectively recognize, assess and manage concussions in different field settings.

Maple League Research Fund

- Accessibility as a Collective Practice: This project will generate evidence about current accessibility policy and practice in the Maple League universities, the results of which will lay the foundations for a SSHRC Partnership Grant to analyze the implementation of accessibility legislation in rural liberal arts universities in eastern Canada.
- The preservation and accessibility of audiovisual materials at the Maple League universities: This project will collect data on the current management of audiovisual materials in order to support the creation of sustainable and cost-efficient strategies and policies for preserving and making accessible the audiovisual resources of the four institutions.
- Semi-conductors: fundamental and applied photochemical research: Undergraduate students will be afforded a unique chance to participate in the experimental design and implementation in both fundamental and applied chemical research.
- Mathematical graph theory: An existing strong mathematical research partnership will add an undergraduate research assistant to their team, providing a unique opportunity for the student to be co-supervised by three leading experts while augmenting the faculty members' ability to obtain competitive external funding.

“Faculty, staff and students at our four institutions already collaborate in a number of areas,” stated Dr. Jessica Riddell, Executive Director of the Maple League. “The breadth and scope of the submitted proposals demonstrates the Maple League’s profound interest in working together to advance innovative projects and generate increased opportunities for collaboration as we strive to be ‘best in class’ in delivering an extraordinary 21st century liberal education.”

For more detailed information on this year’s funded projects:

<http://mapleleague.ca/about/funding-opportunities/>

About The Maple League

The Maple League is made up of four universities – Acadia, Bishop’s, Mount Allison and St. Francis Xavier – who together form a prestigious alliance of small, rural, undergraduate liberal education institutions with Francophone heritage and a commitment to honouring indigenous communities. By fostering reciprocal relationships across institutional boundaries, we provide extraordinary opportunities to transform as leaders, scholars, and institutions. The Maple League creates distinctive learning environments that ensure our graduates are capable of navigating an increasingly complex world as citizens and leaders dedicated to the values of a just and civil society. www.mapleleague.ca

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