

Success at the Interdisciplinary Showcase

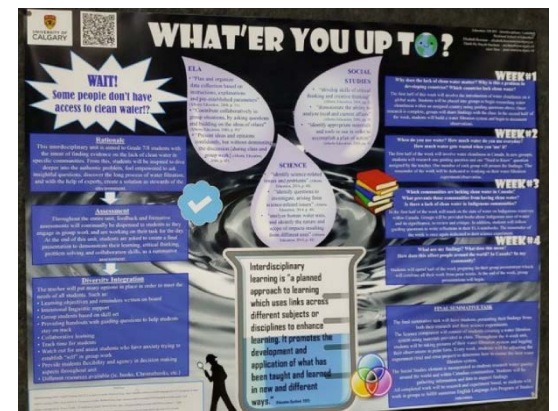
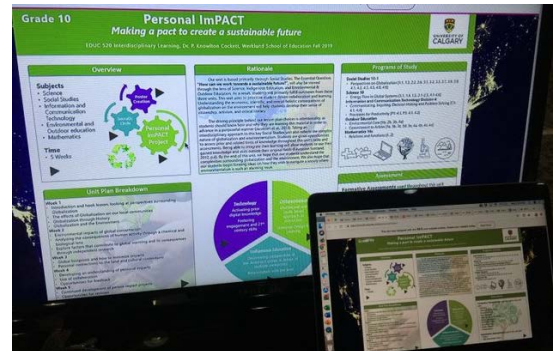
Werklund School of Education's second year pre-service teachers presented their design of interdisciplinary studies for K-12 students at the Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Learning Showcase & Panel presentation last month. More than 90 rigorous, inclusive, and engaging learning tasks highlighted possibilities for teachers and students to work across disciplines and understand authentic issues and curricular topics in new ways. The Showcase included work from both On-Campus and Community-Based students and welcomed faculty and students as well as community and family members in its celebration of the richness of curriculum and instructional design.

Posters, artifacts, online presentations, face-to-face interactions, and a Twitter hashtag, #EDUC520, created many opportunities for Werklund students and visitors to explore the interdisciplinary studies and how K-12 students, teachers, and community members could work together to explore ideas and create solutions to compelling problems. Their interdisciplinary studies designs addressed questions such as "What constitutes a healthy mindset?", "Can kids curb the climate crisis?", "Why are sports important to society?" and "Under what conditions should vaccines be mandatory?". Other projects explored ideas about fake news, use of social media, access to clean water, and breaking boundaries between thermodynamics and creativity. The creativity, disciplinary depth, and interdisciplinary possibilities of the studies were exciting to see.

Representatives from many local school authorities were among the community visitors and expressed how impressed they were with our pre-service teachers' work; they then presented a panel talking to our soon-to-be Werklund graduates about hiring processes, and school and district cultures.

Congratulations to all the Werklund students, faculty, and staff and community partners who came together to make the day a great success.

Ronna Mosher



Get Involved in Research on Campus!

Calling all undergraduate students! A study is being conducted investigating mental health stigma on campus. If you are a full-time student, 18 years or older, in your second or more year of study, and interested in having your voice heard, you can complete the anonymous survey here: https://survey.ucalgary.ca/jfe/form/SV_bwRYoEDYedHM5rD. All entries will be entered into a draw for a \$10 gift card. Participation is entirely voluntary and anonymous. Please contact julia.stamp@ucalgary.ca for more information. The University of Calgary Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board has approved this study (REB19-1292).



Undergraduate Research Awards

“Undergraduate research is an excellent opportunity to explore the topics that interest you and to inquire how these topics can shape your emerging teacher identity.” – Jessica Gobran

This past summer, 11 Werklund undergraduate students were the recipients of awards – either a Program for Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE) Award or a Werklund Undergraduate Research Award – which allowed them to delve into research topics with the support of a supervising Werklund School of Education faculty member. Students chose their topics, which ranged from classroom management strategies, pedagogical techniques, teaching diverse student groups, to incorporating Indigenous cultural values and social justice-oriented topics in the classroom.

Facilitating growth of research skills, as well as providing students with valuable experiential learning opportunities are just some of the reasons fueling the importance of these research awards. In addition to improving pedagogical competencies and fostering independence and personal growth, recipients also gain clarity on educational goals and their career pathways by getting a better understanding of the research experience landscape, supported by these generous funding opportunities.

“Being given time and resources to research teaching Indigenous literatures has allowed me to not only be a lot more confident in my own ability to teach Indigenous literatures, but also my ability to help other teachers incorporate Indigenous literatures into their practice in ways that are both meaningful to students and accountable to Indigenous communities.” – Kiefer Waite-Newhouse

Applications for both the Summer 2020 PURE Program & Werklund Undergraduate Research Awards are opening soon, with applications due by **February 7, 2020**. More info here: werkklund.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate-programs/current-students/awards/continuing-student-awards

2019 Werklund Award Recipients:

Kiefer Waite-Newhouse: “Uncovering Ethical Approaches to Teaching Indigenous Literatures for Settler Teachers”

Jenny Yuen: “Enriching STEM Learning in the Early Years for Multilingual Learners”

Maria P.: “The Invisible Minority: An Ethnographic Investigation of Custodian Identity in Calgary K-12 Schools”

2019 PURE Award Recipients:

Jessica Gobran: “Contested Commemoration: Alberta Educators’ Experiences Teaching Controversial Monuments in Social Studies Classrooms”

Spencer Miller: “Teaching for Social Justice with Canadian Young Adult Literature in the Language Arts Classroom”

Joyce Montemayor: “Investigating classroom strategies teachers of English Language Learners implement within the Attachment, Regulation and Competency Framework”

Lisa Anderson: “Applications of Music within the Neurolinguistic Approach in a German-Bilingual School”

Kristina Lyngberg: “Wired to Read: Can Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation Improve Reading in Children?”

Caitlin Tighe: “Diversity in the ELA Classroom: Intersections between Practice, Medium and Experience”

Angela Ko: “Examining the importance of incorporating Indigenous cultures into curricular studies and its effect on student awareness.”

Sean McConnell: “A collection of cognitively demanding mathematical tasks for grade eleven Albertan teachers.”

Upcoming Dates

Dec. 9th Fall Exam period begins

Dec. 24th Closed for Holiday Break until Jan. 2nd

Jan. 8th EDUC 551 begins (Year 2 Ed students)

Jan. 13th Winter term begins

Jan. 13-31st Winter Career Workshops and Seminars – further details to follow!

Feb. 7th – Undergraduate Research Application Deadline