

October 14, 2016

Dear faculty, staff and students,

I'm writing to invite your participation in a new online survey conducted by the Council of Ontario Universities (COU). The survey is designed to explore how we can create a brighter future not just for the more than 500,000 students enrolled in our universities, but for all Ontarians served through our teaching, research, scholarship and service activities.

As you may be aware, Western is one of the COU's 21 member universities that work closely with provincial and federal governments to shape public policies supporting high-quality academic programs, research and innovation which improve the social, cultural and economic well-being of Ontarians. The COU builds consensus with its members on a wide range of important postsecondary issues and then advances those positions with government and other key stakeholders.

Through its survey, COU is seeking your ideas for how universities should be adapting to better prepare students for the future. Feedback is welcome from everyone — from faculty and staff members, parents and students, to chambers of commerce and municipal and community leaders.

You can complete the survey online at ontariosuniversities.ca or you can email your thoughts to insights@ontariosuniversities.ca. COU will also be moderating a social media conversation on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Snapchat](#) and [Instagram](#).

The feedback gathered through all these platforms will be distilled and reported back to the public through a series of online postings, blogs and reports, culminating in a summit next year on Ontario's future and how universities can help Ontarians succeed. COU president David Lindsay is committed to listening to what all Ontarians have to say, interpreting the results, reporting on those results, and developing an action plan.

On behalf of Western and the COU, thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration and participation in the survey. I look forward to learning what the survey may uncover and the strategies COU will propose to further advance the mission of Ontario universities.

Warmest regards,



Amit Chakma
President & Vice-Chancellor