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In developing a working definition of , inspiration was taken from Colleges and Institutes Canada's (CICan) definition, and it has been adapted as follows:

Applied research is the development of innovative solutions to real-world challenges affecting our communities. It seeks to resolve practical problems by applying the latest knowledge and technology to create or improve services, practices, processes, or products.



CONSULTATION PROCESS

Our employees and students provided valuable information that has informed this Applied Research Strategy.

Between October 2022 and May 2023, the members of the working group facilitated fourteen Applied Research Strategy consultation sessions, virtually and in-person, with 67 employees and 46 students from across the institution. These sessions identified the strengths and the areas in which applied research could be further developed both internally and with our community partners. The sessions also identified the importance of the scholarship of teaching and learning being included in the applied research strategy, and the infrastructure and human resources support needed to sustain and expand applied research.

We appreciated hearing their perspectives and insights into the challenges, opportunities, and strategies for strengthening applied research at Okanagan College.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Applied research at Okanagan College contributes to the teaching and learning experiences of our students and employees while strengthening our community partnerships. The following guiding principles were derived from the information obtained during the consultation process. They provide a foundation for future development of the Applied Research Strategy.

1. Applied research focuses on addressing real-world problems, challenges, and opportunities. It is driven by the needs and priorities of our stakeholders, including organizations, industries, communities, and individuals. The research questions and objectives align with our college expertise and emerging areas of opportunity and are held to the highest ethical standards.
- 2.

APPENDIX A – COMMITMENTS

Okanagan College employees have many applied research areas of interest, including, but not limited to, the applied research concentrations identified. Okanagan College employees are encouraged to engage in their applied research interests. By engaging in applied research, employees and students can create new knowledge and real-world experience in problem-solving and identifying new areas of discovery that support our college community.

Our Initiatives:

Increase opportunities for employees and students to form strong

Our Initiatives:

Strengthen current areas of concentration by identifying opportunities to invest in applied research infrastructure that supports applied research projects.

On an annual basis, identify applied research areas of concentration to ensure infrastructure needs are incorporated into both the Integrated Resource Planning and capital planning processes.

Identify funding agencies on an annual basis that support infrastructure funding and project areas of concentration that would qualify for the funding.

Create the data management processes needed as outlined by the Tri-Council Agency.

Okanagan College recognizes the importance of embracing new applied research opportunities. Applied research fosters internal and external relationships, partnerships, innovation, and advancements of knowledge in practical fields, facilitating the development of solutions that can positively impact college partners, educators, students, society and the economy. Embracing new applied research opportunities empowers Okanagan College employees and students to stay at the forefront of innovation, nurture academic excellence, and fulfill our mission of transforming lives and communities.

Our Initiatives:

Through the NSERC Mobilize grant funding position, increase the opportunities to meet with companies and organizations in our communities to identify potential applied research.

On an annual basis, host a minimum of four information sessions on applied research topics and funding relevant to current and potential community partners.

Expand the scope of the annual Research, Innovation, Partnership Expo to include presentations by researchers, students, industry and community members interested in sharing their applied research stories.

Deliver a total of four information sessions to students (Fall, Winter, Summer) on paid employment opportunities for applied research projects.

Okanagan College recognizes the importance of establishing applied research policies that provide guidance and direction to college employees, researchers, and students engaged in applied research. Policies will align with the institution's research standards and ethics.

