Every day at the University of Regina’s Centre for Continuing Education (CCE), chapters are being written in thousands of life stories. The stories are diverse: a young person taking the first step towards an as-yet-to-be-defined future, a parent charting a course towards career advancement or a senior who understands the value of lifelong learning.

However unique the stories and the life stages may seem, they are bound by an inextricable common denominator: a desire for change, for new opportunity, and for a chance to understand more of what the world has to offer.

For more than 20 years, CCE has played a pivotal role in helping people fulfill their dreams of growth and advancement. For those of us who set the stage for learning across hundreds of disciplines, that environment is in a state of near constant change.

Today’s world of learning knows no bounds. When, where and how students learn is fluid and flexible. On campus and online, our students come from around the corner and around the globe. Our collaborators are equally broad in scope as industry partners, community stakeholders, and governments, University of Regina Faculties, academic units and departments each help to shape the workforce demands of our local, national and international economies.

At CCE we are focused on creating the quality environment, content and opportunities for people to learn and achieve. It is imperative that not only do we keep pace with market demands but stay well ahead of the next curve.

That is why we are excited to share a behind-the-scenes look at the strides CCE and its students have made this past year. From the challenges to the successes, read on to find out more about where we’ve been and what comes next!
More students than ever before are turning to flexible course options as their preferred way to learn. CCE’s interactive technology links students to more than 220 courses offered online, live-streamed, or face-to-face at regional colleges.

Distance learning saves classroom space and means more opportunities to attract and retain students regardless of proximity to the University campus while the flexibility of online courses delivers unprecedented access at all times of the day throughout the year.

Students take advantage of summer courses to graduate sooner or reduce their course load during the traditional semester. Growing demand means summer semester enrolment has significantly increased over the past five years by 52% for face-to-face classes and 99% for online courses.

In addition, students can now earn a Masters in Health Administration (MHA) degree completely online as well as several certificates including our certificate in Local Government Administration. This certificate allows individuals in rural and urban municipalities to gain the education needed to be the Municipal Administrator in their own communities. Coming soon in fall 2020 will be the launch of the Health Information Management option in the MHA degree.

Our array of credit and non-credit certificate programs also continues to grow as we support labour demands and student needs for specific career field training. New professional certificates in Organizational Innovation, Advanced Leadership, Pre-Nursing and Foundations for Nursing have all been introduced this past year.

CCE recognizes that not all learning takes place in a university environment. Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) awards credit to those who have acquired significant knowledge and skills through professional and personal life, skills training and volunteer experiences and want to apply it toward University of Regina degrees, diplomas or certificates. PLAR is one of several ways CCE helps students transition to higher learning and beyond, whether from high school to university, from one career to another, or even from another part of the world to Canada.

Of course effectively translating a program from a traditional classroom to the online world isn’t a cut-and-paste process. Each of our courses is fully integrated with individual Faculties and our course designers are Instructional Designers with Masters of Education degrees skilled in crafting successful online programs. More and more we are increasing the amount of graphics and video content in our online and blended courses to make learning more visual, fun and easier to understand.

In addition to the quality and variety of our offerings, CCE is known for its unique profit oriented business model. It combines revenue-sharing with the Faculties with centralized administrative planning, development and delivery. This is an effective and collaborative process that resulted in CCE returning more than $3 million in tuition revenues to the Faculties this past year.

**FLEXIBLE LEARNING DELIVERS RESULTS**

**PLAR**

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<th>FLEXIBLE LEARNING REVENUE</th>
<th>ONLINE ENROLMENT</th>
<th>ONLINE COURSES OFFERED</th>
<th>SUMMER ENROLMENT</th>
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<td>+14%</td>
<td>+19.6%</td>
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| $25 MILLION               | 9,800 STUDENTS   | 223 COURSES            | 9684 STUDENTS    |

**NEXT: A WORKING PLAN FOR SUCCESS**

“I never thought I would go back to school after 40 but I did and I am loving it. The moment I knew this was all worthwhile was when I explained to my ten-year-old son I was going back to University. He asked: ‘Mom will you graduate and get to walk across a stage?’ I told him yes. He then asked if he could come to my graduation. I knew then that not only was it important for me to finish for my own goals and dreams but it was important for him to see me reach mine so he knows he can reach his too.

With working a corporate job and having a family, flexibility is key. This is where CCE was a great help. Classes are available online and in the evening to make achieving these academic dreams possible while still working.”

Yvette

2018 – Certificate in Administration Level II
2019 – Diploma in Business Administration

2018-19
In 2019, CCE, along with the Faculties of Education, Nursing, Social Work and Science, met with the Meadow Lake Tribal Council in northern Saskatchewan to discuss creating new educational and training programs across nine communities. Meetings are ongoing to determine the needs and wants of the communities and to develop certificate programs to meet those needs.

In addition, we formed a new partnership with the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) to deliver a 12-month Liberal Arts Certificate to Métis and Indigenous students in Pinehouse, Saskatchewan. The first cohort of 19 Indigenous students celebrated the completion of the program at a graduation ceremony in December 2019.

Other programs delivered by GDI in partnership with the U of R include the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) in Regina, the Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program in La Ronge, as well as a community-based Master of Education program and a Justice Studies program in Prince Albert.

Community outreach is an important part of our work. Aboriginal-focused networks and committees including Aboriginal Grandmothers Caring for Grandchildren and International Grandmothers Uniting play an active role in identifying educational gaps and opportunities. Other organizations work with us to address older adult social issues such as isolation, inclusion and elder abuse.

Our partnerships also extend to local businesses. Recognizing that online learning is a more efficient option, corporations and organizations are increasingly reaching out to CCE to create customized development training for their staff and management.

“Becoming a teacher has always been a dream of mine. Having the opportunity to take my first year through distance education was the perfect first step towards completing my dream. I was able to live at home with little to no extra costs, while saving money to move to the bigger city and finish my education.

The online classes available made it easy to set your own schedule, whether you have a family or you’re working full time. The online classes give you the opportunity to work around your life.

For me the distance education program has been the most influential experience in my step towards my education.”

Taylor
Parkland College, Bachelor of Education
LEARNING FOR ALL

From children and seniors to international students and new immigrants, CCE is a hub for learning and our programming reflects that diversity.

This past year, the High School Accelerated program experienced significant growth. This program helps students from rural and urban high schools across Saskatchewan access University courses while still in high school. The result? More students are achieving excellent high school grades, completing one or more university credits before their first term at the University of Regina plus gaining the skills and confidence to make the transition from high school to University.

Another popular program is English as a Second Language (ESL). The ESL program attracts international students that require greater English proficiency prior to taking university courses. This past year, CCE expanded the Federal Government’s Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada program by offering it as a daytime class.

CREATING A NEW FUTURE FOR A HISTORIC HALL

Originally constructed in 1929 as a temple to the arts for the entire community, Darke Hall had become a shell of its former self. With nearly a century of love and use, the building, although still beautiful and acoustically stunning, no longer met code and was facing demolition.

This year, restoration of this stunning heritage building begins. Our goal is to retain its beloved charm and character while making it completely accessible through the addition of an elevator, wider aisles, better and accessible seating and washrooms, and back-of-house amenities for performers.

Once complete Darke Hall will again be a community hub for the performance and enjoyment of music, theatre, and dance. Watch for the re-opening in 2021.
Some of our youngest and oldest learners at CCE can be found attending programs at the Conservatory of Performing Arts. From music classes for newborns and their parents to group classes in drama, dance, visual arts, and music for older children, teens, and adults to private music lessons for all ages, the Conservatory offers arts-based learning that is enriching and engaging. Many former students have gone on to successful performing arts careers and are members of major orchestras throughout North America, while others have developed a foundational, lifetime love of the arts.

Our Lifelong Learning Centre offers a wealth of personal enrichment courses such as languages, fitness and gardening for adults of all ages. These courses help students remain active with like-minded people and are offered weekends, evenings and daytime to accommodate all schedules. Some of our more popular courses are Stand-Up Comedy 101, Noon Forums and Middle East Current Affairs.

2018-19

- ESL REVENUE: $3,591,442 (+8%)
- INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: 7,529 (+21%)
- CONSERVATORY OF PERFORMING ARTS STUDENTS: 2,477 (+9.7%)

NEXT: LEARNING A NEW LANGUAGE

“Like many other international students here, I came to this ESL program for a better education and it has been a motivating and exciting experience. I luckily have a teacher who can speak French, Spanish, Chinese and a little Japanese. Somehow, he understands our struggle and makes us all laugh every class. Another thing that makes this program unique is the friendly, cooperative international environment. These students bring their English accents and their knowledge to share among other students.”

NEXT: MAXIMIZING TIME AND RESULTS

“When scheduling my classes, I often found that the mandatory business classes I had to take during the day overlapped with the economics classes I was really interested in. However, with evening class options, I was able to explore many different economics classes! Throughout my undergraduate degree, I have taken six evening courses. CCE’s extensive options for evening courses has allowed me to take the courses I am genuinely interested in, while being incredibly flexible and ensuring that I stay on pace to graduate!”
VISION
Expanding possibilities, strengthening communities.

MISSION
The mission of the Centre for Continuing Education is to meet lifelong learning needs by offering high quality, accessible, innovative and responsive education and training programs to learners of all ages by building on the strengths and collaborating with the resources of the community and the University.