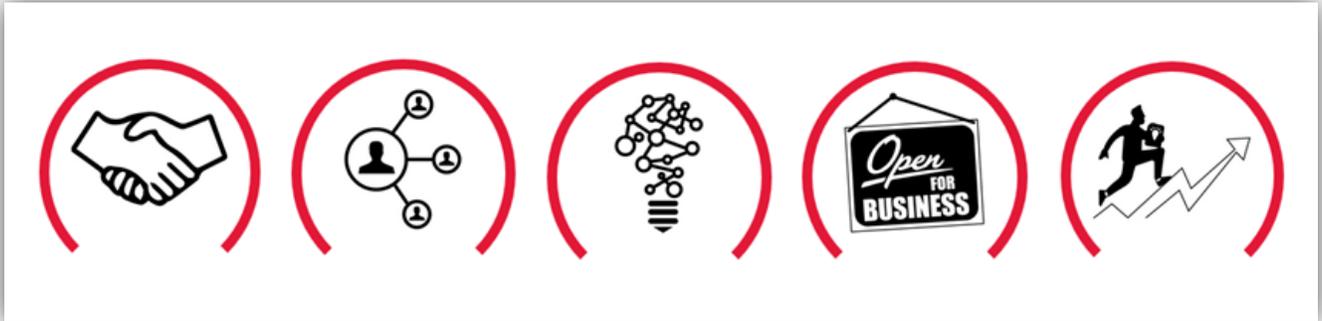


Collaborating for Innovation



Innovation York

Annual Report FY2016/17

innovationyork.ca

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Message from the Vice-President



As I look at Innovation York over the past five years, I am pleased at how it has grown and moved from contributing to the innovation culture to leading the innovation agenda at York University. Central to Innovation York's growth has been the expansion of LaunchYU to deliver comprehensive programming year round, as well as the expansion of the MCC. We are very excited about these developments.

In addition, York has undertaken the creation of a five-year, campus-wide strategic plan for innovation and entrepreneurship. In a continuing effort to bridge research application and student engagement, the Office of the Associate Vice-President, Teaching and Learning and the Office of the Vice President Research and Innovation, through Innovation York, have come together to develop innovative pathways for innovation and entrepreneurship that build upon and leverage curricular and co-curricular activities.

In recent years, the innovation ecosystem within York has evolved and grown significantly. It now spans across the university. Innovation York is a central piece in this ecosystem and one that we envision will play a key role in uniting and leveraging units and programs across campus.



Robert Haché
Vice-President, Research & Innovation

Message from the Director



FY2016/17 was an exciting year for Innovation York, as we saw each of the units grow and mature; we also expanded our service offerings and brought the internationally renowned Knowledge Mobilization unit under our umbrella. From partnerships with community organizations, to training workshops, to graduate student internships, to the assessment of research impact, the KMB unit is a wonderful compliment to the existing services provided by the office. The entire Innovation York team, including the KMB unit, has worked exceptionally hard over the past year to ensure mutual understanding and that we are working together in a meaningful way.

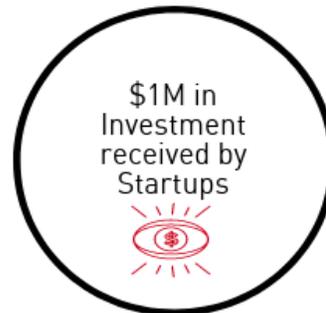
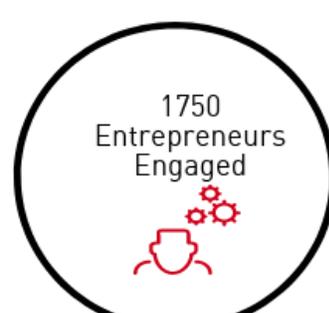
We are seeing the results – from finalizing 466 research agreements, helping to bring in \$66M in cash and in-kind industry contributions, creating partnerships with 33 community partners, managing 30 commercialization projects, supporting more than 1750 entrepreneurs, and supporting 2 incubators; the whole Innovation York team is working tirelessly to support innovation at the University. I cannot wait to see how each unit grows and how we continue to focus on providing new value added opportunities to York University faculty members, students, industry, and community members.



Sarah Howe, MBA
Director, Innovation York

Year in Review

Year in Review



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york

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Areas of Service

Agreements Unit

As research at York intensifies so too does the volume and complexity of the research agreements Innovation York reviews. The research agreements unit executed 466 agreements in FY2016/17. Agreements continue to increase in complexity and size, as evidenced by the increase in total value of agreements from \$28M in FY2015/16 to \$61M in FY2016/17.

With so many exciting research projects going on at York, it's hard to highlight just one. However, the Youth Research & Evaluation eXchange (YouthREX) program co-led by Dr. Uzo Anucha from the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies and Dr. Carl James from the Faculty of Education, is a great example of the large scale and complex projects the agreements unit works on.

The goal of YouthREX is to inform and improve youth work practice, as well as help youth sector organizations and initiatives better understand the impact of their work. The provincial office for the program is housed at York University and has five regional hubs: Carleton University, King's

College at Western University, Lakehead University, Laurentian University and the York Centre for Education & Community at York University.



YouthREX is funded through the Province of Ontario's Ontario Youth Action Plan, which is designed to address the root causes of youth violence, while providing community support where it is needed most. With a multi-million dollar project and multiple partners across the Province, the research agreements team has been instrumental in developing, negotiating and executing the funding agreement and related sub-grants.



YouthREX Program, April 2017 (photo/YouthREX)

Industry Engagement Unit

For the first five years of Innovation York we referred to this unit as the industry liaison unit. However, over the years it has expanded from exclusively facilitating academic-industry research partnerships, to selling York as a place where industry will be able to leapfrog the competition, advising on funding opportunities, connecting industry across the university to the parties that most appropriately suit their needs and working closely with the commercialization team to ensure that they have the appropriate partners to move York intellectual property forward. We feel that industry engagement is a much more appropriate name.

The unit has had another outstanding year, developing relationships with more than 135 companies, which resulted in more than \$66 million in cash and in-kind contributions for research projects, a 250% increase from the previous year.

The unit focuses on large scale multi-party collaborations like the ADERSIM project, as well

as smaller partnerships that are funded under the NSERC Engage grant. Another important component of this unit's work is supporting York-associated startups and ensuring they have connections into the University.

Studio1Labs is a great example of a company that the Industry Engagement unit has successfully helped. Engaging with Innovation York through an industry-academic event, Studio1Labs then participated in LaunchYU's AccelerateUP program, which they followed up by working with Industry Engagement to find research partners in the Lassonde School of Engineering (to characterize the innovative fabric sensor technology developed by our company), and School of Nursing (for formal clinical trials to compare against gold standard approved medical devices and clinical nursing protocols for patient monitoring). With support from the Industry Engagement unit, Studio1Labs has been able to achieve clinical validation with a registered clinical trial of a new medical device in less than two years.



Studio1Labs presenting at YSpace grand opening, November 2017 (photo / York University)

Knowledge Mobilization Unit

This year was a great one for Knowledge Mobilization at York. Consistently proving how important knowledge mobilization is to ensuring impactful research results, the Knowledge Mobilization (KMb) unit successfully supported 33 partnerships with community organizations, brokered 15 projects, and supported projects that obtained more than \$6.6M in funding.

The KMb unit's partnership work was highlighted through the \$2M partnership between the Regent Park School of Music and the Carswell Family Foundation. York Professor Emeritus Allan Carswell and the Carswell Family Foundation made the donation to support research and programming to help children succeed through music and the arts.

Although not involved in the identification of partners for the partnership, the KMb unit was

instrumental in facilitating the development of the relationships which led to the development of the Helen Carswell Chair in Community Engaged Research in the Arts within the School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design, as well as a new partnership between York and the Regent Park School of Music, which will increase the RPSM's reach to children in the Jane-Finch community.

In addition, the KMb unit expanded their service offering, by adding a new position dedicated to the Vision: Science to Applications Program. This is significant, as it demonstrates the applicability of knowledge mobilization to not only the social science, but also the other scientific areas. Community partnerships, dissemination of knowledge, and evaluation of impact are all of great importance to all areas of science – having a fully dedicated knowledge mobilization officer for VISTA is just the first step in demonstrating that.



Students from the York University Gospel Choir sang with the Regent Park School of Music students.
(Photo York University)

Commercialization Unit

It was an exciting year for the commercialization unit. Not only did some of our projects reach key milestones, our Commercialization Manager, Yaser Kerachian, took on a new role as Commercialization Manager, VISTA. We also welcomed Chris Schwartze to the team. Building on commercialization at Texas A&M, Chris is a great addition to Innovation York.

One of the key commercialization success stories this year was the licensing of Dr. Lauren Sergio's Brain Dysfunction Indicator (BrDI). Featured in last year's annual report, BrDI is a ten minute neurocognitive program that provides a risk profile for concussion and dementia. Licensed by Innovation York in collaboration with MaRS Innovation to

Markham-based company MyAbilities Technologies Inc, the license will allow MyAbilities to exclusively commercialize BrDI and forge a research partnership with Dr. Sergio's lab to further clinical trials and enhance the BrDI technology.

MyAbilities is developing the world's first Human Assessment Platform that allows for a battery of neurocognitive and motor tests on a patient. In turn, the patient can use this information to track and monitor their performance for medical insurance or return-to-work/play purposes.



Dr. Lauren Sergio, Sherman Health Science Building (Photo/York)

Innovation York @VISTA

Innovation York is proud to provide dedicated knowledge mobilization and commercialization services to the Vision: Science to Applications program (VISTA). Innovation York provides a comprehensive set of services to VISTA through a full-time Commercialization Manager, Knowledge Mobilization Officer and an Innovation Advisory Committee. Innovation York @VISTA will support the development,

assessment and translation of knowledge, technology and service outcomes in order to facilitate and maximize the long-term commercial, economic, and social impacts of VISTA research.



Entrepreneurship: LaunchYU Program

Entrepreneurship services are delivered through our entrepreneurship program, LaunchYU (www.launchyu.ca). FY2016/17 was an important year as we engaged more than 1750 entrepreneurs, held 32 workshops and events, and developed two new programs.

With our Summer accelerator program, AccelerateUP, already in full swing, LaunchYU introduced both IgniteUP, a mentoring program, and RevUP, a bi-annual workshop series in early 2017. These developments enable LaunchYU to support entrepreneurs in a meaningful way throughout the year.



LaunchYU.ca
CONNECT . COLLABORATE . LEARN . SUCCEED



Accelerator Spaces

LaunchYU BEST Hub

The LaunchYU BEST Hub was opened by Innovation York and the Lassonde School of Engineering to promote collaborative entrepreneurial endeavours and hold entrepreneurial related events. The Hub serves as an innovation sandbox for entrepreneurs from all Faculties across the University and beyond. Both Nilay Goyal, Entrepreneurship Manager, and Diana Senwasane, Event and Marketing Coordinator, have offices within the Hub, so entrepreneurs not only have a place to work and collaborate, but also have access to two professionals with significant entrepreneurship and commercialization experience.

Innovation York @MCC

The Markham Convergence Centre (MCC) helps entrepreneurs start and grow, regardless of where they are in the business life cycle. Managed by the Industry Engagement Unit, Innovation York @MCC enables startup companies to have a place of business and take advantage of the entrepreneurial ecosystem within the building.

In December 2016 the MCC moved into the IBM Canadian Headquarters to further enhance an already burgeoning entrepreneurial ecosystem. Now named IBM Innovation Space - MCC, the space is supported through \$25M in provincial support and brings together over 36 partners on the campus of the IBM Canadian head office. The facility is a unique ecosystem that unites industry, entrepreneurs, funding agencies, and academic institutions in one space to help bolster research, development, and commercialization, and to help companies scale faster and drive economic growth. Companies may rent an office, a desk or a hoteling desk in Innovation York's accelerator space within the IBM-MCC. Innovation York also works closely with all companies in the space to connect them to academic researchers and create innovative research projects.



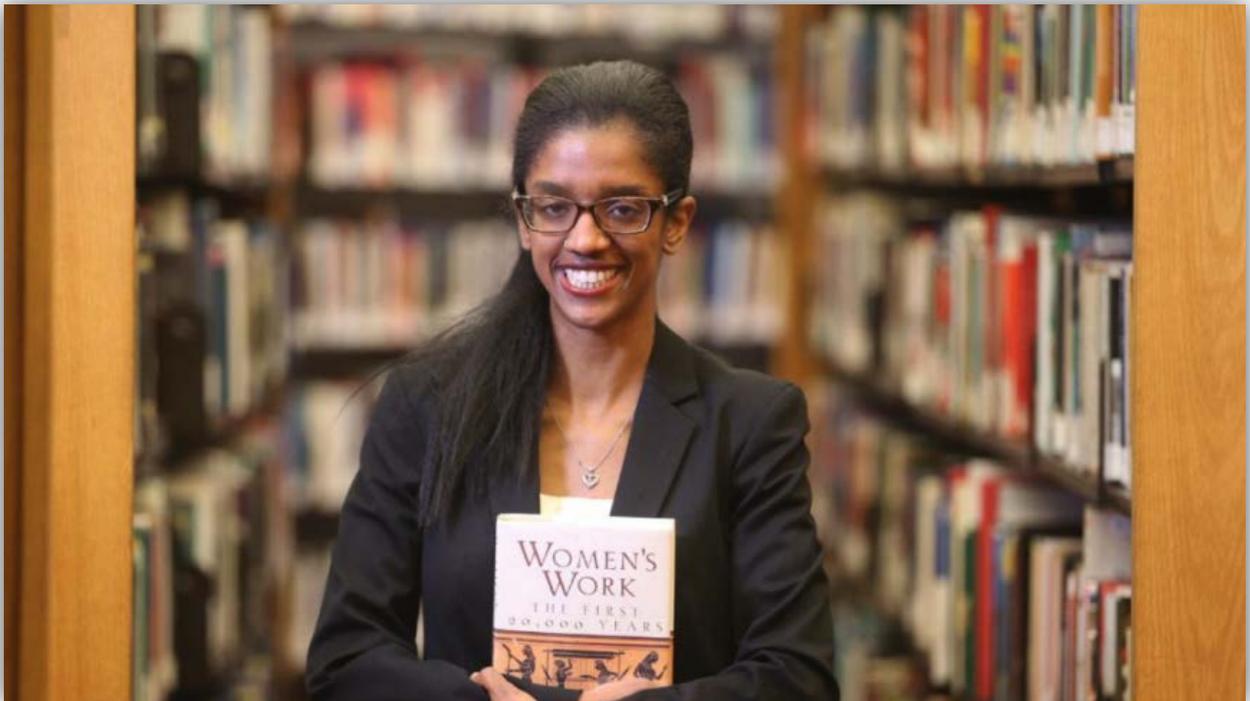
IBM Innovation Space - MCC (Photos/ventureLAB)

Featured Startup

Helping Hands

Empower Youth and change the world; Helping Hands is a platform that allows students to find suitable volunteer matches and more, while showcasing their experience. Founded by Janelle Hinds in 2016, Helping Hands was a graduate of LaunchYU's 2016 AccelerateUP Cohort. During her participation, Janelle received a \$5000 award to recognize the progress that she made with her startup. Used as a platform to help students find suitable volunteer matches, Helping Hands also provides other tools such as volunteer tracking and feedback. The organization also holds volunteer training workshops for minority youth, newcomers to Canada, and youth with disabilities.

Since her graduation from AccelerateUP, Helping Hands has been awarded \$200,000 from the Trillium Foundation and Janelle was named as one of Betakit's top 40 Canadian Women in Tech worth following. Janelle is truly an inspiration for entrepreneurs, women, and change makers around the world.



Janelle Hinds (Photo/McMaster)

Featured Innovator

Annie Bunting

Professor Annie Bunting is an Associate Professor in the Department of Social Science, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies. She was successful in obtaining a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Partnerships Grant in the amount of \$2.04 million in 2015 for a project entitled 'Conjugal Slavery during War: Partnerships for the study of enslavement, marriage and masculinities'. The project is focused on documenting cases of so-called forced marriage in conflict situations, to place this data in historical context, and to effect the international prosecution of crimes against humanity as well as local reparations programs for survivors of violence. Professor Bunting and Véronique Bourget, Project Coordinator, have worked extensively over the past three years with the KMb unit to incorporate knowledge mobilization principles and activities into the project.

The KMb unit has played an active role in supporting this project, not only working with Professor Bunting, but also her ten Partners and twenty-five collaborators and graduate students across ten countries. With numerous knowledge mobilization activities proposed, the KMb unit met with key stakeholders and partners to present on knowledge mobilization principles and then recommended activities for the project team to consider. The goal was to create a clear and common understanding around terms and the numerous planned activities, all of which were aimed to engage and help connect the research and research findings with global audiences.

Professor Bunting and her project team are highly innovative, not only in their research but also in their commitment to knowledge mobilization. Building on the work of the KMb unit, they recently produced a four-part podcast series, an effective way to engage audiences around important issues in the project and on this topic, as well as developing plans to exhibit at the Canadian Museum of Human Rights in Winnipeg this summer. This opportunity reflects how knowledge mobilization has become a priority and how effective Prof. Bunting and her team are in engaging audiences around this issue.



Professor Annie Bunting (Photo/York)

Activity Overview

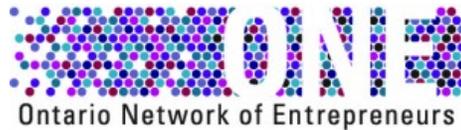
Activity	FY2014/15	FY2015/2016	FY2016/17
Research Agreements			
Total Research Agreements	556	494	466
Government Funding Agreements	161	149	260
Industry Sponsored Agreements	28	37	57
Non-Funded Agreements	367	308	206
Total Value of Research Agreements	~\$24,100,00	~\$28,300,000	\$61,000,000
Controlled Goods Screened	4	1	3
Industry Engagement			
Industry Interactions	166	100	135
Research Grants Supported	44	29	20 (involving 35 companies)
Cash and In-Kind Contributions	>\$6,000,000	<\$19,000,000	~\$66,000,000
Knowledge Mobilization			
Brokering Requests	49	30	27
Grants Supported	22	17	33
Brokered Projects / Activities	25	12	15
Partner Organizations	36	25	33
Workshops	-	-	13
KMB Brokered Project Funding	\$6,600,000	\$1,700,000	\$6,600,000
Commercialization			
Commercialization Grants Co-Authored	7	6	8
Successful Grants	2	5	6
Value of Grants	\$325,000	\$219,155	\$554,001
Invention Disclosures	16	9	19
Active Commercialization Projects	18	20	30
Startup Companies Formed	0	5	1
Total Startup Companies Supported	0	5	9
License/Options Executed	3	0	1
Active License/Options	4	3	2
Licensing Revenue	\$30,105	\$1,806	\$22,263
Entrepreneurship			
Companies in the IBM Innovation Space - MCC	6	10	9
Size of the LaunchYU Community	346*	1345	1750
Workshops Hosted	5	32	32
New Startup Companies Supported	14*	28	34
Funding/Investment Received by Startups*	-	\$607,000	\$1,029,005
General			
Events Hosted	10	6	14
Presentations Made	28	14	46
Publicity	11	5	16

*LaunchYU formerly launched in December, 2014

Thanks to our Partners



MaRS Innovation



Office of the Counsel, Research Accounting, Risk Management & Insurance, & the Stacie Library



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