

Foreword

It is my great honour to introduce the first compilation of research accomplishments of Athabasca University's Faculty of Science and Technology students and faculty. In this new book, titled "2015 Proceedings of Science and Technology Innovations" you will explore research areas in ecology, computer science and data analytics, biology and science education. The work is innovative, inspiring and moreover, exhibits the close relationships we have in mentoring our undergraduate and graduate students within the Faculty of Science and Technology.

The faculty researchers in this edition are accomplished and talented, and are recognized both nationally and internationally. They are committed to making a difference in this world, and are resolute in their desire to lead by example for their students and in ensuring that they nurture the next generation of future scientists, researchers and decision-makers of our country and the world. This talent does not come easily, but when I observe the ways in which these individuals engage their students to consider questions from different perspectives and to apply state-of-the-art techniques, I am awed at their ability to guide and mentor their students, and to teach them how to use the power of curiosity in research.

As you read the ten chapters in this edition, the one thing that I would like to point out, is that these papers were written by our students with the support and guidance of our researchers. This process of encouraging student engagement fosters critical thinking, integrity, perseverance, resiliency and inquiry crafted around one or more questions around a certain topic. It allows our students to begin a journey of becoming our next leaders and role-models in science and computer science research and education.

I congratulate our researchers for this outstanding accomplishment and their leadership in research and teaching.

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