

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS



**The Campaign for the  
University of Saskatchewan**





"We've got a lot of great research at the university, and I think it's critical that we actually take that research and get it off the shelves."

LAURIE DMYTRYSHYN, Opus Mentor,  
Chief Equity Investment, PIC Group

**WITH YOUR  
SUPPORT,  
OPUS WILL  
MOBILIZE  
INNOVATIONS  
THAT WILL  
CHANGE  
OUR WORLD.**



# From the President

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**For more than a century, the University of Saskatchewan has attracted visionary thinkers driven by a pioneering spirit of imagination and ingenuity.**

Fueling that fire for innovation — from concept to creation, from design to development — has never been more important than it is today. Our university is creating new opportunities to support our communities, as we come together to write the next chapter in the history of startups at USask.

Our unique Opus program piloted in 2022 is emblematic of the great things that can happen when a university and a community team up to provide pathways to progress through mentorship and sponsorship from active alumni and supportive stakeholders, as well as private investors and government funders.

Opus is helping bring USask's young entrepreneurs together with business and industry leaders in innovation and investment, to help bring promising prospective projects to life.

As with all of our university's most successful and innovative programs, it is the impact on the communities that we serve, and the ongoing connection to the spirit of community, that matters most. Our efforts to create a culture of courageous curiosity and boundless collaboration on campus encourages entrepreneurs to

help find local solutions to global problems, and is a fundamental part of the university's commitment to *Be What the World Needs*.

Through Opus, we are helping to advance Saskatoon as the second-fastest growing IT hub in the country, and the fastest-growing venture capital investment site on the continent. As we look forward to helping develop a new innovation corridor from Innovation Place through campus and into downtown, Opus will offer opportunities to play a leading role in the extraordinary future ahead for our university, our city, and our province.

As we welcome you to support our historic comprehensive campaign for the University of Saskatchewan, Opus is also your invitation to get involved in this exciting new venture, and to inspire those who aspire to be what the world needs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'mstoicheff'.

**Peter Stoicheff**  
**President and Vice-Chancellor, USask**

# From the Vice-President Research

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**USask has a long history of scientific discovery and innovation that dates to its inception. Our past is defined by fostering entrepreneurial thinking and being a pathway for great inventors, Nobel laureates, political leaders, and groundbreaking scientists.**

Today, we continue that tradition of excellence by being world leaders in our research, scholarly and artistic work. USask is rich with innovators and forward thinkers in nuclear medicine, water research, food security, One Health, sustainability, and Indigenization. In fact, every pocket of our campus is filled with those who are committed to building the future through creativity, collaboration, and research the world needs.

The world also needs innovation mobilized into action. What good is our innovative research and ideas if they aren't used to better the world we live in?

To do this, we need to spread our knowledge beyond our Greystone walls and strike the right partnerships within our community and within industry to create transformational change.

Opus is uniquely designed to help do just that; mobilize these innovations developed on campus by supporting the unique needs of USask founders. Through access to programming, infrastructure, and a network of mentors

and advisors, those looking to get their innovations and ventures off the ground are given the right tools to do so.

The innovators we've seen complete our Opus program this past year as part of the first cohort are inspiring leaders in their fields. They are just a snapshot of what USask minds are capable of and I'm thrilled to see what the future holds for this unique pre-accelerator program as it embarks on a journey of formidable growth and influence in the province, country and the world.

The world is watching and looking to us to provide solutions to ongoing problems. Opus will accelerate our progress in reaching our goal to be the university the world needs, and we need your visionary support to make it possible.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Baljit Singh".

**Baljit Singh**  
**Vice-President Research, USask**





## BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

### Campaign priorities:

- **Lead Critical Research**  
Confront humanity's greatest challenges and opportunities through research and engage with communities to find solutions.
- **Support Indigenous Achievement**  
Work with and for Indigenous communities to enact our firm commitment to mutual learning, Indigenization and Reconciliation.
- **Inspire Students to Succeed**  
Respond to current student need and attract future learners.
- **Design Visionary Spaces**  
Create gathering places for people to collectively address the challenges of the future.

# USASK CAMPAIGN AT-A-GLANCE

**OUR USASK**

**\$500M**

**to be the university  
the world needs.**



BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

# Opus: Incubating USask Startups



**To be the university the world needs, USask is fostering entrepreneurial thinking and culture by engaging students, faculty, staff and the community through Opus—the university’s bold, new startup incubator. Designed as a pre-accelerator, Opus provides entrepreneurial training, infrastructure and access to a network of experts needed to mobilize innovations developed on campus.**

With a new approach to intellectual property (IP) management in 2022 that embraces inventor ownership and eagerly supports startup creation, Opus focuses on deep tech innovations that are research-backed with the potential for proprietary IP that help solve global problems.

Deep tech ventures typically have more rigorous research and development requirements and demand more time to market than traditional digital startups. As a pre-accelerator, Opus will equip academic founders with the necessary business and market validation tools needed to succeed in existing venture-backed accelerators helping bridge the gap from the academic realm to the business world.



# CAMPAIGN FUNDING PRIORITIES FOR OPUS

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS



Opus encourages and supports creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Participants will have access to:

- Business planning supports and tools
- Programming
- Access to infrastructure
- Mentorship programs
- Workshops

All of these services and more will create a culture where inventor ownership is embraced with rapid transfer of IP to inventors who choose to lead commercialization activities, supports for inventors throughout the commercialization process, and an environment where ideas can flourish.

**With your support, Opus will become a hub for programs across USask that drive growth in entrepreneurial thinking. You will provide critical support for USask founders to start companies that benefit the economy, the environment, and your communities.**

A key driver of technology-commercialization at USask is to move discoveries out into the world for the greater good of society, the economy, and the environment. While this type of impact is the primary goal, rather than revenue generation, commercialization revenues are reinvested to support high-quality research and innovation. Your support of Opus creates an anchor for an entrepreneurship and startup community, while enabling connection with the external innovation ecosystem.



# Business development funds

Opus offers funding to founders who are developing deep tech innovations with strong commercialization potential. These funds are intended to build venture capacity, promote an entrepreneurial culture at USask, and further support the development of USask startups and innovators as they grow their ventures on campus.



## The Startup Fund

The Startup Fund is a one-time grant per venture to help offset the costs of early-stage startup expenses. Founders will use this funding for licensing and registration fees, professional business services, marketing and communication fees and other related expenses.

## The Boost Fund

The Boost Fund is open to incorporated ventures. Founders apply to help offset the costs of venture development fees including user/rental fees for service to USask and off-campus laboratory space, innovation centres, makerspaces and equipment rentals.

# Mentorship program

A network of individuals with strong professional backgrounds and expertise, backed by good interpersonal skills, who are dedicated to enhancing and helping develop our program is a key component to the success of Opus participants. Mentors can provide their expertise in many forms, including speaking at workshops and events, workshop facilitation, one-on-one meetings, and more. Your support will enable mentors from out of province to be present in person and will enhance hosting activities, workshop offerings, recruitment initiatives and the overall participant experience.



**"The Opus program was a really great opportunity to learn how we could develop our device further, not from the engineering side, but from the business side. The Opus program does a great job at connecting us to high calibre mentors."**

AMANDA ZIMMERLING, Opus Mentee,  
Doctoral Student, Biomedical Engineering, USask



# Student Ambassador Program

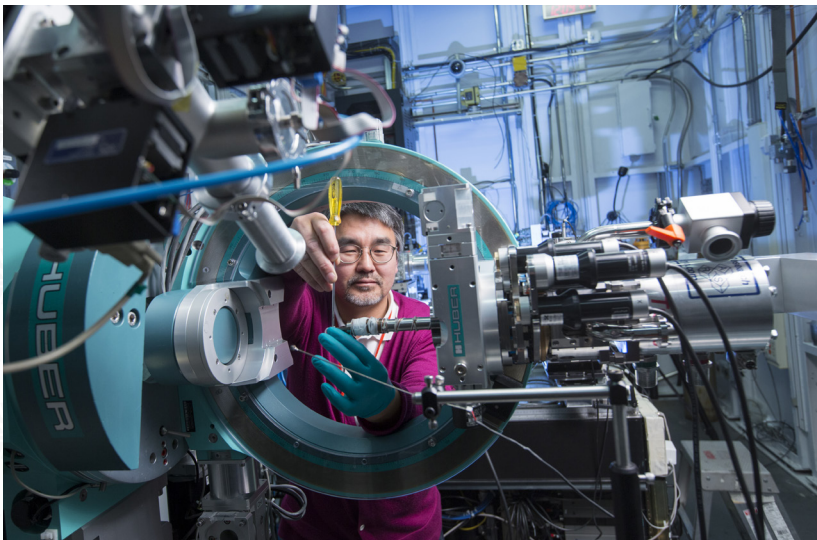
The Student Ambassador Program is important in fostering an entrepreneurial mindset among undergraduate students.

The opportunity to work in the startup environment early on gives them critical exposure, skills, and resources to take forward through their studies.

Ambassadors will champion Opus to the student body through outreach and marketing, and public speaking opportunities, both of which also provide valuable development to the ambassador. Ambassadors will develop their own programming ideas specific to undergraduate students.



# Access to infrastructure



Access to infrastructure is a critical component to founder success at USask.

USask boasts world-renowned facilities, such as the synchrotron at the Canadian Light Source, the cyclotron at the Sylvia Fedoruk Centre, cutting edge vaccine development technology at VIDO, among many others.

Founders in the deep tech space require access to lab space and equipment to develop prototypes, conduct testing, and advance their innovations. A future makerspace for smaller scale testing at each level of Opus programming will be essential.



# Indigenous programming



A partnership with the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology will create an online programming platform with software sharing, while incorporating Indigenous practices into business development and creating the ability to bring in more Indigenous mentors and coaches.

# Permanent physical space

Opus is currently renting space within Collider at Innovation Place. A permanent collaborative space for participants will foster increased community and support. This space would allow for access to staff, meeting spaces, basic prototype development support and equipment, dedicated workstations and private bookable offices.

# College programming support

Entrepreneurial thinking is not limited to any one college or unit. Opus strives to connect and coordinate entrepreneurial programming across the institution to foster collaboration and connections amongst disciplines. By becoming a centralized hub for programming, Opus creates a holistic approach to programming at the undergraduate level across campus.

Dedicated staff time via Opus will alleviate pressure on college staff to create something unique in each area. Student ambassadors will have the opportunity to provide input and programmatic support that benefits their peers in each college's area of focus.



# Opus Experience Fund

In addition to Opus programming, this fund will allow participants to maximize opportunities by providing access to resources that enable and encourage networking, relationship building, develop investor support, and more. Participants will be able to participate in conferences, take part in panel discussions, and other activities that foster exposure.







**“If you have an invention that you think can improve the world or improve people’s lives, I would reach out to Opus. I learned a lot of critical lessons.”**

DR. MICHAEL LEVIN

OPUS MENTEE, SASKATCHEWAN MS CLINICAL RESEARCH CHAIR, USASK







# Together, let's

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

With your generous support, Opus will become an economic driver, contributing to the local, national and international business community.

This is your opportunity to enhance innovative solutions alongside world leading scientists, students and faculty.

**Will you join us?**

**In our next chapter, we will transform Saskatchewan and the world by addressing those things you care most about: your world now and the world that generations will inherit.**

**With your support, vision and spirit, the University of Saskatchewan will bridge our deep roots with a bright future.**

**With your support, we will be what the world needs.**





UNIVERSITY OF  
SASKATCHEWAN

[give.usask.ca](https://give.usask.ca)

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