Innovation is embedded in the culture of McMaster Engineering. We are committed to solving the grand challenges facing our world and improving society through our student-centred, research-focused approach to education.

Over the past three years, our Faculty has been guided by the Invest for Excellence initiative, which creates opportunities to enhance our local, national and global impacts.

We have made numerous investments in several key areas, such as increasing the number of faculty members to improve the student experience, boosting scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students, and improving remuneration for Ph.D. students. We are committed to increasing diversity within our Faculty, building a supportive and engaged community, fostering student entrepreneurship and contributing towards a prosperous and sustainable society.

I’m proud of the commitment of our faculty and staff members who have enthusiastically seized these possibilities and overcome constraints to achieve these ambitious goals.

We know that there’s still more work to do. We will continue to strive for excellence with the next phase of our initiative, Innovation from Excellence.

We will continue to invest in research scholarship and provide students with a deep foundation in hands-on, minds-on problem solving within and outside the classroom.

We will continue to be an inclusive and welcoming Faculty and embrace diversity.

Our guiding principle is simple: There is no substitute for excellence.

Sincerely,

Ishwar K. Puri
Dean, McMaster Engineering
INCREASING DIVERSITY | Improving gender representation in McMaster Engineering.

Increasing our diversity continues to be a top priority by engaging more women in engineering in a variety of ways including events, youth camps, outreach for girls, entrance scholarships for high achievers and awards for female students. We are proactively hiring more women faculty members and requiring diversity training for anyone involved with recruitment. We have more women in our undergraduate programs and continue to see higher than average numbers of female graduate students. We are also developing programs with Six Nations to address the needs of Indigenous students.

STUDENT RETENTION | Improving retention, graduation rates and time to graduation.

We are engaging and supporting our students by offering them new opportunities, including an engineering-focused living-learning residence community that will connect first year students with academic support, career planning groups, and mentors; McMaster Engineering’s robust summer research program continues to grow; and our Gerald Hatch Center for Engineering Experiential Learning is opening in 2017.

GRADUATE STUDENTS | Improving post-graduate careers.

We have significantly improved the PhD student experience by increasing remuneration, establishing one of the first industrial PhD programs in Canada, and developing a work placement option for graduate students. We’ve also launched mandatory career and professional skills development workshops for first year graduate students and supported the new Engineering Graduate Society (EGS).

STRENGTHENING FACULTY-STUDENT INTERACTIONS | Increasing the number of faculty.

To become more student-focused and improve faculty-student interactions, we are increasing the size of our Faculty, particularly in our priority areas of micro-nano systems, smart systems and biomedical engineering. We are addressing the need for graduate student expansion by exploring options for additional space on campus. The SEPT undergraduate program is an emerging leader in blended learning by offering one of its degree programs completely online.

COMMUNITY | Improving mentoring and support, and sense of community.

We recruit and retain the best talent by improving our workplace. We have continued to strengthen our Faculty Development Academy, developed community partnerships to enhance student entrepreneurship and outfitted our classrooms and other spaces with improved technology to better our communication and collaboration.

ENHANCE REPUTATION | Improving the global reputation of McMaster Engineering.

We are improving our global reputation by nominating faculty members for more awards, better media relations and communications, increasing efforts to recruit students from across Canada and globally, developing community relationships to foster student entrepreneurship, creating a new undergraduate program in partnership with Health Sciences and merging our School of Engineering Practice and School of Technology into the Walter G. Booth School of Engineering Practice and Technology (SEPT).