

**MEMORANDUM, DCD #2, 2017-18**

To: Chairs and Academic Directors

From: William Gough, Vice-Principal Academic and Dean



Date: 29 August 2017

Re: New Funding for Experiential Learning Opportunities

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In the report of the Ontario Premier's Highly Skilled Workforce Expert Panel, *Building the Workforce of Tomorrow*, experiential learning is highlighted as one of the important mechanisms by which to develop a highly skilled workforce. See <https://www.ontario.ca/page/building-workforce-tomorrow-shared-responsibility> for the full report. The Government has responded positively to this report, and the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD) has announced a new funding program. This announcement is the first of MAESD's *Career Ready Fund* (CRF), an umbrella program that will launch multiple streams over the next three years. This first stream, "Postsecondary Education Capacity Building," targets the expansion of experiential learning opportunities at all Ontario post-secondary institutions. The Provost's Office will establish an internal process for the submission and evaluation of potential proposals and we understand that the deadline for submissions could be as early as **September 30, 2017**.

The goals of the *Career Ready Fund* are at the institutional level and I have asked Mark Schmuckler, Vice-Dean Undergraduate, to lead the campus response to the MAESD call and to other funding opportunities that are being developed by the Provost and Dean. He will be communicating with you early in September, but in the meantime, I ask that you let us know what forms of experiential learning, besides co-op, are already included in your programs, how your department might expand these opportunities and/or develop one or more additional forms of experiential learning into your curriculum. How might UTSC support your department in these initiatives? What additional support would you need? (Note that hiring new faculty, capital or renovations are ineligible expenses). Given the short time available to us to develop a proposal, please send us this information as soon as possible, and no later than **Wednesday, September 13**.

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