Experiential Learning in Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics

Research demonstrates that the benefits of experiential learning include enhanced learning in real-life settings, a greater sense of community involvement, improved problem solving and communication skills, as well as professional networking. The Ontario Agricultural College has long recognized these benefits and is raising $500,000 in donations to create two new positions in the Department of Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics to increase experiential learning and engagement opportunities for our students.

**Impact Statement:**
The University of Guelph understands that part of its role as Canada’s Food University, is to encourage outreach activities and create industry relevant learning opportunities. OAC graduates dominate the provincial food industry; with a stronger experiential education, they can better serve this important sector.

By investing in these two positions, U of G can connect communities, and drive change through mobilization of relevant research that can help to improve life.

Learn more at [uoguelph.ca/givingpriorities](http://uoguelph.ca/givingpriorities) or contact [alumni@uoguelph.ca](mailto:alumni@uoguelph.ca)

**Goals:**
The engagement specialist would serve as a conduit to external stakeholders in the Ontario (and Canadian) agri-food space in research outreach activities. The experimental learning specialist would focus on building relationships between the department and industrial stakeholders with the express purpose of creating experiential learning opportunities for our undergraduate and graduate students through independent study projects and internships.

Each position will:
- Extend the reach of FARE faculty and students in addressing the policy and strategy needs of external stakeholders
- Promote knowledge mobilization and transfer arising from the department
- Increase output of highly trained personnel