



University of Western Ontario

2007 was another year of growth at the University of Western Ontario. We have continued with the strategic direction of attracting a growing number of Graduate Students and with them come greater needs and opportunities for research. This growth requires significant involvement from the Purchasing Team.

Staffing Changes

- After many years of dedicated service to the university and the sector as a whole, Bob Moore, the Purchasing Director retired in August 2007. Elizabeth Krische has joined Western as the Purchasing Director. Although Elizabeth is new to the public sector, she brings supply chain management background from multiple industries.
- Peter Jeffs, Procurement Manager for Business Products moved to a new role within Western creating a growth opportunity for Jim Heaton who moves from the Procurement Manager Scientific role into Business Products. A replacement for the Scientific Procurement Manager role is currently being recruited.

Major Projects Completed

- The Robarts Research Institute joined Western as an Institute under the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry in 2007. This required tremendous integration efforts in all areas of the business including the development, training and implementation of purchasing policies and processes to support this new \$50 M business for Western. A team lead by Jim Heaton, Procurement Manager for Scientific, coordinated the activities for the successful Purchasing integration.
- Western was extremely successful in their infrastructure grant submissions in 2007 with over \$67 M in total project costs receiving confirmation of award. Some of the major projects include:
 - Green Building Project at \$32 M
 - Advanced Facilities for Avian Research (AFAR) Project at \$9.2 M
 - National Centre for Audiology Up-grade at \$1.7 M
 - Robarts Imaging Up-grade at \$2.7 M
 - Regional Facility for Research on Materials at Extreme P,T Conditions at \$1.3 M
- RFPs completed, beyond those required to support the above mentioned research projects, include:
 - Physical Plant Electrical Components - competitively offered in an open process contract award expected early in 2008.
 - Local Moving Services – RFP responses are currently under evaluation.
 - Transportation for Students with Mobility Impairment - resulted in Aboutown being selected as the new provider.

- Customs Brokers - reviewed under the CAUBO umbrella which resulted in a new provider, Thompson, Ahern & Co. Ltd., becoming operational in February 2008.
- Lab Supplies Contract – resulted in a co-award to Fisher Scientific & VWR. Caledon was awarded the chemicals part of the lab supplies contract.
- A “Science & Technology” Trade Show was held to help bridge the gap between the research community and vendors. Over thirty vendors shared their innovative research offerings and conducted technology seminars for the Western research community.

Major Projects Planned for 2008

- Western is in the midst of completing a detailed business case regarding the Ontario Education Collaborative Marketplace (OECM). Results from the business case will facilitate the decision regarding Western’s participation in the OECM which is targeted for the end of February, 2008.
- Western has embarked on a change management initiative called “Challenge the Process”. The Financial Services team has offered a complete review of the Procure to Pay Process as a pilot project. This is expected to be a major focus for 2008 as we plan to “challenge” every aspect of the process and look to implementing world class solutions to improve our overall capacity and efficiency in this area.
- A new 6-storey Support Services building will be completed in the spring of 2008. All administrative and support services will be consolidated into this new facility freeing up substantial core campus space for academic purposes. The Purchasing team is targeted to move in mid-August.

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