Since its launch in 2012, UNB’s Urban and community studies institute has brought a **small-city lens to big social issues**, including:

- **Economic and community development:**
  - growing tech startups (SSHRC)
  - renewable energy industries (SSHRC)
  - emerging digital economy (SSHRC)
  - digital skills to compete in the 21st century (SSHRC)
- **Sustainable transportation** in small cities and rural areas
  - Smart mobility
  - increasing the participation of marginalized groups
  - lower the private vehicle burden to middle income earners
- **Urbanization patterns and regional governance challenges**
- **Immigration retention** factors;
- **Smart, sustainable, connected communities.**
UCSI Partnerships (2012-)

- Smart city research network
- Cities of the Future on smart, sustainable cities
- Bioenergy clusters
- SSHRC PG on Canada’s digital economy
- Global research partnership on entrepreneurship
- SSHRC PDG on digital skills
- NB Transportation services strategy
- Sustainable communities by design
- Byrne at 50 symposium
- NB Urban strategy
- Applying big data to mobility, planning
- Anti-poverty research, LivingSJ
- True Growth 2.0


UNB People in Motion Lab
- GNB DELG, CMHC, AMANB
- UdeMoncton
- ESIC, GNB DTI
- GNB DELG
- City Saint John, ESJ
- VCSJ, SJHDC, BCAPI

Government of Canada
- German DAAD

UofT, Industry Canada
- GEM

UNB People in Motion Lab
UCSI leveraging by source (2013-16)
255k external funding to UCSI’s 210k

- GNB 60 000
- GoC 10 000
- Cdn Found 47 000
- Intl partnerships 17 000
- Grant councils 121 000
UCSI leveraging by use (2013-16)

- Student salaries: 107,500
- Non student research: 54,000
- Travel and field research: 53,500
- Events: 15,000
- Overhead: 25,000
Impact

From 2013-16 UCSI...

• has leveraged 250k in external funding
• provided well-paid research opportunities to 11 UNB students
• provided meaningful employment opportunities to 5 young scholars
• published 7 peer-reviewed works & 3 policy reports nationally and internationally
• made 20 presentations at research and policy conferences regionally, nationally and internationally, and sponsored 15 public lectures
• added 2 classes to the UNB curriculum, getting students working on community issues, and sitting on 8 student thesis committees
• More than 40 media interviews, from local to international
Lessons learned

• **LT vision in recruiting graduate students** (active UNB researchers already have students/projects; less active don’t have them, recruiters geared towards undergrads)

• **Partnerships unsustainable if VA clear** (e.g. Anti-poverty coalition sapped resources with little output) …retooled onto transportation, immigration

• **Avoid leaving money on table**
  • Need permanent research support (even if 75% funded via ext funds) ..ex CIC
  • Need process to capture monetize activities, donations
  • Institutional support to enlist multi-year commitment from federal government, ex ACOA

• **Constitute board as mean vs result of securing funding**
Challenges

- **Sustaining director’s position** with faculty appointment (60/40)
- **Overhead** (PT admin and baseline research support)

- **Ask:** $80-105k / yr (65k director, 15 overhead) + 25k PT admin/research)
- **LT strategy**
  - …to monetize contributions ex Oland, cobbling for research support
  - …to set up board strategically
UCSI’s Smart community school – ideas to actions

Our biggest challenge is not coming up with the ideas but the tools to implement them

Who

Community leaders from high school to retirement

Why

Challenges from climate change, austere public finances
Opportunities to share export brilliant initiatives and technologies.
Ideas are abundant; tools scarce.

What

Community leaders work on tools and implementation plan to help smart community project succeed and maximize impact

How

Community leaders propose idea. Participants learn best practices, develop tools and implementation plan from peers, local mentors and global experts

When

Selected participants attend 4 weekend workshops during year: Think (Sep), Plan (Dec), Equip (Mar), Share (Jun)
Interspaced with mentor feedback.

Assets

SSHRC digital economy, bioeconomy, digital skills
UCSI smart city networks: NRC, DAAD, +++

Benefits

individual empowerment, degree credit
Community sustainability, resilience
UNB global leadership, faculty engagement, student enrollment
Provincial economy, community viability, climate change + objectives

Themes

Smart communities: energy, mobility, services Sustainable design
...and as proposed by applicants

UNB

Urban and Community Studies Institute