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Money put to work

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Lakehead University 'research is world class'

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The celebration of research and innovation continued Monday at Lakehead University with a special guest welcomed to Thunder Bay.

Chad Gaffield, president of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, is in the city to join in Research and Innovation Week activities.

"I was attracted by the chance to really learn from the celebration of research," Gaffield said.

He said although it is exciting when SSHRC provides grants to research projects at universities, it is more exciting to see where the money goes.

"What is exciting for me is to see how those funds are enhancing the educational experience, advancing knowledge about key topics and to actually see the impact of that money in terms of research activities and how that is making a difference in the larger society," Gaffield said.

Two initiatives currently happening at Lakehead — one on the social economy in the North and the other on aboriginal studies — are important to SSHRC, he said.

What he noticed during a ceremony in Lakehead's Agora was how much the university focuses on partnerships.

"I think it emphasizes the importance that universities are really



Chad Gaffield, president of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, was the keynote speaker Monday during a Research and Innovation Week event at Lakehead University.

thriving along with other institutions and by connecting," he added.

University president Fred Gilbert said he was proud of the work being done at Lakehead.

"I think the research is world class, I think we are competitive with any of the large research intensive universities in terms of our productivity and the quality of our faculty," he said.

In 2007-08, Lakehead received about \$20 million for research and

innovation projects, and Gilbert said he expects the institution to pull in a similar amount this school year.

Research and Innovation Week started Feb. 20 and runs until Friday.

During the celebration, many activities and presentations are taking place, including interactive displays and exhibits, public lectures and documentary films.

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