

# WELCOME

## 21ST ANNUAL STUDENT RESEARCH AND IDEAS FAIR

It am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to all participants in our 21st annual Student Research and Ideas Fair.

We are in the midst of an important renewal of our institutional mission here at St. Thomas University. In 2024 our entire community worked together to develop an exciting new strategic plan that will guide our academic, administrative, and student activities over the next five years. The planning process is now complete, but the important implementation phase is just beginning. Enhancing the student experience is a central pillar of this new strategic plan, and our Student Research and Ideas Fair is a key component of that student experience.



The Student Research and Ideas Fair reflects each one of the five STU Commitments that shape our new strategic plan. The fact that all students are challenged and empowered to explore and expand their intellectual interests, including the development and presentation of their own research on occasions like this, reflects our commitment to teaching excellence. Working on your own research with your faculty mentors helps you to develop future ready minds and skills. As a form of experiential learning that contributes to personal development, student research contributes to education for the whole person. The fact that many students develop their own research interests through their work on faculty projects is evidence of impactful faculty research and societal contributions. And the fact that we are all able to gather together as a scholarly community for the express purpose of hearing the results of your hard work demonstrates that we are truly a supportive community for all.

All presenters in the 21st Student Research and Ideas Fair are to be commended on their dedication, hard work, and insightful contributions to better understanding the world we live in. Your demonstrated capacity to design, execute, and disseminate the results of your own research is clear evidence of the value of a liberal education, as it encapsulates the ability to read closely, write clearly, and think for yourself. I am very proud of your achievements and look forward to your success now, and in the future.

A handwritten signature in green ink, reading "M. Nauman Farooqi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "F".

Dr. M. Nauman Farooqi  
President and Vice-Chancellor