

Scaling up Experiential Learning Opportunities and Challenges

10/12/2018

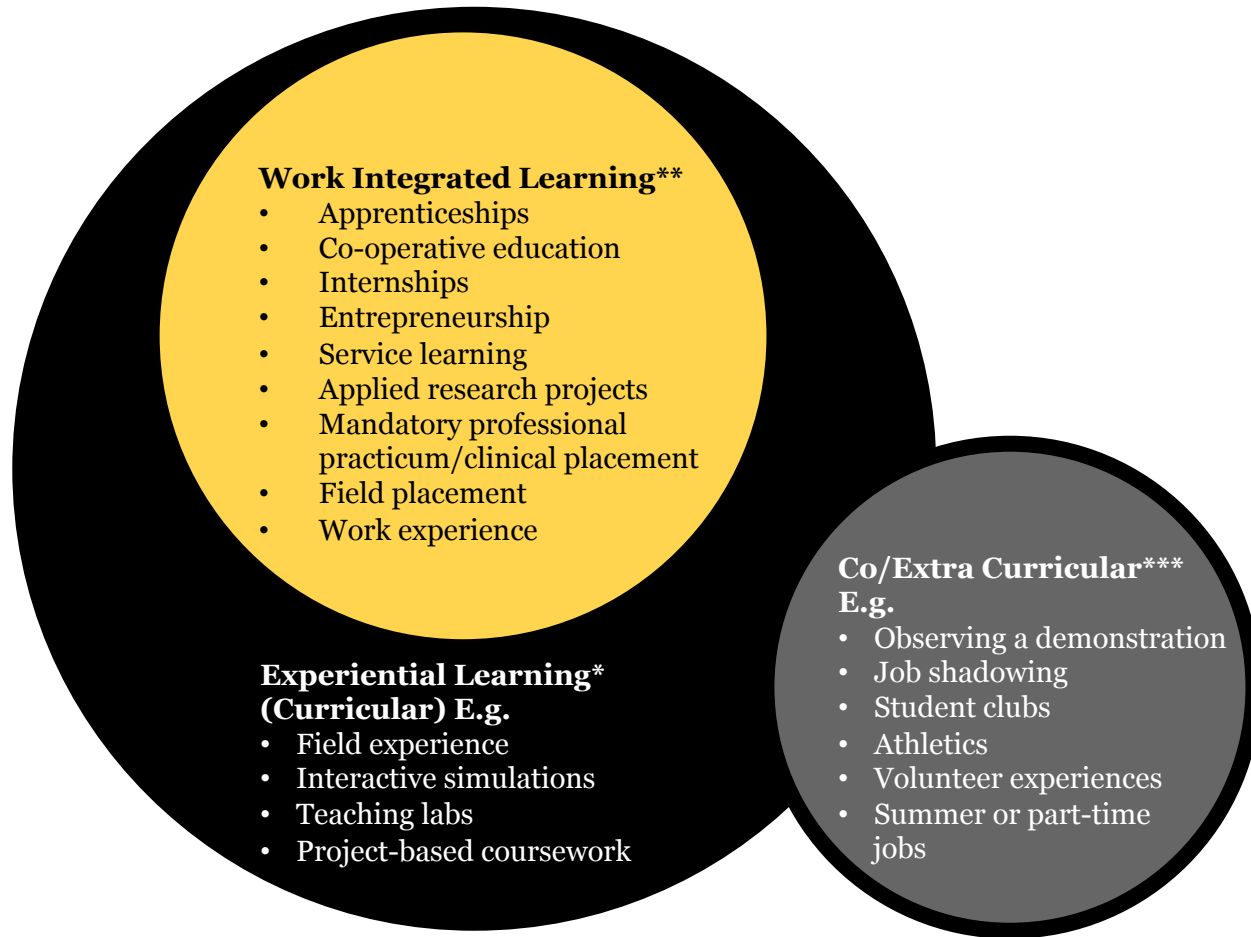
Presented by:
Dr. Norah McRae
Associate Provost, Co-operative and Experiential Education



SESSION OVERVIEW

1. Background
2. Scaling up: the opportunities
3. Scaling up: the challenges
4. Next steps: focus on collaboration and quality

BACKGROUND: WIL, EL, & CO/EXTRA CURRICULAR

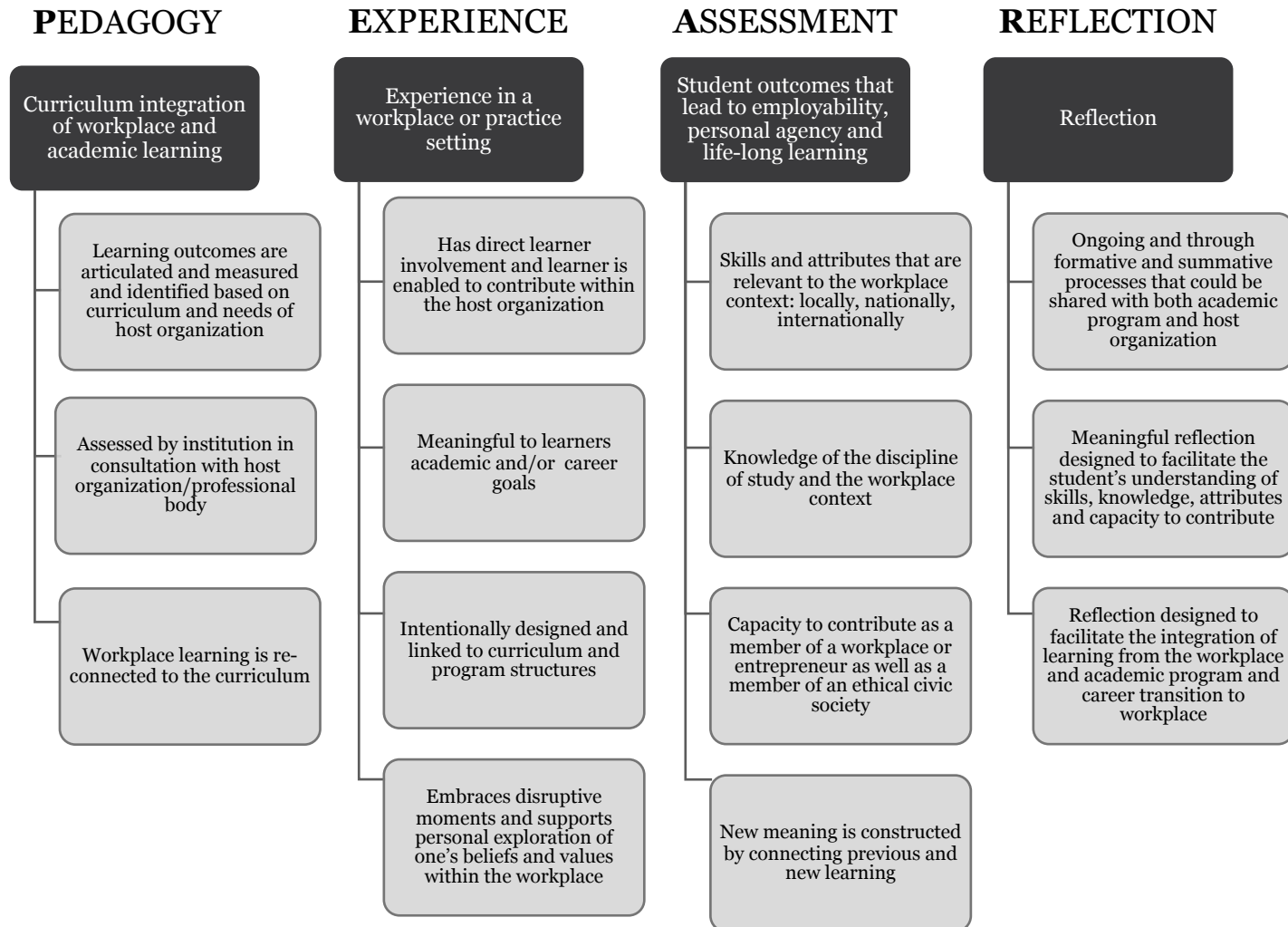


***Embedded in program or course design**

****Embedded in program or course design and includes third party engagement. E.g. employer, industry or community partner**

*****Student-driven, may or may not be program related and is not embedded in program or course design**

BACKGROUND: SHARED ATTRIBUTES (P.E.A.R.)



SCALING UP: THE OPPORTUNITIES

- Almost every post-secondary institution in Canada has some form of experiential learning
- Benefits of experiential have been demonstrated: for employers/host organizations (especially for WIL), students and institutions (employability, recruitment and retention, student learning)
- Governments (Federal and Provincial), advocacy groups and industry are recognizing the benefits of Experiential Learning (EL) and WIL, recently calling for 100% WIL experience for all students in Canada
- Current # of post-secondary students (all levels): ~ two million (Statistics Canada, 2015/16)
- Lots of expertise and a clear interest in building capacity for EL
- Commitment to quality
- National associations (e.g. CEWIL) providing opportunities for stakeholder conversations
- The time is ripe to coordinate efforts and tackle the challenges of getting to 100%.

SCALING UP: THE CHALLENGES

1. You say tomato, and I say tomato...

- Ongoing debate about definitions and types
- Results in:
 - Confusion for students, employers/host organizations
 - Lack of coordination within/between institutions
 - Inadequate measurement outcomes

SCALING UP: THE CHALLENGES

2. Mind the gap: how many experience are needed?

- Total number of post-secondary students in Canada:
 - 2,034,957 (Statistics Canada, 2015/16)
- Total number enrolled in EL programs?
 - Unknown
- 56% of graduate students had some form of work related learning in their final year (CUSC, 2018)

SCALING UP: THE CHALLENGES

3. Quality not just quantity... or what's the point?

- Achieving desired outcomes from EL requires quality: Pedagogy, Experience, Assessment and Reflection (P.E.A.R.)
- Quality standards for EL needs to be established
- Quality Assurance processes needed
- Quality 100% EL will need capacity building support for:
 - Employers/host organizations
 - Educations/practitioners
 - Institutions
 - Students

SCALING UP: THE CHALLENGES

4. EL for all: ensuring equitable access

- Indigenous students
- Students with disabilities, including mental health challenges
- Visible minority/racialized students
- LGBTQ2+
- All genders
- All disciplines
- Low income/heavily indebted students
- Students in remote locations
- International students
- Mature students with dependents

SCALING UP: THE CHALLENGES

5. Ensuring opportunities with a variety of employers/host organizations

- Large companies
- SMEs and startups
- Public sector
- Civil society organizations (CSOs)
- Community based organizations (including Indigenous communities)
- Social enterprise
- Students as self-employed entrepreneurs

**Domestically
and
Internationally**

SCALING UP: THE CHALLENGES

6. Willingness

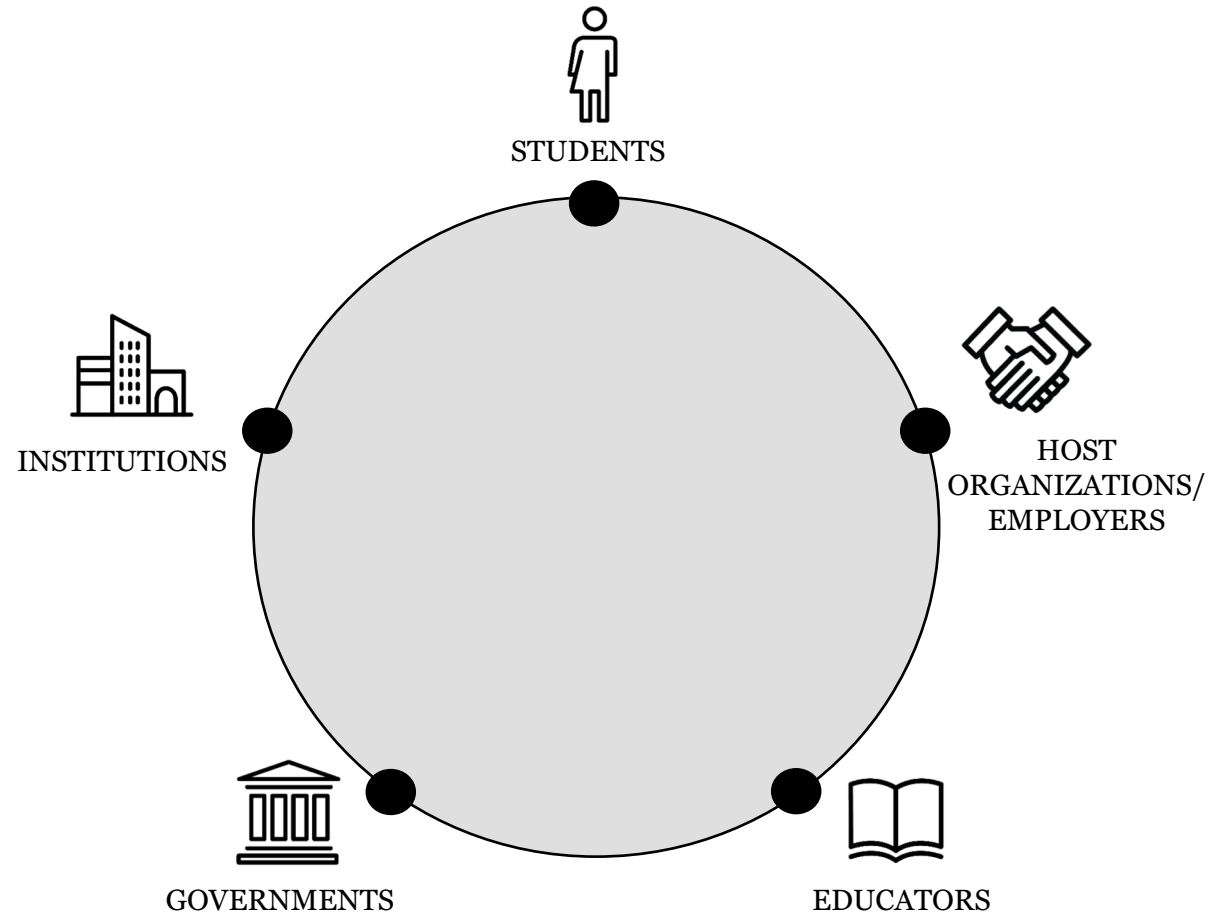
- Funding to incentivize employers/host organizations, support student access and build institutional capacity
- Legislative/policy/taxation changes that enable EL for all students (domestic and international) in a range of contexts (on and off campus, within workplaces, etc.)
- Curriculum development
- Employer engagement
- Student engagement

NEXT STEPS: FOCUS ON COLLABORATION AND QUALITY

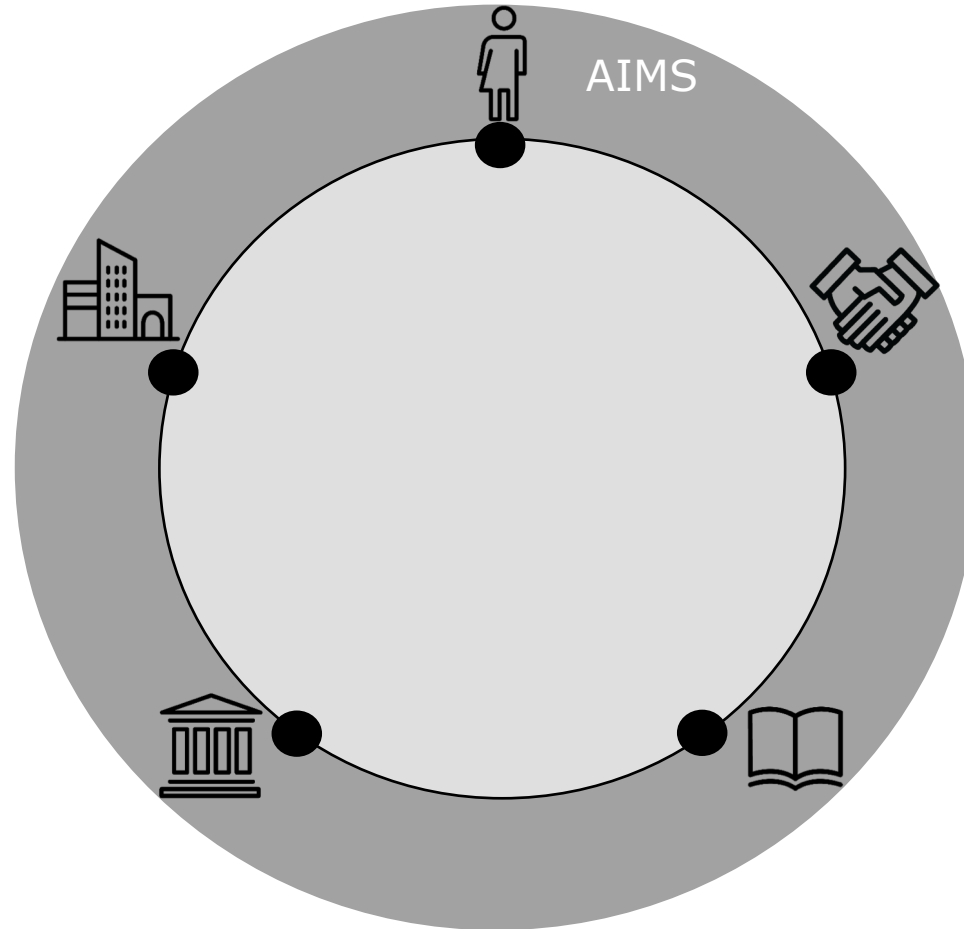
- 1. Collaboration within institutions and across the sector**
- 2. The development of a quality assurance framework**

**QUALITY ASSURANCE
FRAMEWORK FOR WIL:
AAA★
AIMS, ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

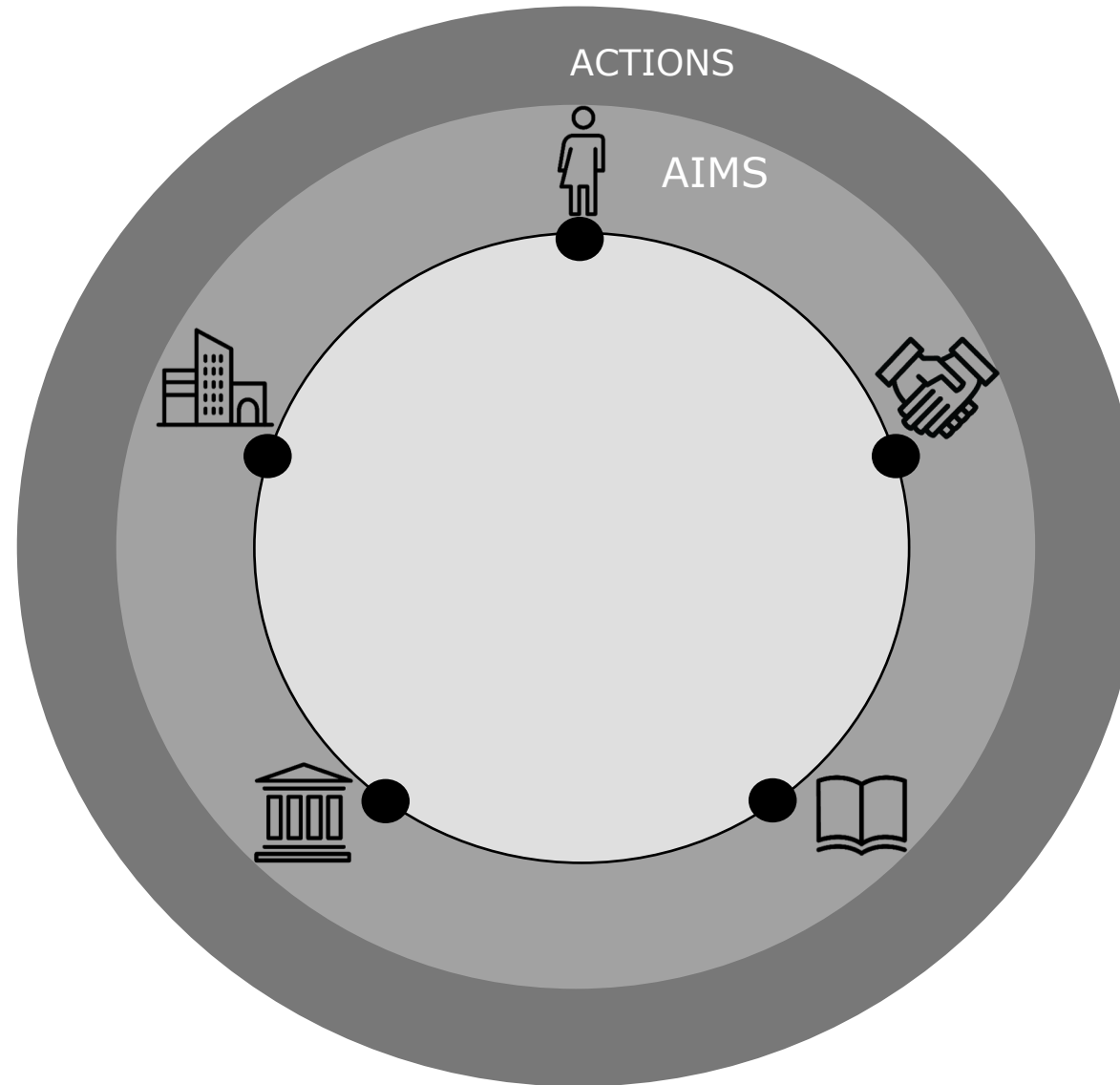
EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION WITHIN COMMUNITIES & WORKPLACES (WIL)



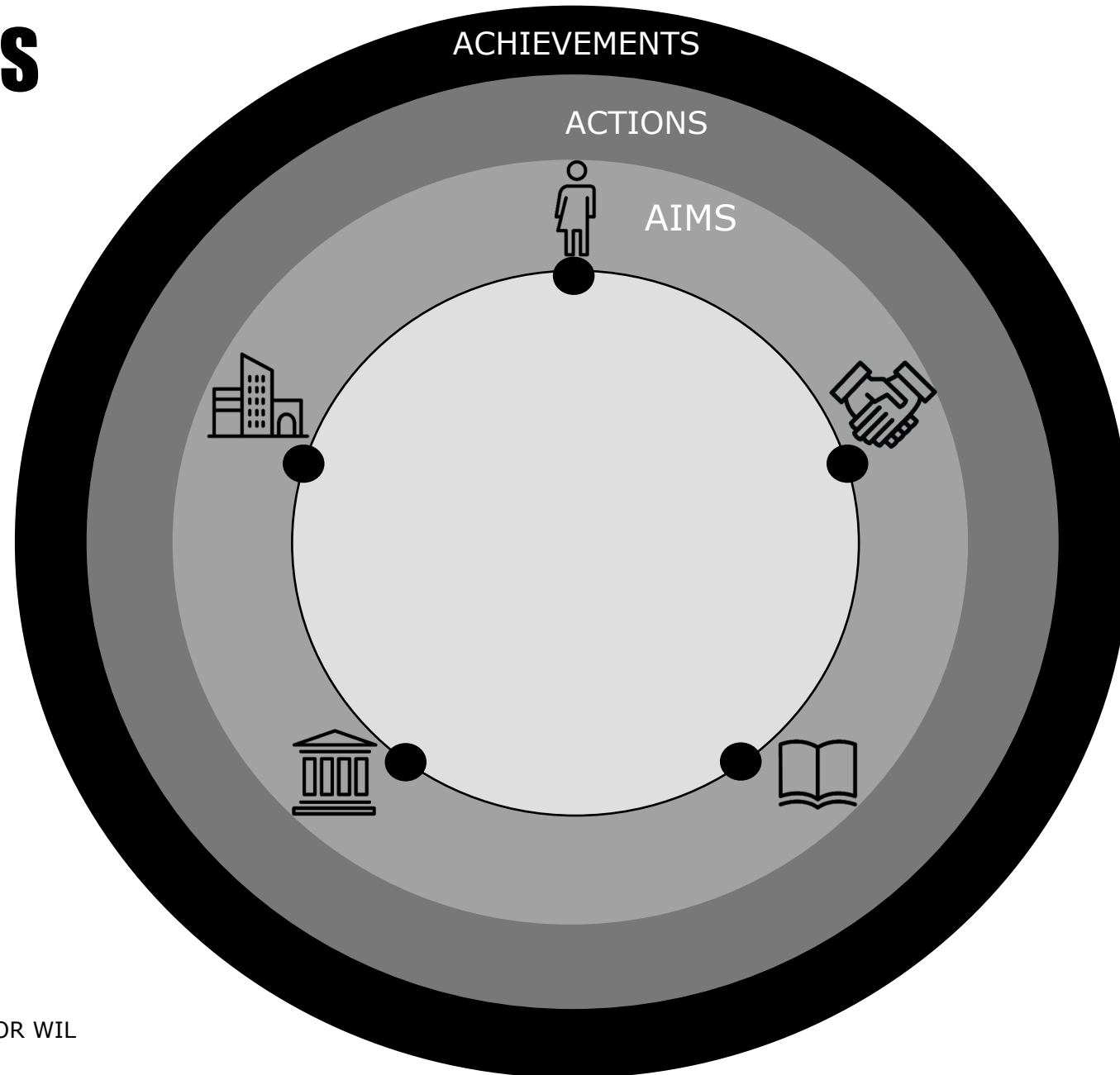
AIMS



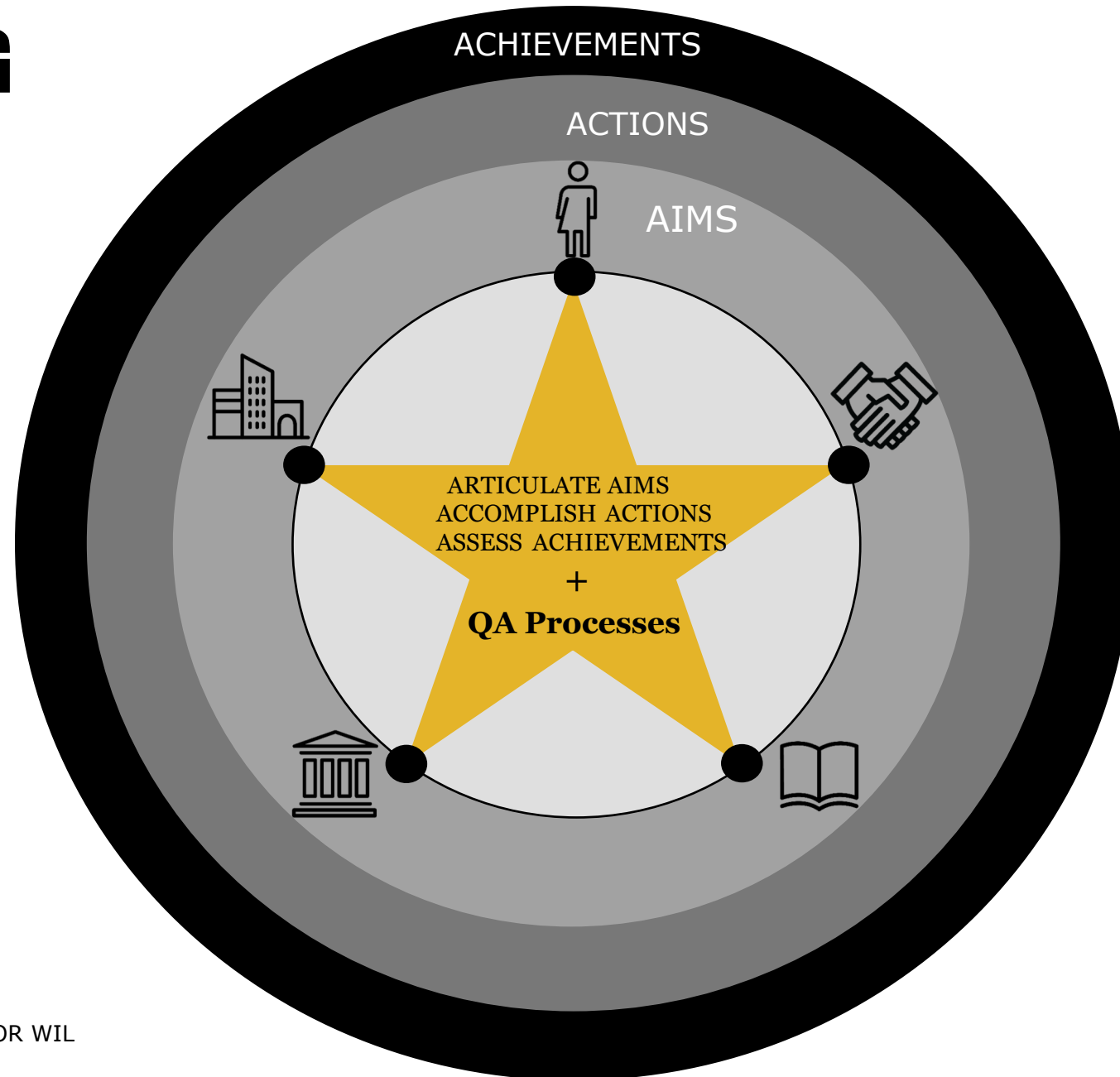
ACTIONS



ACHIEVEMENTS



AAA ★ RATING



APPLYING THE QA FRAMEWORK TO ATTAIN THE AAA★ RATING

- What are the aims of your program for all five stakeholders?
- What actions will you undertake to accomplish your aims?
- How will you assess your achievements?
- What processes will you put in place for continuous improvement?

NEXT STEPS

- **Presentation to CEWIL Canada (October 2018)**
- **White paper release (October 2018), www.watcace.uwaterloo.ca**



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- **Goal for publication in International Journal of Work-Integrated Learning (IJWIL.org)**

CONTACT:
NORAH.MCRAE@UWATERLOO.CA

THANK YOU

UNIVERSITY OF **WATERLOO**

