

# READY TO RISE

A CELEBRATION OF GIVING  
AT LETHBRIDGE COLLEGE 2020-21

# > READY TO SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS

**Lethbridge College's very existence can be traced back to the support of our community. Lethbridge and southern Alberta's political and educational leaders threw their support behind a publicly funded community college (Canada's first!) and continued that support along every step of the journey until the college opened its doors in 1957.**

Since then, community support has been at the heart of everything we have done. Whether it is a new building, a new program, a new student-led initiative or a new service for students, there has always been a donor or community partner there to lend a hand and turn dreams and ideas into realities that serve this community. It is part of what makes southern Alberta so special.

Lethbridge College is proud to be part of this generous community that has always been there to support us when we needed it.

This year, amid a global pandemic that has changed not only the way we operate, but the everyday lives of our students, we have once again turned to our community. Our students need our help more than ever. We have seen sharp increases in students applying for financial aid and asking for support. This is a time of need for many, and our students are not exempt.

But through the darkness, we once again see a light from our community. We launched our Ready to Rise campaign to raise funds to put towards immediate student financial relief and mental health supports, and always, Lethbridge and area rose to the occasion. The community continues to rise, pledging more resources and opportunities to support our students.

To the philanthropists, donors, industry partners and community supporters – thank you. This report is dedicated to you. We take a look at the stories of those who have given to our community and the effect you have had on our college and our students. You'll notice no two stories are quite alike, and that's the tale of our community – countless people like you getting involved in any way you can.

You have been there for us since the start, and we appreciate your investment in us moving forward. Thank you for being a part of Lethbridge College.



**Paula Burns, PhD, MBA**  
Lethbridge College President and CEO



## > WORKING TOGETHER

It is an honour and privilege to share with you this annual report, a publication that encapsulates some of the highlights of the past year and brings to life the tremendous impact donors have on Lethbridge College students. The stories and images in the following 32 pages celebrate the generosity of donors, alumni, sponsors, industry partners and event participants, all of whom are ready to show how gifts of money, ideas and imagination can be meaningful investments that ensure students are prepared for whatever their futures hold.



Thanks to your support this past year, the college has created new student awards and bursaries, purchased new equipment and technology for learning, built new spaces, and created endowments for future investments. While this report profiles just a small portion of the work undertaken, we trust that it fills readers with pride and a sense of understanding how so many people are working together to lead and transform education in Alberta.

While 2020 was a challenging year in many ways, our donors and community partners have stepped up to support the delivery of education that benefits students as well as the industries they will ultimately be employed by.

Your generosity in support of Lethbridge College's COVID-19 response for students is awe inspiring. Thanks to you, hundreds of students who otherwise wouldn't have the financial means to pursue education were able to continue with their studies. Your gifts have supported the mental health and wellness of students, helping inspire resiliency in them during challenging times. You have provided hope and inspiration to these future thinkers, problem solvers and doers who are ready to rise and contribute to a society moving towards recovery.

I invite you to reach out and contact our Development and Alumni Engagement team members to talk about how you can be connected to the programs, projects and people that are especially meaningful to you. Your generosity can make a real difference in the lives and futures of our students. And don't forget – what happens next is up to you (and it's what matters most).

**Oliver Twizell, CFRE**

Director of Development and Alumni Engagement

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*Lethbridge College is located on the traditional land of the Blackfoot Confederacy and is home to many Indigenous peoples, including members of the Kainai, Siksika and Piikani First Nations, as well as Métis and Inuit people. Through recognition and respect for the distinct cultures, languages, histories and contemporary perspectives of Indigenous peoples, we are committed to Indigenous-centred education that improves the lives of learners and communities.*



# > READY TO SOAR

## PHILANTHROPIC GIFT POWERS OPPORTUNITY FOR FUTURE WIND TURBINE TECHNICIANS

**Otys Potts-LittleMustache remembers vividly what it took to make the choice to return to school as a mature student.**

He had grown up on his family's ranch near Brocket and had been working at a local feedlot for about two years after he finished high school. One day in 2005, he came home from work and told his mom he was done. "I had just had enough," he recalls. "I was 20 years old and making good money but tired of working at this place already. My mom said 'Well, look at the college.' I thought I was too old to do that, too old to go back to school. But she had been reading about the new wind turbine program and brought it up to me, and it looked good. So, I applied and got accepted, and then I had to work on funding."

That part proved more complicated, and in the end Potts-LittleMustache had to provide much of the funding on his own. "It made it a little tougher for me, but also made me push hard to get through it," he recalls. But that choice – to return to school and train for a rewarding career – has taken Potts-LittleMustache to jobs all over the globe and has come with the welcome flexibility that allows him to return to ranching and rodeo when he can.

\$653K

DOLLARS OF STUDENT AWARDS DISPERSED

50

NUMBER OF HARD HATS DONATED TO WIND  
TURBINE TECHNICIAN STUDENTS





When Potts-LittleMustache learned in November of the gift from Enel Green Power to Lethbridge College to support students who want to study to be wind turbine technicians – a gift that comes with extra support for students from the Piikani Nation – he was thrilled.

“If I had had access to something like that when I was a student, that would have made a world of difference,” he says. “It would have been something, because I struggled so hard in classes alone, not even counting funding. That support would really give you a little bit of a head start, so you don’t have as much stress and could just do your work. That’s definitely, definitely a huge help.”

The unique collaboration between Enel Green Power and the college is designed to support the education of students from the Piikani Nation who are interested in pursuing careers in wind energy. The partnership sees Enel working with the college’s Wind Turbine Technician (WTT) program to develop opportunities for Piikani learners, including supporting the college’s Indigenous Circle of Services programming, creating student awards, and developing experiential learning opportunities for Piikani Nation community members.

“It is our great honour to collaborate with Lethbridge College in support of our local partner, the Piikani Nation,” said Georgios Papadimitriou, head of Enel Green Power in the U.S. and Canada. “At Enel Green Power, we are committed to developing truly sustainable projects that engage the entire community in creating shared value. We are grateful for our long-term relationship with the Piikani Nation and are eager to open up new career pathways for Piikani learners.”

Enel Green Power operates a 210 MW portfolio of wind farms in Pincher Creek including the Castle Rock Ridge I & II and Riverview wind farms, the first of which began operations in 2012. Acknowledging that their projects are located on traditional Blackfoot territory,



“IF I HAD HAD ACCESS TO SOMETHING LIKE THAT WHEN I WAS A STUDENT, THAT WOULD HAVE MADE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE...THAT SUPPORT WOULD REALLY GIVE YOU A LITTLE BIT OF A HEAD START, SO YOU DON’T HAVE AS MUCH STRESS AND COULD JUST DO YOUR WORK. THAT’S DEFINITELY, DEFINITELY A HUGE HELP.”

**Otys Potts-LittleMustache**

Enel Green Power worked directly with the college and the Piikani Nation to develop this partnership.

“Partnerships like this will have tremendous benefits for aspiring Piikani Nation members interested in the electricity industry,” says Doane Crow Shoe, Piikani Nation Councilor. “Education is important, and we appreciate the efforts of Enel and the Lethbridge College Wind Turbine Technician program for supporting our Piikani Nation students. Clean energy is our future; we will continue to support the efforts in which our members will learn and promote renewable energy. It is my hope that this collaboration will improve how Indigenous communities can be a part of the evolving energy sector.”

Lethbridge College’s Wind Turbine Technician certificate program is nationally recognized and designed to meet international certification standards, preparing graduates to write competency exams as well as the first period Electrician Apprenticeship provincial exam. Many graduates find employment immediately following graduation.

Potts-LittleMustache was one of those students, and he has been working in the industry off and on since his graduation in 2006. He says it’s anything but a regular nine-to-five job. It is physically demanding but offers lunch breaks looking at the mountains while hanging out 300 feet in the air. It offers flexibility to work around Canada (and around the world), but it can also be done close to home thanks to the southern Alberta winds. And, Potts-LittleMustache says, it’s a career he recommends to friends and family members living on the Piikani Nation.

“It’s really impressive a company would step in and help some of the locals out,” he says. “Maybe it will inspire other companies to say, ‘we can do something too.’”

## ➤ HIGHLIGHTS OF THE \$100,000 USD AGREEMENT INCLUDE:

- Creating “experiential learning days” for students of Piikani Secondary School, Livingstone Range School Division schools and Piikani Nation mature learners, which will provide the opportunity to visit Lethbridge College and learn more about the Wind Turbine Technician program, Indigenous Services Circle of Services and other college programming and services.
- Student awards for the Wind Turbine Technician program directed to support Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, specifically including graduates from the Piikani Nation.
- Engaging Piikani Nation youth through experiential opportunities in the WTT program, co-developed by Enel and Lethbridge College, including: safety training in the college’s wind turbine shop; experience climbing in a wind turbine nacelle; standing on top of a wind turbine using virtual reality (VR) technology; building miniature wind turbines at school that are then tested in the college’s wind tunnel; and development of a VR tour of the college’s nacelle that can be accessed at Piikani Secondary School through the donation of two VR headsets.



# > THE DIFFERENCE A GIFT MAKES TO LAURA TAYLOR

## BACHELOR OF NURSING

"I was a stay-at-home mom of six, and when my husband and I talked about me going back to school, we worried that it would be more of a financial burden than we could handle, on top of being time consuming and very hard work. When I got the letter letting me know of my student award, I teared up. When every penny counts, scholarships make all the difference. I am so grateful for the generosity, kindness and willingness of donors to help people like me who are a little older and who are trying to get another chance at school to improve their own lives and the lives of their families."

589

NUMBER OF STUDENT AWARDS DISPERSED

200

NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED  
NEED-BASED BURSARIES





# > A LEGACY OF CARING REMEMBERING MONICA EKVALL



**“MONICA HAD A HEART OF GOLD, AND TO BE ABLE TO GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY AND HELP FUTURE STUDENTS IS ABSOLUTELY WHAT SHE WOULD HAVE WANTED.”**

**Julie Boras**

**For the more than 25 years she worked at Lethbridge College, Monica Ekvall was dedicated to helping her students and the community. So when she passed away in September 2020, Monica’s partner, former co-workers and friends came together to make sure her legacy of caring would live on through the Monica Ekvall Memorial Award.**

“Her family was the community in the college and her students,” says Stan Stokes, Ekvall’s long-time partner. “She never let up, she was always on the go and she was generous with her time and resources.”

Ekvall started her Lethbridge College career in 1984 teaching in the Adult Basic Education program. In 1986 she took over as lead instructor until 1999 when the program ended, and she moved to the Academic Upgrading program where she spent the rest of her career before retiring in 2010.

“Monica was really kind and generous and always looking out for others, especially her students,” says Judy Lux, who worked with Ekvall from 1986 until her retirement. “Their welfare was her top priority, and she was always willing to help them in any way she could. She was always available for extra help, and she often thought of fun activities for the students to do outside of classes.”

In her time at the college, Ekvall spearheaded several initiatives to support students, including setting up a clothing bank so that students could have free interview and work attire. In 2000, she launched the Christmas Store, which sold items donated by faculty and staff to students at low cost and raised more than \$25,000 for college scholarships. Outside of the college she volunteered and was involved with the Society of the Friends of Lethbridge Public Library and, following her retirement, she took friends and former colleagues to the Piyami Lodge care home in Picture Butte to make cards with the residents.

Friends and family say it was a meaningful way to honour Ekvall’s memory by letting her legacy of supporting others continue. The Monica Ekvall Memorial Award is available annually to a student entering full-time Academic Upgrading or Pathway to English and Academic Culture who demonstrates compelling financial circumstances and has overcome significant obstacles in pursuit of education. “Monica had a heart of gold,” says Julie Boras, another former college colleague of Ekvall’s. To provide an award to students “and to be able to give back to the community and help future students is absolutely what she would have wanted.”



**MAKE A DIFFERENCE... BY CREATING STUDENT AWARDS.**

Offer your support by calling 403-320-3457 or visiting [lethbridgecollege.ca/give](https://lethbridgecollege.ca/give).



# TAKE A BOW

## COLLEGE CELEBRATES LOCAL PHILANTHROPISTS

**Lethbridge College was proud to nominate and celebrate four of the local philanthropists recognized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), Southern Alberta Chapter, on National Philanthropy Day. The annual celebration takes place Nov. 15 and pays tribute to the great contributions of the philanthropic community in southern Alberta.**

### **CORPORATE PHILANTHROPIST:**

#### **KB HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING**

KB Heating and Air Conditioning Ltd. has supported Lethbridge College through gifts to annual student awards for Plumbing, Engineering Technologies and Administrative Office Professional programs; the College Home partnership; the Trades, Technologies and Innovation Facility; the Early Childhood Education Play Space; Kodiaks Athletics; and other college events (see p. 20 for more).



### **INDIGENOUS PHILANTHROPIST:**

#### **ENEL GREEN POWER CANADA**

In February 2020, Enel pledged \$100,000 USD to Lethbridge College to support Lethbridge College's Indigenous Circle of Services, student awards for the Wind Turbine Technician program, and resources to provide experiential learning opportunities in the Wind Turbine Technician program (see p. 2 for more).



### **SOUTHERN ALBERTA PHILANTHROPY HERO:**

#### **KNUD PETERSEN**

Knud Petersen helped establish the Tietz/Petersen Scholarship Fund that supplies financial aid to Kodiaks athletes, and he is a long-time member of the college's Kodiak Athletic Association. In 2013, he was awarded the college's highest honour, receiving an honorary degree, and in 2017, he was inducted into the Lethbridge Sports Hall of Fame.



### **YOUTH PHILANTHROPIST:**

#### **LETHBRIDGE COLLEGE LEO CLUB**

Founded in 1977, Lethbridge College's LEO Club has a proud tradition of giving back to the college and the community it serves. Throughout the 2019-20 academic year, the club raised more than \$8,000 for 13 not-for-profit organizations. The Leo Club also participated in 22 events, and its 62 dedicated members, all of whom are under the age of 25, completed 1,700 volunteer hours.





# > THE DIFFERENCE A GIFT MAKES TO CLAYTON LEHR

## AGRICULTURE SCIENCES

"I am very honoured to receive a student award. Due to the COVID-19 situation, I will be travelling long distances frequently to attend my labs in person. This award will allow me to have enough money for the fuel and wear and tear on my vehicle. I am enjoying my classes thus far, with Animal Science being my favourite. I will continue to work hard and be frugal so that I may always be a deserving recipient of a student award.

\$100K

PROVIDED IN AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT AND  
TRAINING BY HANLON AG CENTRE IN 2020

19

NUMBER OF ALUMNI WORKING AT HANLON  
AG CENTRE IN 2020







## > AG INDUSTRY LEADER MAKES STUDENT-CENTRED GIFT

**A gift from Hanlon Ag Centre is ensuring students in Lethbridge College's Agricultural and Heavy Equipment Technician certificate and apprenticeship programs have the newest and best technology and expertise available to help them learn.**

In January 2020, Hanlon Ag Centre provided the college with equipment, installation and training on its CORS (Continuously Operating Reference Station) precision agriculture network. The CORS network uses satellite data to improve the precision of positioning of equipment in a variety of industries. The agreement with Hanlon Ag Centre includes the installation of a receiver in an on-campus tractor for use in agriculture equipment purposes; however, the technology could eventually be expanded to also benefit students in the Agriculture Sciences and Geomatics Engineering Technology programs.

The gift, valued at nearly \$100,000, is the latest chapter in a long-standing partnership between the college and Hanlon Ag Centre. The organization's first official gift to the college came in 2004; since then, Hanlon Ag Centre has given almost \$300,000 worth of sponsorship, equipment, gift-in-kind and financial contributions to the college. A \$100,000 gift to the Possibilities Are Endless campaign in 2014 led to the creation of the Hanlon Ag Centre Heavy Equipment Bay in the Trades, Technologies and Innovation Facility. Hanlon Ag Centre was also a partner when the college became the first post-secondary institute in Canada to sign an AGCO Advantage Partnership agreement with AGCO Corporation in 2016.

Hanlon Ag Centre was started by Tim Hanlon in 1984. Today, the company's partnership group includes Keith Shirakawa, Mike Anderson, Brendon Hanlon and Shane Mann. In 2020, Hanlon Ag Centre had 19 Lethbridge College alumni and four current Lethbridge College apprentices among its staff.



**MAKE A DIFFERENCE... WITH THE GIFT OF EQUIPMENT.**

Offer your support by calling 403-320-3457 or visiting [lethbridgecollege.ca/give](https://lethbridgecollege.ca/give).



# > PUTTING DONATIONS TO WORK

**Lethbridge College trades students will have more of the tools they need to do their jobs thanks to gifts-in-kind from three businesses in 2020.**

## **BARTLE AND GIBSON CO. LTD.**

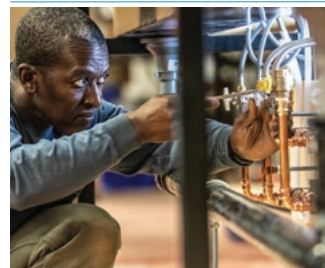
Plumbing, heating and electrical product distributor Bartle and Gibson Co. Ltd. donated equipment to help complete four workstations in the college's new, expanded plumbing lab, where students in the Plumber Apprenticeship program get hands-on experience in the trade. The gift included more than 70 pieces of equipment valued at more than \$12,000 to enable students to solve real-world, commercial and residential problems in a lab environment.

## **GOLDWIND AMERICAS**

Wind turbine manufacturer Goldwind Americas is helping students in the Wind Turbine Technician program stay safe through the gift of 50 hard hats. Theirs to keep, each hard hat reduces the expenses students encounter not only in the program, but as they enter the industry. In addition to the hard hats, Goldwind Americas created a three-year award for students entering the Wind Turbine Technician program. Financial support of student awards allows high-performing students who are facing financial challenges to enrol in the program and enter the industry.

## **AGO INDUSTRIES INC.**

London, Ontario-based industrial safety gear manufacturer AGO Industries Inc. kitted out students in the college's Powerline Technician Apprenticeship program with more than 150 pieces of safety clothing including arc-rated and flame-resistant overalls, work shirts, pants and sweatshirts. The gift of safety clothing is valued at \$16,125 and allows students to save money prior to writing their first-year apprenticeship exam.



## > DID YOU KNOW? GIVING IS A CLICK AWAY

Making a gift to Lethbridge College is easier than ever with our new online recurring giving system. Now you can choose to support your preferred area – from the Ready to Rise campaign to Kodiaks Athletics – on an ongoing basis with just one click. Just visit [lethbridgecollege.ca/give](https://lethbridgecollege.ca/give) to choose where to give and help students be ready for what happens next.

# > THE DIFFERENCE A GIFT MAKES TO ANTHONY LAMAI

## COMPUTER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

"I am taking a diploma at Lethbridge College with a plan to pursue a career in database administration. Thanks to student awards, I am one step closer to that goal. By awarding me the Lethbridge College Continuing Student Award, you have lightened my financial burden, which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school – learning. This generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help other students achieve their goals just as you have helped me."

100+

STUDENTS WHO WERE SUPPORTED WITH THE  
GIFT OR LOAN OF A LAPTOP

35

STUDENTS WHO WERE SUPPORTED  
THROUGH A GIFT OF INTERNET SUBSIDY







# > PHILANTHROPY IN CHALLENGING TIMES

## COMMUNITY ANSWERS THE CALL TO SUPPORT STUDENTS DURING A TRULY UNPRECEDENTED YEAR

**Like so many people around the world, Lethbridge College students confronted unprecedented challenges over the past year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to the universal concerns about their health and the health of their families and friends, students also encountered challenges posed by remote learning, financial uncertainty, isolation and loneliness. Lethbridge College's community of alumni, donors, faculty and staff stepped up to support these students, just as they have so many times throughout the college's 63-year history. Here a few of the ways Lethbridge College donors helped make a difference for our students and community throughout the last turbulent year.**

### **RBC GIFT HELPS INDIGENOUS TRADITION MEET TECHNOLOGY**

In August, the long-standing partnership between RBC and the college's Indigenous Services department began another chapter with RBC's commitment of \$75,000 through the RBC Foundation Future Launch program for Indigenous cultural support programming. The gift comes at a time when the team is working to adapt to the challenges of COVID-19 and remote learning.

In addition to taking the annual Indigenous Student Welcome, Orange Shirt Day and Sisters in Spirit events online, the Indigenous Services team launched Stone Pipe Days, a new celebration of the pride, history and knowledge of the college's Indigenous community. The team also offered virtual fireside chats with the college's Indigenous Elders and Grandparents providing bi-weekly smudge, prayers and cultural teachings. Traditional cultural connections are an important mental health initiative at Lethbridge College, and the college and Elders were eager to continue the sessions, even online.

The fall semester was capped off with a virtual celebration highlighted by a performance from Juno Award nominee and Lethbridge College alumni Armond Duck Chief, and the winter semester will include three virtual RBC Indigenous Mentorship Nights. RBC's partnership supporting Indigenous education at Lethbridge College began in 2007 and has since provided nearly \$700,000 to support Indigenous initiatives, events and programming on campus.





READY TO  
**RISE**

### **TECH SUPPORT FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE STUDENTS**

A donor-funded program that ran through the college's English Language Centre helped international students and newcomers to Canada learn basic digital learning skills. "A good portion of our students are coming from situations where their schooling was interrupted by war or they grew up in refugee camps with little exposure to digital literacy," says Karen Smith, manager of the English Language Centre.

More than 30 students took part in the online, drop-in course, which focused on basic skills like how to join Zoom meetings, using Office 365 to create and save documents, writing emails and doing assignments in Canvas, Lethbridge College's online learning management system. "Our students are brave people for making such a big change in their lives by coming to a new country," says instructor Asami McIntosh. "They were all eager to learn these skills both for themselves and to be able to help their own children and be better parents."

A donor endowment dedicated to supporting education and professional development at the college funded this program.

### **ANONYMOUS DONOR OFFERS LOCAL INDIGENOUS YOUTH TECH BOOST**

A training opportunity over the summer involving teens from the Blood Reserve on a computer coding camp through Corporate and Continuing Education (CCE) ended with the participants walking away with new iPads courtesy of an anonymous donor. The students trained for a full week in the college's computer lab learning the basics of coding and video game design. "The computer coding camp was a beneficial career exposure camp for the Blood Tribe youth," says Levi Little Mustache, youth programs officer with Blood Tribe Employment and Skills Training. "It opened their eyes to the potential opportunities of a career within computer coding, while giving them new valuable technical skills."

### **ALUMNI SUPPORT UNLOCKS ADDITIONAL FUNDING**

The college would like to extend a hearty thank you to the entire Lethbridge College alumni community who made their support for the Ready to Rise campaign go even further by unlocking \$25,000 in funding from affinity partner TD Insurance. This past summer, nearly 700 individuals made financial gifts, shared their alumni stories or spread the word on social media – with each action unlocking dollars towards Ready to Rise, which provides support to address our students' most pressing needs, including mental health and wellness resources and financial funding.



**MAKE A DIFFERENCE... BY GIVING TO EMERGING PRIORITIES.**

Offer your support by calling 403-320-3457 or visiting [lethbridgecollege.ca/give](https://lethbridgecollege.ca/give).

# GOODWILL GOES BOTH WAYS

## A CELEBRATION OF LONG-TIME LETHBRIDGE COLLEGE SUPPORTERS

**The way Scott Murakami sees it, Lethbridge College plays a vital role in driving the local economy, and it has since its founding in 1957. “When the college succeeds,” says Murakami, the general manager of KB Heating, Plumbing and Air Conditioning, “the local economy succeeds, and so do all local businesses.”**

That’s why, for nearly a decade, the KB team – led by President and Founder Keith Broadbent, his partners Greg Broadbent and Murakami – has contributed to a variety of essential Lethbridge College projects and programs. Their gifts have gone to everything from supporting student awards to providing equipment to supporting construction of the college’s Trades, Technologies and Innovation Facility. These investments, Murakami explains, directly and indirectly support the people who go on to become the employees, business owners, taxpayers and families who make southern Alberta such a special place.

The KB team continues to see real value in “partnering with like-minded organizations and good people within those organizations,” says Murakami. “Our recent gift shows our long-term commitment to the college, and we realize as with any partnership, goodwill goes both ways.”

This long-time partnership is one of many the college is proud to celebrate. Others who have focused their philanthropy on the college over a number of years include the Lethbridge Auto Dealers Association (LADA), which has worked with the college for more than two decades; Troy Reeb, a 1988 graduate who has offered a one-of-a-kind internship to Digital Communications and Media students since 2006; RBC, which has supported college initiatives since 1991; and so many more.

\$775K

DOLLARS GIVEN BY RBC FOUNDATION TO THE COLLEGE OVER THE LAST 30 YEARS

100+

OVER 100 STUDENTS HAVE RECEIVED A STUDENT AWARD FROM LADA'S GENEROSITY





**The benefits of these gifts to the college and its students are clear and usually immediate – whether they support equipment, new classrooms or student awards.**

“But in the end, we hope these organizations see the significant impact their philanthropy has on students,” adds Lethbridge College development officer Sydney Wakaruk. “The graduate who received their student award has the ability to continue their education. The equipment they give to the college prepares students for industry. And the new learning space they made possible might be the place where students realize they can make a difference in the world around them. These donors continue to move forward with the college, as leaders in giving back to their community.”

LADA President Tim Schipper says the association is proud of its ongoing relationship with the college. “The college is one of our main partners,” says Schipper, who is also general manager and partner at Lethbridge Toyota. “It is so engrained in the community, and it is where a lot of people who support our business come from. We have at least four of our apprentices going through the college at the moment – it’s a constant thing for us.”

LADA’s largest gift to the college came in 2011, when members of the organization came together to give \$1 million for equipment, student awards and the construction of the state-of-the-art Trades, Technologies and Innovation Facility. But the association and its members have also continued to support the trades and contribute to other college causes over the years, donating student awards, equipment, and, as Schipper explains, “anything we can do to help new students maintain their passion for automobiles and make it a career.”

Connecting students to careers is one of many benefits 15 students have received from winning the Troy Reeb Internship. Quinn Ohler, the 2009 internship winner, has gone on to work for Global, most recently as the anchor of Global News at 11 in Edmonton, and was the 2019 winner of the college’s Rising Star Award. She says simply: “I don’t know where I would be today if it wasn’t for that internship.”

Ohler, who grew up in a small rural farm community and was the fourth winner of the internship adds “it gave me the confidence to know that I could work in a major market, that I could – if I worked hard and still had the passion I had – be able to fill in for Global National or anchor a newscast in a market like Edmonton.” Many other past winners have drawn on their internship experiences as they have built successful media and communications careers.

Reeb, the Executive Vice President, Broadcast Networks for Corus Entertainment, created the internship in 2006 and continues to support it, providing a Lethbridge College student with the chance to work with Corus and Global teams in Toronto and Ottawa, earning invaluable major market experience.





**“TROY’S UNIQUE INTERNSHIP IS A MODEL FOR FUTURE WORK-INTEGRATED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES... HE IS COMMITTED TO THE INTERNSHIP NO MATTER THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND IS A GREAT PARTNER AND FRIEND OF THE COLLEGE.”**

**Stephanie Savage, Alumni Engagement Coordinator**



“Troy’s unique internship is a model for future work-integrated learning opportunities,” says Stephanie Savage, Alumni Engagement Coordinator. “His leadership drove the recent contributions from Corus that supported student awards and upgrades to the Endeavour lab. He is committed to the internship no matter the circumstances and is a great partner and friend of the college.”

Many of these long-time relationships keep thriving because of an ideal alignment between the donor’s goals and values, and the work happening at the college. That is the case with RBC Foundation, which has given \$775,000 – and limitless time, talent, support and ideas – to the college for three decades.

“In our minds, different perspectives, experiences, backgrounds, genders and cultures all play a critical role in shaping our business and community,” says Mark Brown, Regional Vice-President – Alberta South with RBC Royal Bank. RBC chose to work with the college because “we saw their commitment and the impact they wanted to have, and knew it meshed with our own.”

RBC’s gifts often focus on Indigenous programming and students, and the organization’s commitment to recognizing and respecting distinct cultures, languages, histories and contemporary perspectives of Indigenous people and Indigenous-centred education resonates with similar work happening at the college.

“We are especially proud of our partnership with Lethbridge College, because there is a true commitment to diversity and inclusion in everything the college does – something that we at RBC relate to as it is very much a part of our DNA,” Brown explains. “From the leadership to each of the great people supporting the programs – they are committed to enriching and enabling each student who walks through their doors. It is infectious, and I value how they are always challenging themselves to improve. They make our community better.”



**WE ARE PROUD OF ALL OUR GENEROUS DONORS AND PARTNERS WHO SUPPORT THE PEOPLE AND PROGRAMS AT LETHBRIDGE COLLEGE. THIS STORY HIGHLIGHTS A HANDFUL OF THESE IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIPS, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO CELEBRATING OTHERS IN FUTURE PUBLICATIONS.**



# > THE DIFFERENCE A GIFT MAKES TO EDNNA STOBCHINSKI

RENEWABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT;  
LCSA VICE PRESIDENT STUDENT LIFE

“As an international student, these times have been indeed challenging and concerning for a number of reasons. Isolation, layoffs and decreases in job opportunities, social anxiety due to the fear of spread of COVID-19 but at the same time the endless need to put food on the table, the uncertainty to make ends meet, and increases in tuition are things that cross my mind every day. Being the recipient of an award makes a huge difference to me and my family; it brings relief in my desire to build a better future. I am committed to continue doing my best, and hopefully, inspire others to not give up on the things they truly desire. Thank you to everyone who made this award possible and may life fill you with blessings.”

467

DIFFERENT STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED ONE OR MORE STUDENT AWARD

50<sup>TH</sup>

THREE PROGRAMS ARE CELEBRATING THEIR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY IN 2021: RENEWABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, ELECTRICIAN APPRENTICESHIP AND CONSERVATION ENFORCEMENT







## > READY TO LEAVE A LEGACY

**Become a part of the *Ohkotoki'aahkkoiyiiniimaan* Legacy Society and make a difference in the lives of students**

Lethbridge College proudly carries the Blackfoot name of *Ohkotoki'aahkkoiyiiniimaan*, Stone Pipe. As Kainai *Kaahsinnoonik* (Grandparent) Peter Weasel Moccasin explains, during the offering of the pipe, everyone involved must uphold and carry out the promises made. It is in that spirit that Lethbridge College is inviting the community to join the new *Ohkotoki'aahkkoiyiiniimaan* (Stone Pipe) Legacy Society, as individuals who have named Lethbridge College in their estate plans or have established deferred gifts. The society exists to celebrate these individuals and to thank all members for their commitment to improving Lethbridge College and the community.

The *Ohkotoki'aahkkoiyiiniimaan* (Stone Pipe) Legacy Society includes donors like Gerald Kostka. In 2015, Kostka made a bequest in his will. Kostka passed away in March 2019 at the age of 78 and left more than \$200,000 to the college to help provide financial support to agriculture students.

With a planned or deferred gift, donors get to choose the legacy they want to leave, whether through scholarships, student awards, helping the college expand its capacity and potential in the world of research, or funding an endowed chair, which brings in the best instructors and researchers in the world to work with students and the community. Every gift can make a big difference in the life of a student.



**MAKE A DIFFERENCE... BY MAKING A PLANNED GIFT.**

Offer your support by calling 403-320-3457 or visiting [lethbridgecollege.ca/give](https://lethbridgecollege.ca/give).





# PAY IT FORWARD

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI GIVES BACK

Rick Lewchuk, senior vice president of Creative Marketing and Brand Standards for CNN (and also an Emmy winner and Lethbridge College's Distinguished Alumni in 2019), has another honour to add to his list of laurels: in June, he was the winner of the college's Pay It Forward 50/50 lottery, a monthly draw that is open to alumni, students, staff and the community that supports student scholarships. Upon learning he was the lucky June winner, Lewchuk decided to take his \$1,435 prize and donate it directly to the Lethbridge College Ready to Rise Campaign. Lewchuk says he is a huge proponent of mental health initiatives, and he was happy to have his winnings support that cause at his alma mater. To participate in the Pay It Forward drawing, go to [lethbridgecollege.ca/payitforward](https://lethbridgecollege.ca/payitforward).



250

STUDENTS WHO HAVE RECEIVED \$1,000  
SCHOLARSHIPS THROUGH PAY IT FORWARD

300+

EMPLOYEES, ALUMNI, STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY  
MEMBERS WHO CONTRIBUTE MONTHLY



## DID YOU KNOW? NEARLY 600 LETHBRIDGE COLLEGE STUDENTS RECEIVED MORE THAN \$650,000 IN DONOR-FUNDED STUDENT AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS THIS FALL.

Amid these times of extreme uncertainty, student awards and scholarships ensure that our students' education will not suffer because of their financial status. Although many students have benefitted from donor-funded student awards already this year, the need for additional funding is very real, as students will continue to face challenging times beyond the initial impact of any crisis.

This is why Lethbridge College created the Ready to Rise Fund – to provide students a financial hand up in the form of bursaries, student awards and scholarships. To learn more about the Ready to Rise campaign or help our students build a better world for generations to come, visit [lethbridgecollege.ca/readytorise](https://lethbridgecollege.ca/readytorise).

# > THE DIFFERENCE A GIFT MAKES TO BROOKLIN BELLAVANCE

ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT;  
KODIAKS WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM CAPTAIN

"As a full-time student and college athlete, often there is not much time for anything else, and getting a job can turn out to be taxing on an already full schedule. Thanks to awards like this, I can use this money directly for tuition, so it is one less thing on my mind during the school year. It has always been important to me to make more than just practices and games a priority. To me this includes things like volunteering my time to my community, school and supporting soccer programs in hopes that a young athlete will look up to me they way I once did to college athletes."

\$200K

DOLLARS OF BURSARIES DISPERSED  
TO STUDENTS

100%

PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN DEMAND FOR  
BURSARIES COMPARED TO 2019





# > READY TO HELP YOU DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

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# WHAT HAPPENS NEXT MATTERS MOST.

## > READY TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

Whether you are interested in attending or sponsoring an event, establishing a student award, making a planned gift, donating equipment or giving to the annual campaign, there are a number of ways you can get started showing your support for the students, programs and possibilities at Lethbridge College.

To learn more, we invite you to:

- Call us at 403-320-3457.
- Email our team at [development.office@lethbridgecollege.ca](mailto:development.office@lethbridgecollege.ca).
- Visit us on the web at [lethbridgecollege.ca/give](http://lethbridgecollege.ca/give).

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### ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This is the annual Lethbridge College report to our community. Created by the college's Development, Communication and Marketing teams, this publication intends to inform, educate and intrigue readers with stories and photos about the philanthropic happenings at Lethbridge College. For additional copies, email [WHMagazine@lethbridgecollege.ca](mailto:WHMagazine@lethbridgecollege.ca) or [development.office@lethbridgecollege.ca](mailto:development.office@lethbridgecollege.ca).

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# > THANK YOU

## YOUR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

To learn more about how you can support and inspire students while helping to build a better world for generations to come, contact the Lethbridge College Development Office.

**Development Office** (CE2323)

[development.office@lethbridgecollege.ca](mailto:development.office@lethbridgecollege.ca)

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**BE READY.**

