

# YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

2024-2025 Annual Donor Impact Report



---

Your support helps students stay in school, reach their goals  
and graduate ready to make an impact.

When you support Conestoga, you empower students to  
succeed and, in turn, strengthen our community.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

---



Dr. John Tibbits, President

### THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CONESTOGA AND INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF OUR STUDENTS AND THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE.

At Conestoga, we take great pride in providing opportunities for all individuals to develop the skills and knowledge that lead to successful careers and a brighter future.

The last year brought unprecedented challenges to the Canadian higher education sector. Ongoing changes to the international student program have significantly reduced enrolment and placed financial pressure on institutions across the country that rely on this revenue to support core programs and services that invest in the economic well-being of our communities.

As we continue to navigate these challenges, we remain dedicated

to our mission of providing high-quality education and support to our learners.

Looking ahead, we are moving forward with strategic investments in state-of-the-art facilities, including the second phase of the Conestoga Skilled Trades Campus in Cambridge. As skilled labour shortages become increasingly widespread across the province, the college is focused on modernizing apprenticeship and skilled trades training by consolidating and expanding our full complement of trades programs at a single campus. This new, modern facility will help raise the profile of skilled trades and attract a broader, more diverse student population.

We also plan to broaden our programming in health care, with the Centre for Medical Imaging Studies at the Doon campus in Kitchener. Opening in fall 2027, the centre will provide optimal learning experiences with next-level equipment, including the latest advancements in artificial intelligence-enabled diagnostic services. These investments are vital as we continue to prepare graduates who are equipped to thrive in the evolving job market and ensure that communities remain strong and prosperous.

The support of our donors, partners and friends remains instrumental in helping us achieve our goals and contributes immensely to the success of the college and our students. We are grateful for your contributions and interest in supporting us and helping our students realize their potential.

This report provides a glimpse into the many ways your donations create new opportunities and equip our students with pathways to success.

On behalf of Conestoga's employees and students, thank you for your continued support and commitment.

# IMPACT AT A GLANCE

**68%**

of Conestoga  
students have  
financial need

**3,042**

students received  
donor-funded awards,bursaries  
or scholarships

**\$13.4M**

was raised to fuel  
opportunities for  
deserving students

**29%**

of the recipients  
were first-generation  
college students

**2,014**

co-op placements  
offered hands-on  
industry experience\*

**95%**

of mentors said they  
would participate  
again in the future\*\*

\*Does not include nursing placements.

\*\*Related to The Helena Webb Mentorship Program.

“Our graduates are making a difference in the communities where they live and work, and we couldn’t be more proud of them.”

Paula Gouveia, vice-president, Academic & International  
Conestoga College Institute of Technology & Advanced Learning

## A YEAR OF APPRECIATION

**228K+**

Conestoga grads shape industries  
and drive community impact

**\$611K+**

in gifts-in-kind supported student  
learning and success

**2,525**

Program Advisory Committee (PAC)  
volunteers shared industry insights

**11%**

of gifts were under \$100, a  
reminder that every gift  
fuels student success

**2,764**

individual student messages were  
sent out to say thank you to  
donors

**100%**

every dollar donated goes directly  
towards students

A photograph of two young women in graduation gowns. The woman on the left has long, dark brown braided hair and is wearing a black gown with a red and gold sash. The woman on the right has shoulder-length brown hair and is also wearing a black gown with a red and gold sash. They are both smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and what appears to be a graduation ceremony.

YOU ARE FUELING  
DREAMS AND GROWTH

“You may never fully know the extent of this bursary’s impact – mentally, financially and emotionally. At a time when I needed it most, your support reminded me that I am seen, that I matter, and that I am capable of achieving greatness.”

Second-year student, Respiratory Therapy

# CAMPUS GROWTH AND INNOVATION

From state-of-the-art equipment to renewed learning spaces, your contributions have helped Conestoga expand its reach and continue delivering exceptional, future-ready education.

**Let's look at the difference you've made:**



SMART STARTS HERE.

## TMMC AND CONESTOGA LAUNCH TOYOTA SMART FACTORY LEARNING HUB

TMMC has committed \$2 million over the next two years to establish the Toyota Smart Factory Learning Hub at the college's Cambridge - Fountain Street campus. The state-of-the-art facility will help shape the future of Industry 4.0 education, showcase the possibilities of automation and offer hands-on, experiential learning for students in multiple engineering and technology programs.

"The Smart Factory demonstrates the power of partnerships between industry and education," said Tim Hollander, President, TMMC. "By giving students access to state-of-the-art technology and real-world applications, we are helping cultivate the next generation of skilled professionals who will lead the future of manufacturing."

Through applied research, capstone projects, student mentorship, co-op placements and employee upskilling, the facility will serve as a hub for collaboration with TMMC, its affiliates, suppliers and other industry partners.

Thank you, TMMC, for partnering with us to build stronger connections between education and industry.

Each academic school within the college has unique priorities aligned with evolving needs, such as enhancing curriculum, emerging technologies, faculty development, and increased accessibility and student wellness support.

“My passion has always been science, discovery and ultimately helping others. I care deeply about helping people in the community during what may be crucial times in their lives and want to be able to make a difference.”

Caroline Kubinski  
student, Medical Laboratory Science

**NEW IN SEPTEMBER 2025:**

## **VETERINARY ASSISTANT**

For those passionate about animals, this one-year certificate program provides students with the necessary knowledge and skills to assist veterinary professionals, such as Registered Veterinary Technicians and Veterinarians.

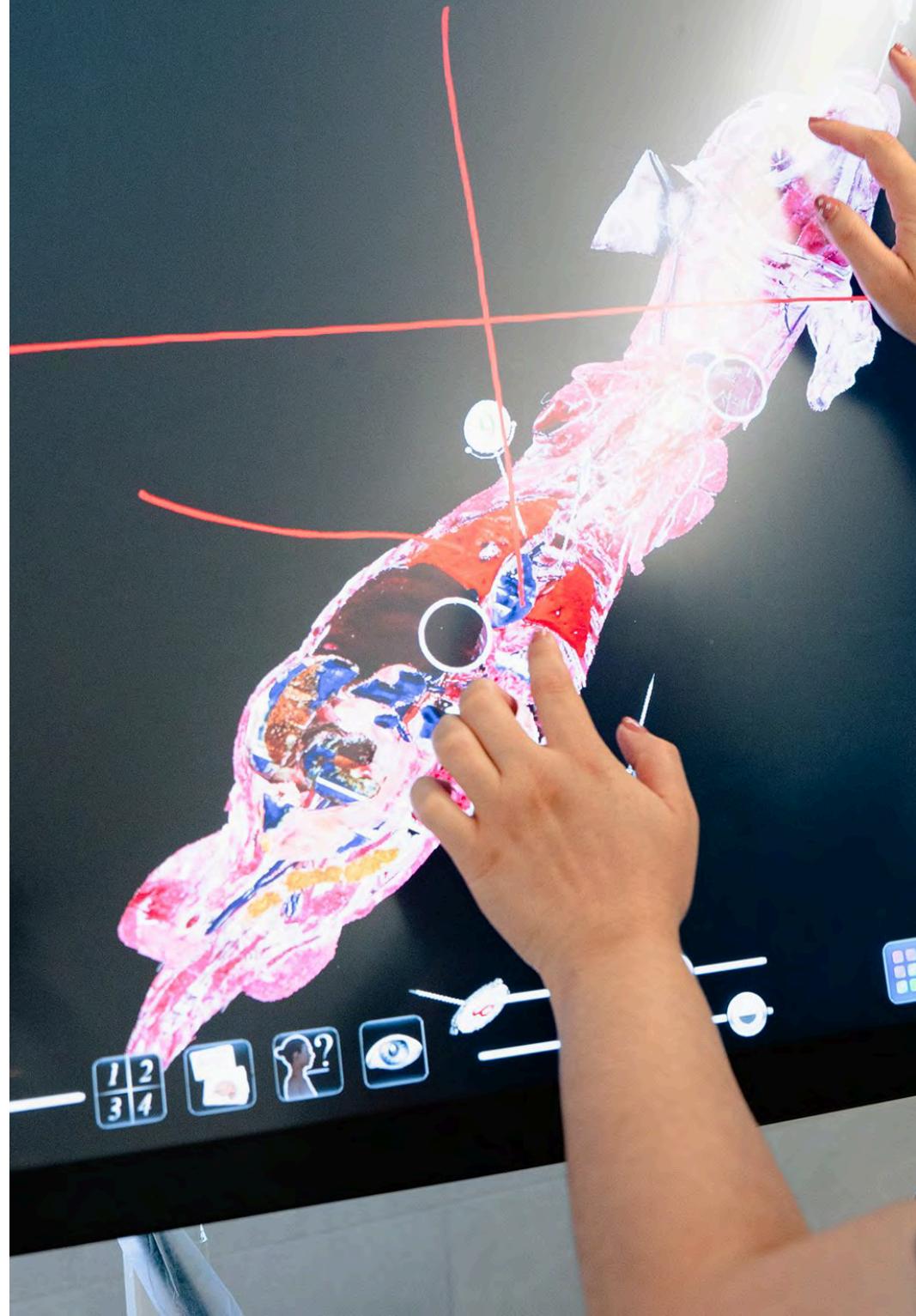
Equipping students with the skills for safe handling and restraining various animals, animal grooming techniques, basic diagnostic techniques, surgical support techniques, shelter animal care and office and client relationship skills.

Including hands-on laboratory practice and a work placement in an animal care facility, this practical experience will prepare graduates for a fulfilling career in veterinary or other animal care settings.

## **VETERINARY TECHNICIAN**

This challenging two-year program will equip students with the knowledge and skills needed for a rewarding career working alongside veterinarians, public health officers, research scientists and other veterinary industry partners. Through subjects such as nutrition, clinical pathology, microbiology, diagnostic imaging, anatomy, physiology and genetics, students will develop a comprehensive understanding of critical large and small animal behaviours, veterinary nursing, and the care of many species.

Using a humane approach to veterinary technology education — simulation, advanced models, and true-to-life scenarios to focus on skills development — allows students to learn and apply their knowledge without risk to actual animals. This experience will provide a practical understanding of animal behaviours and needs, and all graduates are encouraged to become Registered Veterinary Technicians upon graduation.



# STRENGTHENING SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS

Because of your investment, our academic schools have integrated emerging technologies and expanded student wellness and accessibility supports. You helped shape responsive, inclusive learning environments that meet the evolving needs of our students and communities.

We're proud to show you what your support has achieved:

“Together, we continue to set the standard for career-focused programming, innovation and research, ensuring our graduates and the communities we serve continue to prosper now and in the future. The Conestoga community should be incredibly proud of what we have accomplished.”

John Tibbits  
president, Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning



**TOP RANKED:**

**CONESTOGA'S CYBER SECURITY  
PROGRAM RANKED SECOND OUT OF 15  
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN CANADA  
BY COURSECOMPARE**

The reason? Conestoga's program "integrates input from industry professionals to ensure its curriculum aligns with the latest trends in cybersecurity. Students gain hands-on experience through interactive coursework and a capstone project that emphasizes solving real-world cybersecurity challenges."

CourseCompare states that, now through 2031, Canada can expect 150,000 job openings in this field. And that's where you come in.

Thank you to our industry partners and friends; your gifts of time and expertise help Conestoga shape the future of an increasingly digital world. [Your support matters.](#)

“I cherish my years volunteering on the program advisory committee and especially enjoyed interviewing and selecting students for the awards! Truly, I was blown away by such incredible young people who both impressed and inspired me.”

Terry Olivier

**NEW EQUIPMENT:**

## **AN INVESTMENT IN STUDENT LEARNING AND THE FUTURE HEALTH OF OUR COMMUNITY**

Pharmacy technicians are vital to healthcare, ensuring safe and efficient medication delivery alongside pharmacists and healthcare teams.

Conestoga's Centre for Pharmaceutical Studies demonstrates our commitment to delivering top-tier, innovative pharmacy education while prioritizing student success in this critical field. Because of Diane Blake's generous support, students in our Pharmacy Technician program are learning on real equipment, like the Omnicell system that's used in hospitals and clinics. This type of hands-on training prepares graduates to support pharmacists in delivering safe, accurate care across a wide range of healthcare settings.

Donor support makes it possible for students to train on equipment like the Omnicell system, preparing them to make an immediate impact in hospitals, clinics, and beyond. [Your support matters.](#)



“Conestoga’s approach to hands-on learning is something that was very appealing to me. The classrooms and labs are fully equipped with state-of-the-art amenities, technology and tools necessary to simulate a real-life environment. I find it satisfying to learn from someone who can show me how to do things correctly and accurately.”

Martin McNaney  
student, Pharmacy Technician

A man with a beard and a suit is speaking to a group of students in a classroom setting. The students are wearing white lab coats and hats, suggesting a medical or scientific environment. The man is gesturing with his hands as he speaks. The text 'BRIDGING COLLEGE AND COMMUNITY' is overlaid on the image in large, yellow, sans-serif capital letters.

BRIDGING COLLEGE  
AND COMMUNITY

**“AS A GRADUATE OF THE PROGRAM, I FELT THAT IT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL FOR STUDENTS TO BE ABLE TO LEARN USING EQUIPMENT THEY CAN PUT THEIR HANDS ON AND ACTUALLY REMOVE AND REPLACE. I’M HAPPY THIS DONATION WILL HELP ASSIST WITH LEARNING.”**

Neil Evans  
Headwaters Health Care Centre  
Power Engineering Techniques, 2023

Thanks to alum Neil Evans and the Headwaters Health Care Corporation, our Power Engineering students are now training on a newly donated boiler, gaining hands-on experience that will prepare them for Technical Standards and Safety Authority certification. Empowering student success has never been ours alone — your commitment to Conestoga students is invaluable.

**A gift-in-kind donation, tools for programs, equipment for labs or technology for classrooms, is considered charitable and eligible for tax receipts while helping ensure students have access to the resources they need for success.**





**“A LIFE WHERE I CREATE VALUE AND SUPPORT MYSELF WITH MY OWN HANDS – THAT’S WHAT I WANT! SKILLED TRADES INVOLVE SOLVING REAL PROBLEMS FOR PEOPLE, WHICH I DEEPLY RESPECT. MY GOAL IS TO BECOME A HIGHLY SKILLED AND RELIABLE FEMALE ELECTRICIAN IN THE FUTURE.”**

**Chenhui Jing, student  
Electrical Engineering Technician - Industrial**

The ATS Automation Women in Trades Award supports women entering the trades, dedicated to their studies and future careers, and who aim to inspire other women to explore career opportunities in the trades.

We're sincerely grateful for the continued partnership of ATS. Together, we share a strong commitment to empowering the next generation of skilled tradespeople.

**Awards, scholarships and bursaries provide deserving students the financial support they need to pursue their educational goals.**

#### COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

## CELEBRATING THE INDIGENOUS CULTURE OF CANADA

Hosted by Be-Dah-Bin Gamik, Indigenous Services at Conestoga, the 15th traditional Pow Wow featured registered dancers, drums and vendors offering handmade items such as beadwork, paintings, clothing and baskets. This annual event provides the Indigenous community with a safe space to celebrate the culture that is Indigenous to Canada.

"The Pow Wow is a celebration that aims to tie communities together. Indigenous to Indigenous but also from our communities to those surrounding us. It's a place to gather, reconnect, and learn. Everyone is welcome and we always encourage people from all over the region to join us." said Ian Maracle, marketing co-ordinator at Conestoga.

A heartfelt thank you to Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada for their generous sponsorship and to our volunteers and community, whose support is invaluable in making this event beautiful and vibrant.

[Read the full story.](#)





**“EVENTS LIKE THE WELDING GALA CREATE REAL OPPORTUNITIES. WHEN STUDENTS CONNECT WITH ALUMNI, STAFF AND INDUSTRY PARTNERS WHO SEE THEIR POTENTIAL, IT BOOSTS THEIR CONFIDENCE AND INSPIRES THEM TO AIM HIGHER. AT THE WELDING GALA, YOU CAN FEEL THE EXCITEMENT IN THE ROOM, KNOWING DOORS ARE OPENING FOR THE FUTURE.”**

Erin Camm, program manager  
School of Engineering & Technology  
Conestoga College Institute of  
Technology & Advanced Learning

At Conestoga, there's something powerful we all share – the belief that connection sparks growth, that learning fuels change and, above all, that we're stronger together.

The annual Welding Awards Gala, hosted by the Conestoga Welding Engineering Technology graduating class of 2025 and the CWB-A Kitchener Chapter, is an evening of connection, recognition, learning and celebration.

“I want to walk into the working world and learn something new every day, and with this program and future career, this is a goal I can definitely achieve. I appreciate you, as a donor, for encouraging students into working hard and moving closer to achieving goals and dreams.”

Hannah Whiting  
student, Welding Engineering Technology - Inspection

**"I BELIEVE THIS OPPORTUNITY WILL  
ENHANCE MY ABILITY TO BECOME A  
BETTER LEADER. I WANT TO EMPOWER  
PEOPLE TO FOLLOW THEIR PASSIONS  
AND INTERESTS TO REACH THEIR FULL  
POTENTIAL."**

A student recipient of the The Trades Pathfinder Initiative Award explains how the award is an inspiration to pursue a fulfilling path.

The Trades Pathfinder Initiative Award (TPI Award), generously founded by Bailey Zehr and Jacob Bretz of R&R Mechanical Group Inc., was created because choosing a career path is often non-linear.

Having experienced a career change personally, Bailey, a student in Conestoga's Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Systems Mechanic (Apprenticeship) program, was motivated to support those looking to move into the skilled trades while addressing the increasing need for skilled workers.

The TPI Award is a powerful reminder of the impact we make when helping others in our community along their journey.

[Learn about Conestoga's student award program and how it impacts student success.](#)



“This year, we sent 2,764 personalized messages directly to donors who support our student awards program. In each one, students shared how donor generosity opened doors and helped shape their future.”

Julie Gillis, director,  
Donor Relations & Stewardship  
Conestoga College Institute of Technology & Advanced Learning

A medium shot of a man with glasses and a beard, wearing a grey long-sleeved shirt, sitting at a table and talking to a woman whose back is to the camera. The woman has long, dark, curly hair and is wearing an orange sweater. They appear to be in a library or study room with wooden paneling in the background.

SHARING TIME  
AND EXPERTISE

“I’ve built lifelong friendships, leaned on my teachers for guidance and mentorship, and been encouraged to push myself further than I ever thought possible. What makes a college truly great isn’t just the buildings or the courses; it’s the people, and the people I’ve met here have made every challenge worthwhile.”

Ariann Guillermo  
student, Animation

VOLUNTEER, DONOR, FRIEND

## WITH SUPPORT, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Dan Chen's work extends beyond his role as a critical care respiratory therapist at Toronto's SickKids Hospital and Mount Sinai Hospital; he also acts as an educator, clinical researcher and personal hero to many. Raised by a single mother who is his greatest supporter and source of inspiration, Dan's compassion for patient care and commitment to enhancing health care has led him to explore other areas of his profession.

At Conestoga's 18th annual Stethoscope Ceremony, Dan Chen returned as a guest speaker to inspire the next generation of respiratory therapists. He generously shared his time, expertise and personal journey. He also presented The Lu Zhang-Chen Opportunity Scholarship, created in honour of his mother, to support students who show exceptional promise despite significant challenges.

Dan's presence and message highlight the vital role that volunteers and community partners play in student success. His story is a powerful reminder that with support, anything is possible and that every act of generosity can shape a life, launch a career and strengthen the future of our communities.

**Your industry insights and professional perspectives enrich the student experience.**



“Participating as a mentor in the Helena Webb Mentorship Program was an incredible experience and one that I hope to repeat! Chioma had insightful questions, and in sharing my own professional experiences, I was reminded how storytelling is a powerful connector.”

Dana Hardy  
senior leader, healthcare sector



#### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## VOLUNTEER DAY AT OUR COMMUNITY GARDEN

Thanks to the incredible efforts of volunteers from Gore Mutual and Conestoga College students and staff, a new community garden has taken root at our Cambridge campus — serving as a place for learning, volunteering and connection. It also adds to our growing sustainability efforts, such as our pollinator garden and solar grazing field.

In just one morning, volunteers completed nine garden beds. They worked together to remove sod, assemble frames and fill the beds with a compost mix. Meanwhile, students also teamed up to assemble a garden storage shed, made possible by funding from Gore.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Gore Mutual. Your generosity, time and continued support of Conestoga's student awards program truly make a difference.

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN EXPERIENCES

## THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS FOR HELPING US CREATE MEMORABLE, COMMUNITY-DRIVEN EXPERIENCES.

Every year, key events at Conestoga, like convocation, orientation, awards ceremonies and capstone showcases, shape the student experience in powerful and lasting ways. These gatherings create a sense of culture, connection, capability, purpose and pride — and thrive because our community shows up.



“Thank you to our community, who go above and beyond, step up and ensure everything runs smoothly. Your efforts bring events like convocation to life and impact Conestoga students as they move into the next chapter of their lives. 

@conestogachampions  
Donor Relations & Stewardship at Conestoga College

## PRESIDENT'S STUDENT AMBASSADORS: BRIDGING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE



This volunteer role empowers selected student leaders to represent Conestoga at events, connecting with valued partners, alumni, friends, employees and volunteers. Through storytelling and reflection, President's Student Ambassadors bring to life the student experience, while affirming the generosity and commitment of those who champion our students and community.

Serving as an ambassador offers a diverse group of students a unique opportunity to grow as leaders while cultivating meaningful relationships with those who support Conestoga's mission. Their presence helps build bridges between the college and its broader network of supporters and community members.



# LOOKING AHEAD



OPENING SEPTEMBER 2026!

## CONESTOGA SKILLED TRADES CAMPUS PHASE TWO

Exciting things are happening at the Conestoga Skilled Trades Campus in Cambridge as we continue to partner with industry to create one of Canada's most comprehensive trade campuses.

This second phase expansion promises to give students an exceptional college experience through an inspiring campus that will elevate the trades, erase outdated stigmas and feature amenities including esports and recreational facilities.

With the continued support of our community, we're paving the way for a new era in skilled trades education.

Renderings courtesy of Diamond Schmitt.

COMING FALL 2027!

## CENTRE FOR MEDICAL IMAGING STUDIES

Thanks to a transformative gift from Cowan, Conestoga will continue expanding medical education in Fall 2027, with a Centre for Medical Imaging Studies, providing optimal learning experiences and next-level equipment, including live ultrasound and X-ray machines, simulated CT scanners and MRI machines for students studying to become medical diagnostic specialists.

"The support of The Cowan Foundation will allow us to bring the most current state-of-the-art live and simulated equipment and leverage the latest advancements in Artificial Intelligence-enabled diagnostic services. This centre will stand as a true testament to our shared vision of transforming lives and communities," said Natalia Ronda, dean of Health and Life Sciences in the School of Health & Life Sciences.

**Your support helps us open new locations, purchase equipment, complete major campus renewal projects and launch innovative programs and research initiatives. These efforts are vital as we continue to provide exceptional education for future generations.**



The generosity and commitment of our donors, partners and friends power everything we do, bringing resources and student opportunities to life.

## YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS



Follow us on Instagram [@ConestogaChampions](#) to help celebrate our donors, partners and friends whose generosity positively impacts student success at Conestoga College.

Donor Relations & Stewardship  
[donorrelations@conestogac.on.ca](mailto:donorrelations@conestogac.on.ca)  
<https://www.conestogac.on.ca/giving>