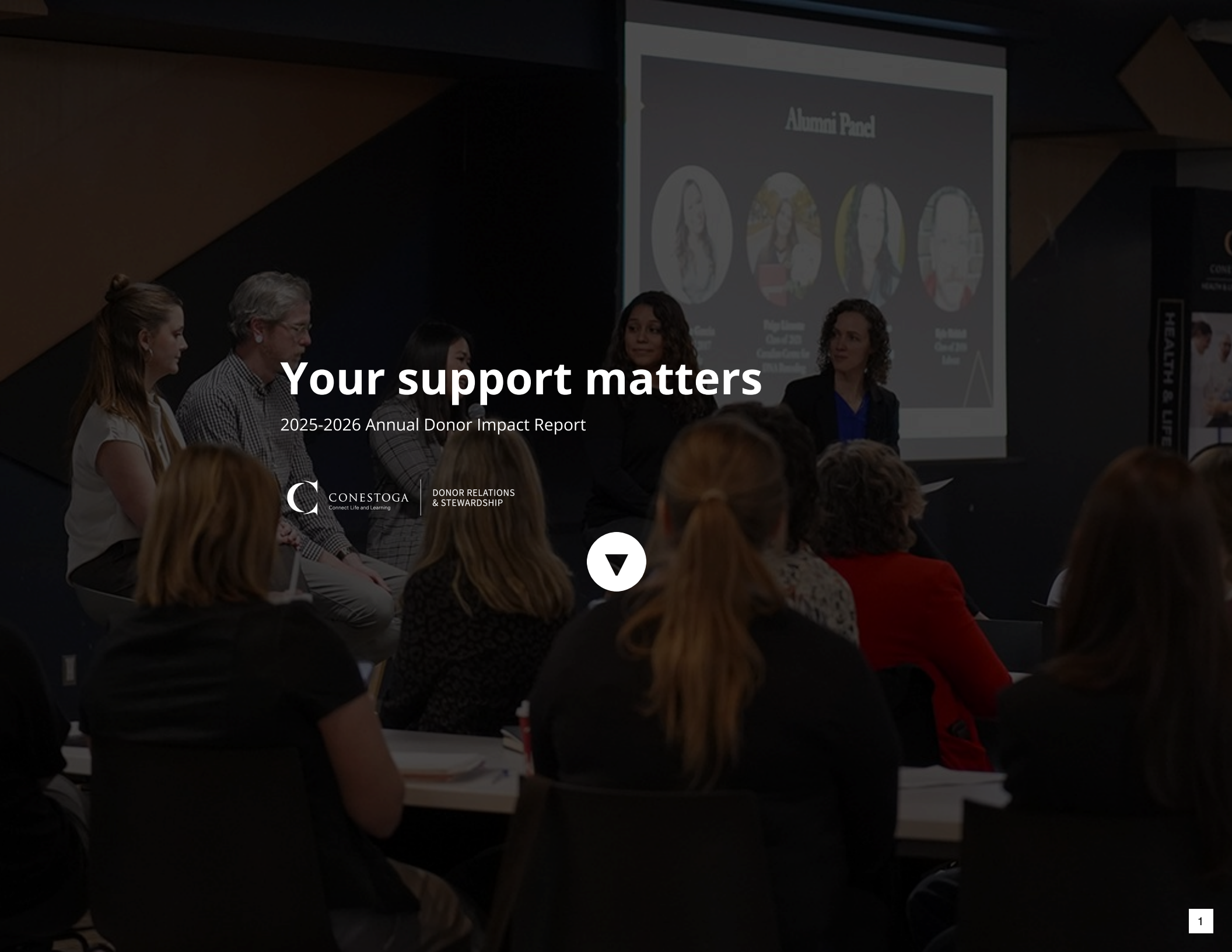


Your support matters

2025-2026 Annual Donor Impact Report

CONESTOGA
Connect Life and Learning

DONOR RELATIONS
& STEWARDSHIP

At Conestoga, our greatest impact is reflected in the success of our students and the difference they make in their communities. Behind every student's success are people like you who believe in the power of education to transform lives and create brighter futures. Because of your support, Conestoga students have more opportunities to achieve their goals, overcome barriers and build a future they are proud of.

Your generosity creates opportunities that extend far beyond the classroom. Whether mentoring a student, sharing your expertise on campus or contributing your time through committees and advisory groups, you help foster connection, belonging and student success. Scholarships, bursaries and awards ease financial pressures, recognize achievement and help students stay focused on their goals. Applied research, industry partnerships and work-integrated learning connect students with real-world experiences that prepare them for meaningful careers. Your investments also help create innovative learning environments that support the next generation of talent and leadership in communities across Ontario, throughout Canada and globally.

This report highlights the many ways your generosity is making a meaningful difference in the lives of our students, our college and our communities. As you read this report, I hope you see your own impact reflected, because every achievement shared here is one you helped make possible.

With heartfelt thanks for your belief in our students and your partnership with Conestoga.

Norma McDonald Ewing
Interim President

You make it possible

The generosity and community involvement that fuel student success.

$9,259,644

raised to fuel opportunities for deserving students



7.72% OF GIFTS WERE UNDER $100,
adding up to make a meaningful difference

68%

of Conestoga students have financial need

250K+

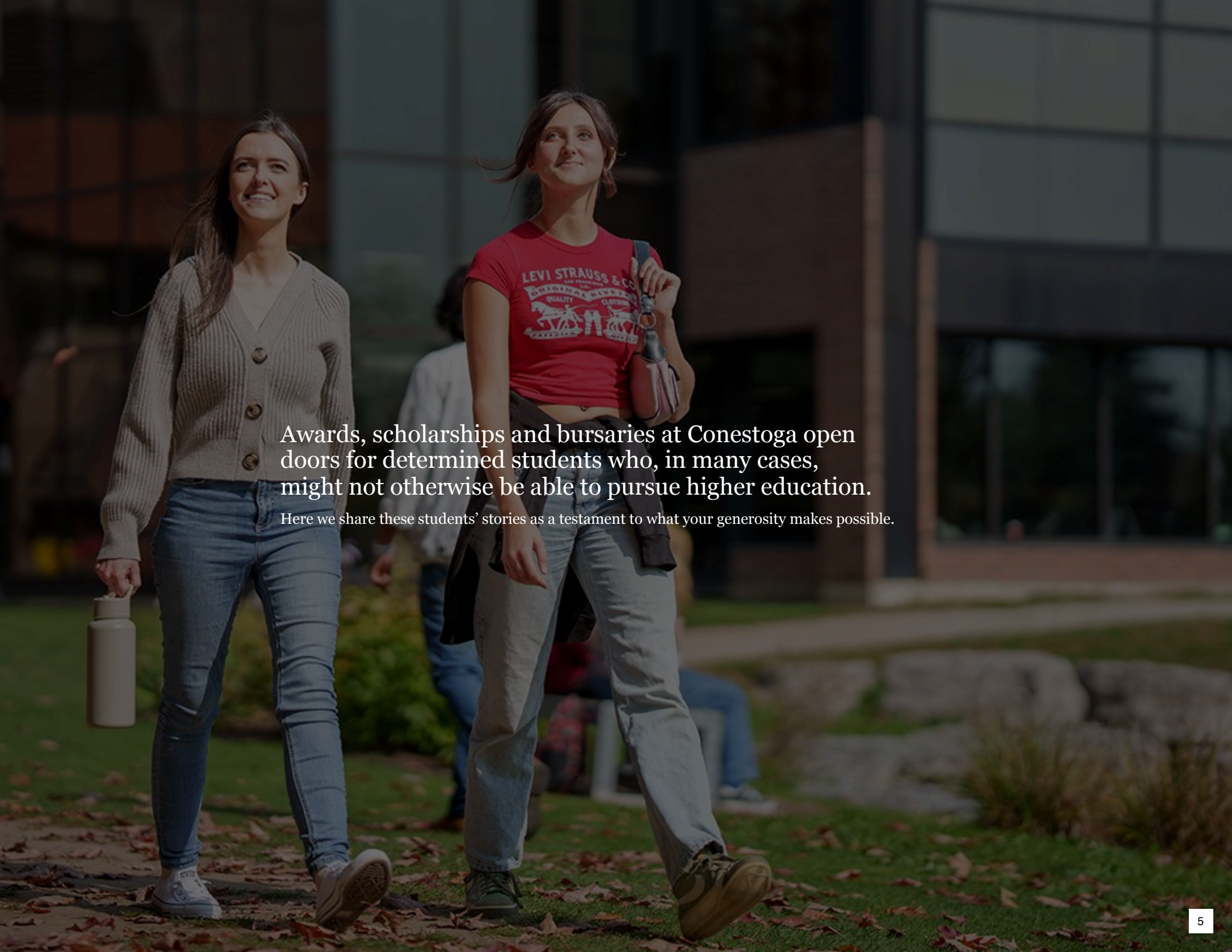
Conestoga graduates who shape industries and drive community impact

100%

of every donated dollar goes directly toward helping students succeed

“One act of generosity can change a student’s future, open doors to a meaningful career and strengthen our community for generations to come. That’s what makes it so meaningful.”

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



Awards, scholarships and bursaries at Conestoga open doors for determined students who, in many cases, might not otherwise be able to pursue higher education.

Here we share these students' stories as a testament to what your generosity makes possible.

With your generous support

1,688

Conestoga students received donor-funded awards, bursaries or scholarships

“This award was created to encourage students to see education as more than a credential - it's for shaping character, embracing global perspectives and leaving a meaningful legacy.”

Founding Donor, Padma Naraine Memorial Award

Donor-funded student awards at Conestoga often reflect something deeply personal: a desire to give back, to honour someone who made a difference, or to help create opportunities for others. Beyond recognizing student achievement, these awards often carry forward the values and experiences that inspired the gift in the first place.



I am coming from a dental background, so all this is quite new to me but I am enjoying it so far. I am most enjoying Introduction to Excel and Math amongst all the courses I have taken as of now.

My goal is obviously pass with flying colors with your help of course. I dream to become CPA certified and hopefully start my own firm one day in either financial advising or auditing. Most importantly, I look forward to giving back to my community and beyond with my expertise.

I was under immense stress with school and finances that it was affecting my grades. Your award gave me so much hope and took all of my financial stress away.

I am forever thankful and grateful for your generosity,
Estere
Business Administration



“I spent the last two years at Conestoga as a journalism student, and as a mature student who went back to school after a decade. It’s one of the best decisions I have made. Conestoga helped me gain real-world experience — I interned at CBC Kitchener-Waterloo, where I now work as a reporter. To the donor, thank you. Your support helped me pay for school and the gear I needed to succeed. For that, I will forever be grateful.”

John Carlo, Journalism

Together, we're opening doors to new possibilities

29%

of this year's award recipients were the first in their family to attend college

I chose to attend Conestoga because of its reputation for hands-on learning, commitment to preparing students for real-world careers, and because of the opportunity for a co-op placement, which will give me valuable industry knowledge.

My long-term goal is to build a career as a Powerline Technician where I can work safely and take pride in helping keep communities powered. I am motivated to keep learning, gain hands-on experience and continue developing the skills I need to succeed in this field.

Receiving this scholarship has helped reduce the financial stress of my education and has made a real difference in my school experience. It motivates me to work hard and take advantage of the opportunities ahead.

Sincerely,
Jack
Powerline Technician





“Throughout my education, there were many points at which I wanted to give up. On those days, I reminded myself why I chose to pursue a career in community and criminal justice. To give back to the community that has served me. I am honoured to receive an award that recognizes my dedication to my education and my community. As cliché as it may sound, I truly wouldn’t be here today without the support of those around me. Thank you so much.”

Olivia, Bachelor of Community and Criminal Justice

As a mature student and mother of three, I balance school and two part-time jobs as a Personal Support Worker (PSW). Navigating these demands while managing anxiety and depression has often felt overwhelming. Recently, I seriously contemplated leaving school because I feared I couldn't afford to continue.

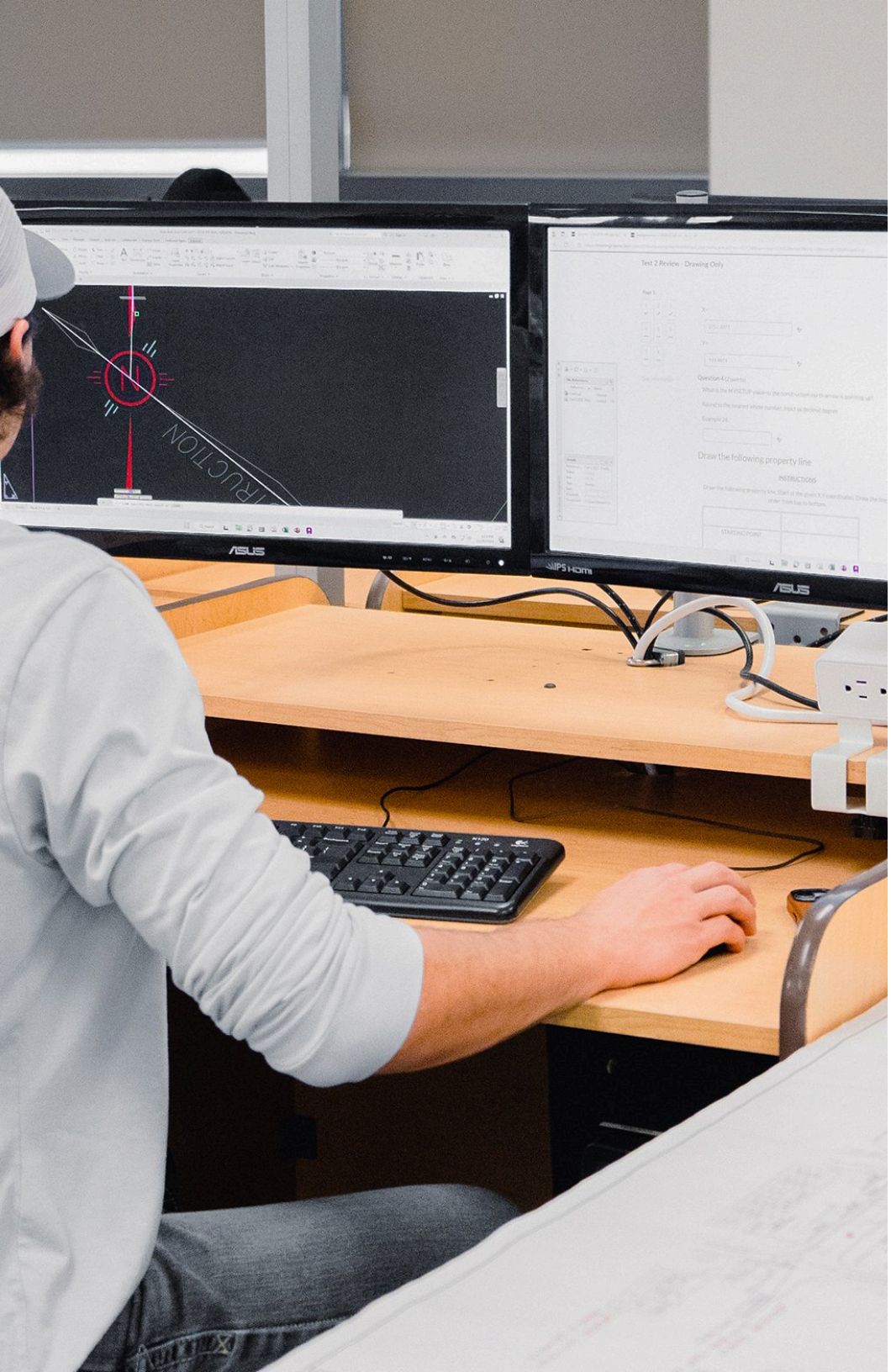
Receiving this award changed everything and now I can continue pursuing my dream of becoming a nurse. My goal is to provide the highest level of care to my future patients, drawing on my experience as a PSW, my journey as a student and my experience caring for my family.

Beyond my career, I hope to one day be in a position to pay this kindness forward by supporting other students with disabilities — showing them that their challenges do not define their potential.

Thank you fo for providing the support that allows me to keep going. You have helped a student and a mother build a better future for her children — they now see that hard work pays off and dreams can come true.

Lori
Practical Nursing





I am writing this letter as a token of gratitude. Before attending Conestoga, I was lost in the direction of my life and goofing around, wasting precious time. One day, while walking past a bridge construction site, I fell in love with the beauty of construction and started looking into what career paths were available.

I learned valuable and practical knowledge through my classes and co-op terms. I started off enjoying solving physics problems related to structures and trusses, but as time went by, I became more excited to experience land surveying and realized I want to become a professional in geomatics and land surveying.

My last three years with Conestoga were impactful and changed the course of my life. My ultimate goal is to become an Ontario Land Surveyor and support our community, as well as become a mentor for fellow Conestoga Condors.

Thanks again for your support,
Jayden
Civil Engineering Technology



“I am studying to become an early childhood educator, learning to think with an open mind, look at the facts and the bigger picture, with the hope to diminish bias created against children with ADHD — especially those misdiagnosed, like I was. I have benefited greatly from the award and purchased much-needed loop earplugs that help me focus during conversations and lessons. I am so beyond thankful to you for simply understanding that disabilities can affect a way of living, despite being seemingly invisible.”

Angelique, Early Childhood Education

My first semester at Conestoga has been amazing as I have begun to learn about the various systems involved in heavy equipment mechanics, ranging from electrical to hydraulics and everything in between. I really enjoy hands-on learning in the labs.

I want to help future apprentices by passing on the knowledge I gain in school and will continue to learn throughout my career.

I am grateful for this scholarship because it has helped me pay for tuition and invest in some of the tools needed for my apprenticeship. Thank you for your support and generosity. I hope to pay it forward one day to another deserving trade student.

Sincerely,
Nathan
Motive Power Technician - Heavy Duty Equipment





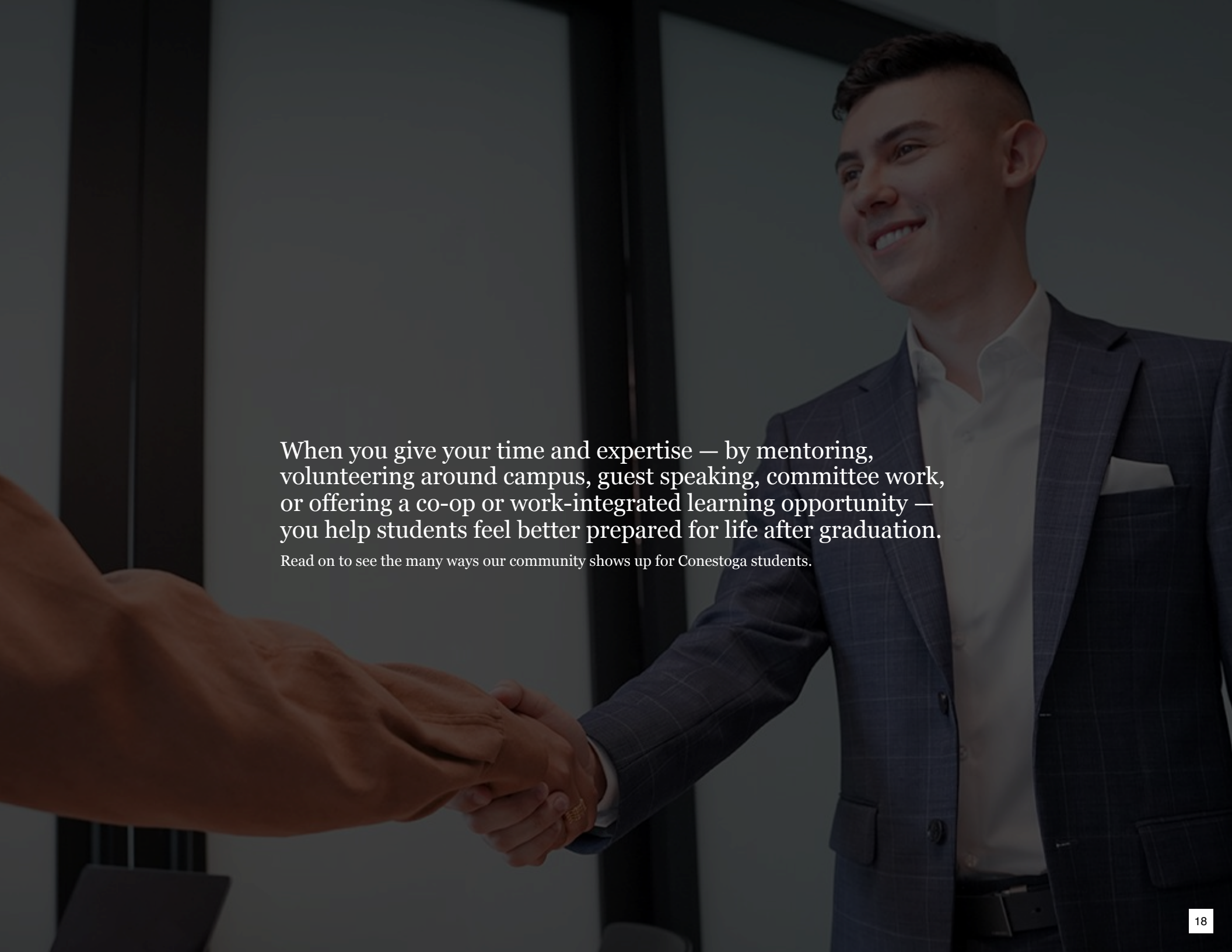
After 15 years working in chemistry for the forestry and mining industries, I needed to switch paths for health reasons. I saw a need for medical laboratory professionals and decided this as an excellent opportunity to pivot my laboratory experience to meet the needs of my community. I chose Conestoga because it allowed me to complete my studies while staying close to home, where I am an active volunteer. On my first visit to campus, I was excited to see the recently renovated, top-notch facilities.

Receiving this scholarship relieves some of the financial pressures of returning to school and allows me to focus more time and energy on my studies. When I graduate, I hope to find work at one of the rural hospitals or health clinics near my home.

I am excited to play a key role in healthcare, knowing that every sample and test that medical lab technicians handle brings us one step closer to treatment and answers for patients.

Thank you so much for helping to make this possible.

Sincerely,
ShariAnn
Medical Laboratory Assistant/Technician



When you give your time and expertise — by mentoring, volunteering around campus, guest speaking, committee work, or offering a co-op or work-integrated learning opportunity — you help students feel better prepared for life after graduation.

Read on to see the many ways our community shows up for Conestoga students.

Opening doors through co-op

2,014

co-op placements provided Conestoga students the opportunity to gain industry experience
(does not include nursing placements)

“When students connect what they’re learning to the real world, it changes what they see as possible. By sharing time, experience and industry perspective, collaborative partners help Conestoga students build the skills and confidence they need to take their next step into the workforce.”

Tina Baksh, program manager, School of Trades & Apprenticeship, Conestoga College Institute of Technology & Advanced Learning

Industry expertise in action

777

Active Program Advisory Committee volunteers share their time and industry expertise, helping to shape existing and new programs, incorporate workforce trends into the learning experience, and connect students with opportunities for ongoing professional development.



“Developing the new automation lines during my co-op term was very helpful for me to get into the mindset of trying to proactively solve issues in a design that could affect assembly or maintenance. I can definitely say that having the chance to participate in this project has improved my design skills and will help me be a better engineer in the future than I would have been otherwise.”

Augustina, Bachelor of Engineering - Mechanical Systems Engineering

The Toyota Smart Factory Learning Hub at the Cambridge – Fountain Street campus is bringing advanced manufacturing to life for School of Engineering & Technology students. This past year marked an important milestone as the first students began working on the production line, completing capstone projects across multiple stations and gaining hands-on experience that directly supports career-readiness and strengthens the future workforce.

Visit the **Toyota Smart Factory Learning Hub** for more information on how Conestoga students are gaining experiential learning opportunities in their chosen fields and how the hub also brings together Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada Inc. (TMMC), its affiliates, suppliers and other industry partners, strengthening the connection between education and industry.

Sharing knowledge; empowering women

In March, students from Conestoga's School of Engineering & Technology, the School of Applied Computer Science & IT, and the School of Trades & Apprenticeship came together at the Cambridge - Fountain Street campus for an all-day conference, organized by a committee of female student leaders, to celebrate International Women's Day.

> "We wanted to make women feel empowered. We didn't want to highlight only the struggles they might face, but the amazing things they do."

Sophia Padalino, co-chair of the conference committee, Architecture - Project and Facility Management student

The day included workshops on leadership, communication, networking and allyship, along with a panel discussion with Conestoga leaders and a networking session. Guest speakers ranged from experienced professionals to women just starting their careers, including engineering project coordinator and Conestoga alumna Zoe Talbot. "Having a recent graduate present was great. Students can relate more to someone who is just starting out in their field," said Sophia.

These volunteers do more than fill a spot on the program; they help students see what's possible and find a sense of belonging in their chosen fields. As Padalino explained, "There are women who go into STEM or similar fields and leave because they don't have a community. Events like this can make women feel like they have a place and give them the chance to form connections."

Read the full story.



Learning and growing together

95%

of mentors said they would return to participate in the Helena Webb Mentorship Program

The Helena Webb Mentorship Program is a blended, competencies-based mentorship opportunity that connects final-year students with leaders to explore career pathways, build professional networks and boost career readiness skills. Visit the Talent Hub for more information.

“Participating was a truly rewarding experience. I appreciated the opportunity to get to know my mentee, learn from their perspective and share my experiences along the way. It was meaningful to contribute to their professional growth and give back to someone just beginning their career.”

Stephanie Marks, mentor, Helena Webb Mentorship Program

Mentoring offers industry professionals a rewarding chance to share their knowledge and experience, help shape the next generation of talent and learn from the fresh perspectives students bring. Visit the Talent Hub to learn how strong employer partnerships help Conestoga students succeed and organizations thrive.

Alumni who stay close. Donors who believe in the next step. Partners who help shape pathways. Employees who go all-in. Students who rise and then reach back. Conestoga brings together a wide range of voices in support of one shared purpose: helping students take the next step toward their future careers. It's community in action, where everything comes full circle.

Throughout the year, Conestoga students showcase the skills and knowledge they've built through projects, research and hands-on learning. At events such as the Tech Showcase, Mechanical Capstone Showcase, the Woodworking Showcase and the Biotechnology Research Symposium and Awards Ceremony, industry professionals have a chance to see that work up close, offer feedback, judge projects and share their own experiences. For students, these conversations are as valuable as the opportunity to present what they've accomplished.

And that support often starts well before the day of the event, with industry professionals mentoring students through their capstone projects or offering work-in-learning experiences that collectively help prepare students for successful future careers.

Whether you volunteer your time as a mentor or judge, speak at a campus event, or provide students the chance to build a network, you're helping Conestoga students connect their education to the real world and gain insights in their chosen fields.





From new learning spaces to innovative programs, equipment, tools and initiatives, you help enrich the Conestoga student experience, so they can build the knowledge and confidence needed to transition into careers and adapt to the evolving needs of their industries.

Here are some of the ways your generosity has made a difference on campus this past year.

Because of you

$561,529

in gifts-in-kind, such as industry-grade tools, equipment, vehicles, mechanical components and various materials, provide Conestoga students with resources they use to put their learning into practice



“It was our pleasure to make this donation. We hope the materials will assist future students enrolled in the Construction Techniques - Brick and Stone program offered at Conestoga. Education and training are the foundation for securing a good future for all!”

Eddy Beland, Core Tec Contracting

Generous gifts of materials provide Conestoga students with resources for practical applications, supporting the development of essential skills and helping prepare the next generation of professionals for successful futures.

With your support

4,000+

students and apprentices study at the Conestoga Skilled Trades Campus each year





“It’s a unique opportunity for us to provide a space and opportunities for others to grow into our industry.”

Nate Toews, Collaborative Structures Limited

The Conestoga Skilled Trades Campus is a place where students develop skills and experience to build successful careers in the skilled trades. With specialized shops and labs across two completed phases, the second of which just welcomed its first cohort of students in September, the centre helps prepare graduates to meet the growing demand for skilled trades professionals across the country.

This vision has become a reality thanks to dedicated partners who believe in Conestoga students and the opportunities skilled trades education can create.

Among them is Collaborative Structures Limited (CSL), whose connection to Conestoga is personal: three of its four business partners are Conestoga graduates. After helping build both phases of the skilled trades campus, CSL saw an opportunity to extend its involvement beyond construction and continues to invest in the next generation by employing graduates, supporting apprentices and welcoming co-op students.

As our donors and industry partners invest in spaces where future trades professionals will learn, they help students turn their education into opportunity. The impact of the Conestoga Skilled Trades Campus will be measured for generations to come through a stronger workforce and the communities that depend on it.

“This accreditation is an important recognition of the strength of our programs and the success of our students. It confirms that graduates are prepared with the competencies needed to enter the workforce and support quality health care in communities across Ontario”

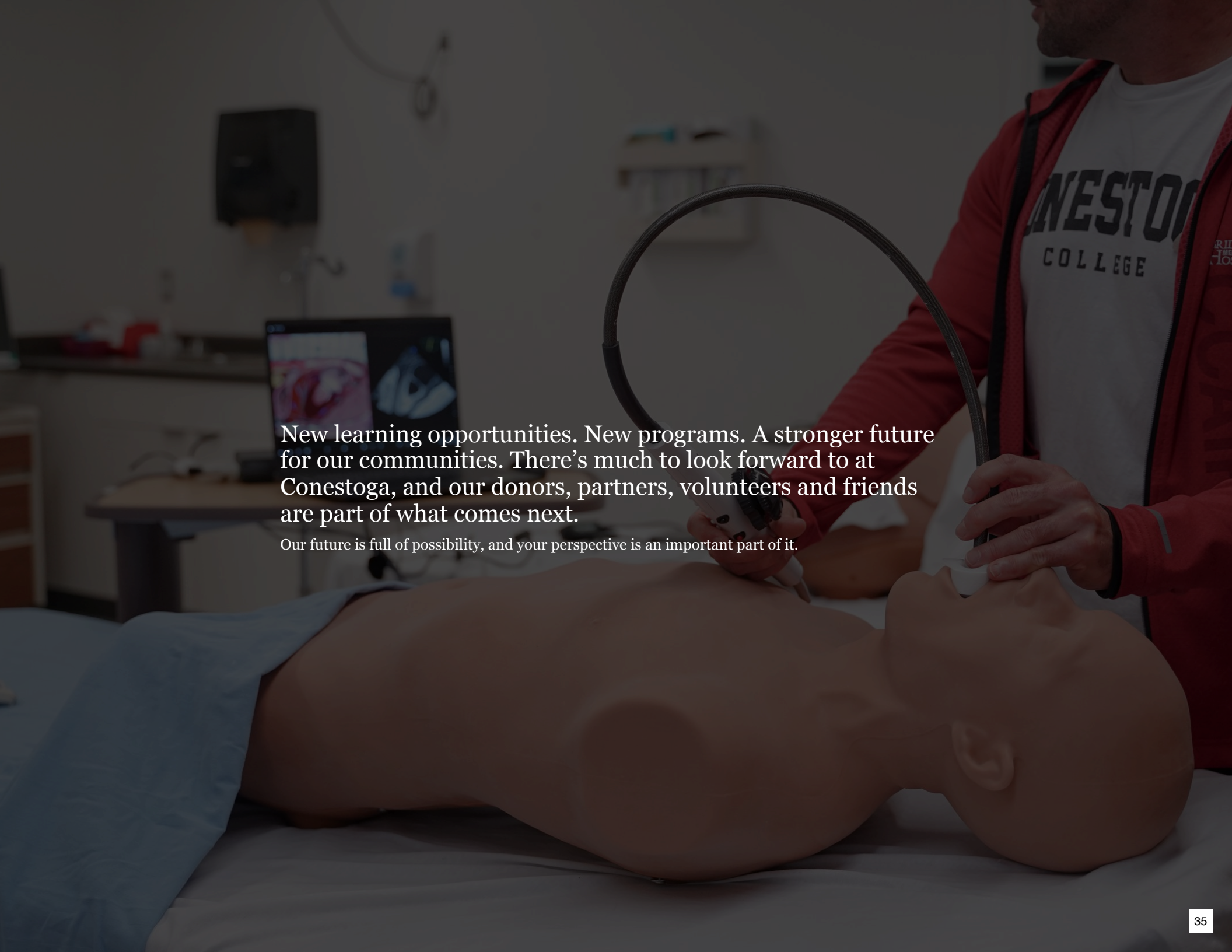
Curt Monk, Chair, Informatics and Life Sciences, Conestoga College Institute of Technology & Advanced Learning

Donor-funded laboratories and state-of-the-art equipment at Cowan Centre for Medical Science and Biotechnology are helping students turn classroom learning into practical expertise. In 2025–26, 257 Medical Laboratory Science students used the specialized lab facilities to develop the skills they will carry into their future careers.

The value of these learning environments was recognized in September, when Conestoga’s Medical Laboratory Science and Medical Laboratory Assistant/Technician programs were awarded “Accredited with Condition” status. The accreditation report noted that a particular strength of the program is its exceptional facilities: “Well-equipped laboratories and simulation resources support students to develop and refine their skills before entering the programs’ clinical practicums.” Accreditation confirms that the programs meet nationally recognized quality standards and are preparing graduates with the knowledge and skills required by the profession. Read the full story.

The impact of donor support is also reflected in graduate success, with many students securing employment in laboratory, research and biotechnology roles. Co-op employers consistently comment on the strong technical skills, professionalism and confidence our students bring to the workplace, made possible by the high-quality facilities and equipment available to them.





New learning opportunities. New programs. A stronger future for our communities. There's much to look forward to at Conestoga, and our donors, partners, volunteers and friends are part of what comes next.

Our future is full of possibility, and your perspective is an important part of it.


C-WING
School of
Health & Life
Sciences





> “Ontario is experiencing long wait times for diagnostic imaging services; a key component to supporting capacity-building across Ontario is a steady supply of diagnostic imaging graduates.”
>
> Natalia Ronda, Dean, Health and Life Sciences in the School of Health & Life Sciences, Conestoga College Institute of Technology & Advanced Learning

The new Cowan Centre for Medical Imaging Studies, scheduled to open at the Kitchener - Doon campus in fall 2027, will offer the most comprehensive set of training programs for in-demand health-care professionals, alongside the award-winning Cowan Centre for Medical Sciences and Biotechnology and the established Cowan Health Sciences Centre.

With advanced ultrasound and X-ray equipment, simulated CT and MRI technology, and clinical placement opportunities developed with regional hospital partners, the centre is expected to prepare approximately 200 medical imaging students each year. It’s an exciting step forward in helping address the region’s health-care workforce needs. Read the full story.

In medical laboratory education, we’re working toward full accreditation while supporting students as they prepare for their regulatory exams. Each milestone brings us closer to our shared goal: preparing graduates to make a meaningful difference in their professions and communities.

Across Conestoga's nine areas of study, donors, partners and friends help bring learning to life. Every contribution makes a difference in students' lives today, and in the communities they'll shape tomorrow. By supporting student success, innovation and experiential learning, you help develop the talent, skills and expertise that employers and communities rely on. Thank you for being such an important part of making that possible.

CONESTOGA
Connect Life and Learning

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& STEWARDSHIP

Follow us on Instagram @ConestogaChampions to celebrate those who positively impact student success at Conestoga.

Email: donorrelations@conestogac.on.ca
https://www.conestogac.on.ca/giving