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**Ontario's Universities:
Transforming Communities,
Transforming Lives.**

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“Being engaged in your community – I think that’s the most important thing all of us can do.”

— Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario

Ontario’s universities know how important it is not only to train and equip students for career and life success, but also to reach beyond the walls of campus and lift up communities. Through partnerships that spark service learning, or community-based opportunities that enrich the learning experience and also improve lives, many thousands of students, faculty and staff are actively engaging with the 33 communities where Ontario universities are rooted. Some start their own initiatives, creating non-profit organizations, outreach programs, or inventing innovative products that solve critical issues around the globe. Students have won hundreds of awards for their work, and often find or create jobs out of these experiences.

Universities offer free dental clinics, mentorship activities, start-up programs and much more. The examples of community transformation showcased in this report are just a sample of university initiatives – many of Ontario’s universities have their own versions of programs listed, often adapted for the specific needs of the communities they work with.



The economic impact of universities is truly remarkable – according to a 2014 report by the Conference Board of Canada, postsecondary institutions generate more than \$55 billion in economic activity every year. Almost 700,000 direct and indirect jobs are attributable to spending by postsecondary institutions.

Towns and cities surrounding these institutions also benefit from off-campus student spending, which can generate as much as \$17.5 billion in economic activity.

There are countless examples of universities propelling economies in this province. Large universities bring in many billions – the largest university in Ontario contributes \$15.7 billion to the economy every year – while mid-sized universities each generate about \$2.5 billion. And the impact of universities on communities extends far beyond economics.

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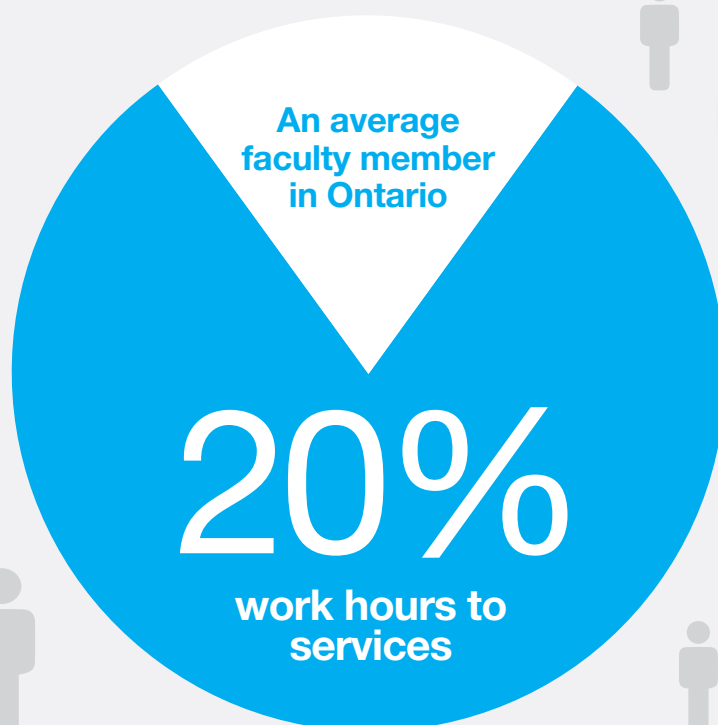
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Tens of thousands of dedicated faculty members, staff and students demonstrate the value of universities every day by making their communities more progressive, compassionate and innovative.

According to a recent report on faculty work, an average faculty member in Ontario devotes about 20 per cent of their work hours to services, such as informing policy and using their skills and knowledge to enhance communities on local, national and global scales.

This report provides an overview of the many ways universities are enriching their communities and inspiring success.



Building the potential of every child

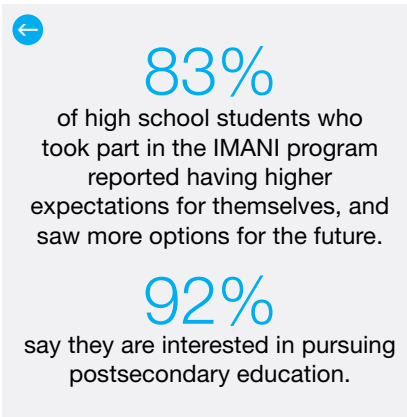
By cultivating strong relationships with organizations that support children and youth, universities are helping to set up young people for healthy, prosperous and fulfilling lives.



Universities are developing partnerships with local, regional and national organizations to give students learning opportunities that lift up their communities.

For struggling elementary and secondary school students, access to a supportive relationship with a caring adult at school can mark the difference between success and failure.

For almost 10 years, the University of Toronto Scarborough's IMANI Academic Mentorship Program has offered academic and social support to middle and high school students living in east Scarborough, reaching out to youth in the black community. A partnership between the university's Black Students' Alliance and the East Scarborough Boys & Girls Club, the program pairs university students with youth for weekly mentoring in the form of tutoring, preparation for postsecondary and leadership development.



University of Toronto Scarborough IMANI Program.
Photo credit: Ken Jones

Knowing what an important role mentorship can play, Carleton University created a program that pairs university students with Aboriginal youth.

The Aboriginal High School Mentorship Program takes place in Ottawa classrooms and focuses on dispelling myths about higher education while offering learning strategies and practical advice to students, acting as a bridge between high school and post-secondary education. It has encouraged countless students to pursue higher education and won an Ashoka Changemakers Award in 2012.

Getting children excited about reading can set them up for academic and career success for years to come. Education students at Nipissing University developed NU Reads, a club that encourages North Bay children to cultivate a love for reading while improving their literacy skills. The club brings low-income children together with university students to facilitate discussions about books. The students launched the club in 2009 as part of a course that encouraged them to create initiatives that help people in their communities.

A free, interactive educational series for children has travelled to communities in and around Hamilton, inspiring kids aged seven to 14 to get excited about learning. Sessions by the McMaster Children and Youth University are designed to spark curiosity about research, while teaching progressive topics to create more compassionate communities. There have been lectures on the human body, Aboriginal contributions to Canada and perceptions of disability. The monthly sessions each attract 200 young people from almost 100 schools in Ontario, and are targeted at families that haven't had the opportunity to pursue postsecondary education.

It's important for children to be studious, but play is also an essential part of development.

Founded in 2007 by students at Western University, Learning it Together pairs university mentors with elementary school students of lower socio-economic statuses in London, challenging children to learn and grow through play. The free eight-week after-school program focuses on literacy, numeracy and skills needed to live a healthy and active life.

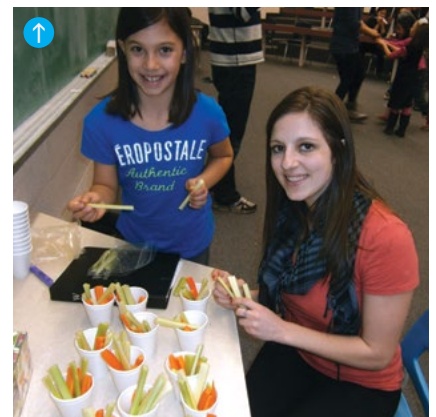


McMaster Children and Youth University Graduates. Photo credit: McMaster University



“I could not ask for better role models for my students than the dedicated volunteers of the Learning it Together program.”

Joe Sheik, former Principal
Lord Elgin Public School



Learning It Together. Photo credit: Western University

Ryerson University's new Mattamy Athletic Centre isn't just giving the Rams, or varsity athletes, a competitive edge – it is home to an important learning program for young people in underprivileged neighbourhoods.

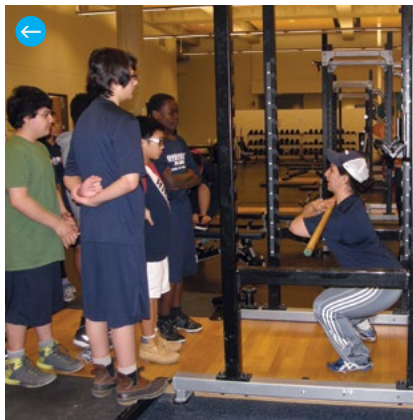
The Centre houses Rams-in-Training, a free program that fosters relationships between university athletes and students in grades seven to 10. The youth learn how to play hockey, and take evening workshops for 10 weeks while learning about postsecondary options. The sessions are led by student athletes, police officers and nutrition students, and the program is a partnership between Ryerson, Toronto police, Loblaw and the Pathways to Education program in the social housing neighbourhood Regent Park.

Urban farming is now being taught to elementary school students. Algoma University offers an urban farming summer day camp for children in grades four to eight. The camp focuses on science concepts these students are learning in the classroom, but instead of having to sit and listen to a lecture, the students get their hands dirty with active lessons. Teachings draw on First Nations perspectives on topics such as food security, nutrition and food preparation.

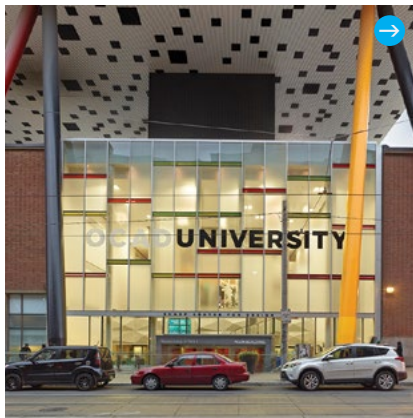


"The biggest transformation was not witnessed on the ice or in the gym – it was through the children's eyes. You could see their engagement and awe whether it was through lacing up for the first time, cooking food, or creating new friendships."

Nella Brodett
student-athlete on the Ryerson Rams women's hockey team



Rams in Training. Photo credit: Ryerson University



OCAD University. Photo credit: Shai Gil.

Since females remain vastly underrepresented in the engineering profession, Go ENG Girl, held once a year at the University of Guelph and many other universities in Ontario, is raising awareness about engineering among girls in grades seven to 10. More than 125 girls participate in hands-on workshops and meet with professional and student female engineers, with the goal of providing the knowledge and encouragement necessary for these young girls to consider engineering as a future career.

A multi-sector partnership led by OCAD University is helping young people facing complex barriers to employment such as learning disabilities and mental health challenges to gain competencies in addressing a growing demand for inclusively designed or accessible products and services. For example, the youth learn about and develop products and services required by accessibility legislation. Project Outside-In received \$200,000 from the Ontario government to mentor and provide training to these youth, and to eventually support them as service entrepreneurs.

Transforming local economies

Universities inject billions of dollars into the cities of this province each year, and are therefore a core component of Ontario's economic growth.



In today's global, knowledge-based economy, partnerships between universities, government and businesses are essential. Universities prepare the employees the job market depends on, while creating countless inventions and spin-off businesses by inspiring entrepreneurship.

The economic impact that universities bring is felt across communities, regions, and the entire country. The University of Toronto, for example, contributes \$15.7 billion to the Canadian economy every year as the largest university in Canada. The U of T has a vibrant community of more than 20,000 faculty and staff, and 80,000 students across three distinctive campuses and several partner sites. It attracts \$1.1 billion in research funding each year and generates \$83 million in research and development through industry collaborations. The university has produced 152 research institutes and centres and 252 licensed inventions.

→

"In our wildest dreams, we did not expect what has happened here. It grew so quickly, it was beyond anything anyone imagined. Postsecondary completely changed our culture, it completely changed our focus. It has been the catalyst for the growth and revitalization we are seeing throughout the entire city."

Chris Friel, Brantford Mayor



Carnegie Building on the Brantford campus.
Photo Credit: Wilfrid Laurier University

There's no question that universities act as economic pillars for their communities, and the impact is felt even more poignantly in areas that are struggling. In the late 1990s, Brantford was devastated by the collapse of a once-thriving manufacturing sector. All of that changed in 1999 when Wilfrid Laurier University opened a small satellite campus. Since then, downtown Brantford has been reborn as a bustling centre of cultural, academic and social activity. Laurier's ongoing partnerships with other higher education institutions, including Conestoga College and community groups such as the YMCA and the Six Nations Community, have been crucial to the revitalization.

Universities can be the impetus for the exponential growth of industries and businesses in certain regions. Kitchener-Waterloo has become a high-tech hub with a talent pool from each of its local universities – the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University. As well as attracting many thousands of students each year, their presence and outreach enhances the operations of local businesses and community organizations. A study conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers in 2013 shows that the University of Waterloo alone generates \$2.6 billion in total annual spending and creates 20,000 jobs in Ontario. It also found that for every dollar the provincial government spends on the university, the institution returns nearly nine times that amount to the province.



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VineAlert significantly reduces economic loss among Ontario's

500

grape growers by monitoring cold-hardiness across the Niagara Peninsula, Lake Erie North Shore and Prince Edward County at vineyards in each region.



“To have research done on vineyards is invaluable when making business decisions regarding wind machine use.”

Trevor Falk
 Niagara-on-the-Lake grape grower

Grape-growing and wine-making is a \$3.3-billion industry in Ontario that receives enormous support from Brock University. For instance, Brock's VineAlert program helps growers avoid millions of dollars in crop damage from a single cold-weather event. The program tracks the threshold where grape buds will be damaged by cold temperatures, and alerts grape growers to switch on wind machines or use other freeze avoidance methods.

University partnerships with government provide critical economic foundations for Ontario's towns and cities. The University of Windsor recently partnered with the province and the City of Windsor to bring campus life to the downtown core. What is now a \$75-million development project also includes contributions of \$15 million from the province and \$10 million from the city to support a new campus that will house the School of Social Work, the Centre for Executive and Professional Education and the School of Creative Arts. The campus is already contributing to a major economic revitalization in Windsor's core.

Similarly, the University of Ontario Institute of Technology has expanded its campus to downtown Oshawa. This move has helped revitalize the city's downtown core with more than 2,600 students and staff visiting 58 restaurants, as well as dozens of shops and services in the area. Trent University also provides increased educational opportunities for students in this high-growth area with its Oshawa campus of 900 students.



Laurentian Green Walkway. Rendering by LGA-Architectural Partners.

September 2014 saw the opening of Queen's University's Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts on the Kingston waterfront.

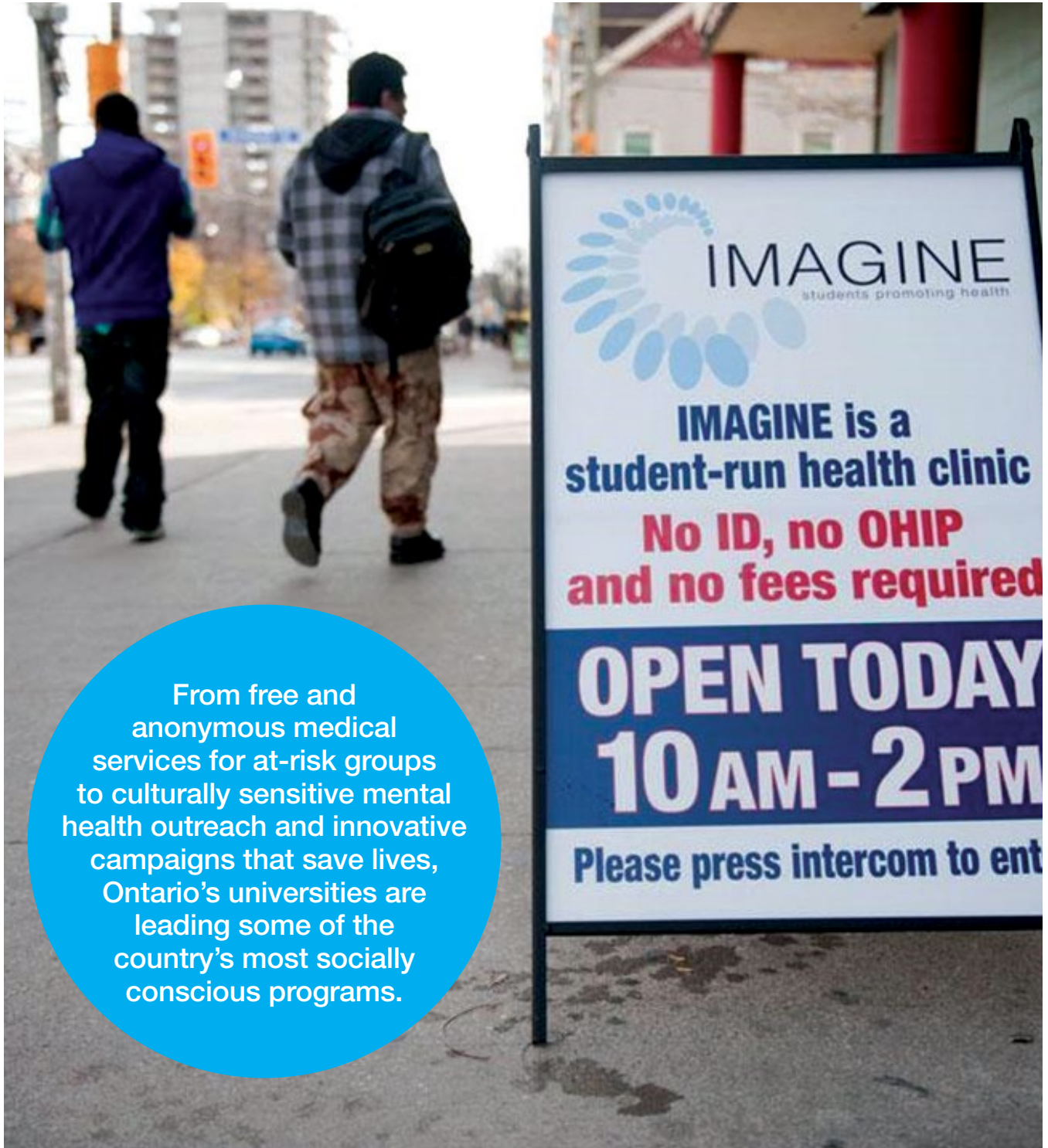
The 80,000 square foot facility is home to the university's creative arts disciplines and provides a hub for interdisciplinary artistic study, creation and exhibition. It also boasts a state-of-the-art concert hall, a film screening room and a flexible theatre space. Built with support from all three levels of government, as well as substantial philanthropy, the facility integrates a number of historic buildings into an award-winning contemporary design.

A creative and cultural transformation to Sudbury's downtown began in 2013 as Laurentian University's School of Architecture renovated and repurposed the former CP Rail Freight Shed and the CP Telegraph Building. A new wing will connect the existing structures and form a spacious inner courtyard, welcoming pedestrian traffic through the downtown core.

Another institution enhancing its urban core with an arts community is Brock University, which is relocating its arts campus to downtown St. Catharines in 2015. The new facility will bring 500 students, faculty and staff to the city's downtown.

Collaborations across Ontario are creating new visions and plans for renewal of regional economies. In 2013, Lakehead University announced the creation of the President's Advisory Councils on Economic Development in Northwestern Ontario and Simcoe County to identify ways the university can play an even more integral role for these economies. Members of the councils include representatives from various industries, bringing together top private sector executives, Aboriginal community members and economists to advise Lakehead's President on the university's role in regional economic development.

Innovation improving the health of Ontarians



From free and anonymous medical services for at-risk groups to culturally sensitive mental health outreach and innovative campaigns that save lives, Ontario's universities are leading some of the country's most socially conscious programs.



IMAGINE
students promoting health

**IMAGINE is a
student-run health clinic**
**No ID, no OHIP
and no fees required**

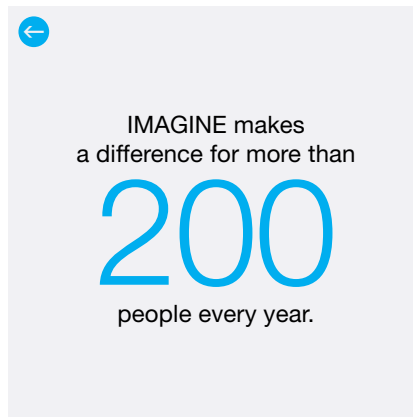
**OPEN TODAY
10 AM - 2 PM**

Please press intercom to enter

Universities contribute enormously to the financial well-being of their communities, but their work also greatly benefits the health of Ontarians.

Since 2010, a student-led clinic has been making a difference for Toronto's most vulnerable community members.

Homeless and disadvantaged residents of the city are offered help every Saturday at a clinic run by University of Toronto students. The Interprofessional Medical and Allied Groups for Improving Neighbourhood Environments (IMAGINE) clinic is free and anonymous, offering treatment by doctors, pharmacists, social workers, physiotherapists and nurses, and students who treat patients under the supervision of professionals. IMAGINE makes a difference for more than 200 people every year.



University of Toronto IMAGINE volunteers.

The Connected Health and Wellness Project provides an innovative approach to lifelong wellness through improved access to health information, coaching and technology advancements.

York University, McMaster University, NexJ Systems and 16 other partners and affiliates are working to enable patients, family and professional care teams to collaboratively manage health and wellness through the use of mobile technology that supports healthcare services, resulting in better outcomes and integration by hospitals, clinics and practitioners. York is also developing a training program, curriculum and standards for health coaching, an emerging profession providing expert health advice and support.



Western University's Dental Outreach Community Service program.

A mobile dental unit is bringing free dental care to low-income families across London. Western University's Dental Outreach Community Service program, delivered through the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, has travelled to various community centres to complete examinations, cleanings, fillings, tooth extractions and simple denture delivery. Like similar programs at other universities in Ontario, those in need benefit, and the volunteer-based program gives dental students practical experience and teaches comprehensive care in a team environment.



Schlegel-University of Waterloo Research Institute for Aging (RIA).

An aging population brings a host of challenges to local communities, and universities are leading the charge to train those who will treat them.

The University of Waterloo is a leader in a collaborative effort to build a pioneering institute that will bring long-term care services, research and teaching activities together to improve seniors' lives, while training the next generation of front-line staff.

Launching in 2015, the institute is a partnership between the university, Schlegel-UW Research Institute for Aging, Schlegel Villages, and Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning.

Bone marrow donors save lives, but it's incredibly difficult to find them. To encourage people to register as donors, former Trent University student **David Smyth** initiated **cheek-swab testing days**. The cause was close to home for Smyth, who was a leukemia patient himself. The campaign, Get Swabbed, is now in its fifth year and extends to university, college and high school students across the country to recruit potential donors. Although Smyth was unable to find a match and lost his battle with leukemia in 2010, his efforts live on through the lives he has helped save with this ongoing campaign.



McMaster University's Healthy Active Living Group.

The most innovative healthcare can go unused if people do not think that it's aligned with their cultural or religious values.

Graduate students and alumni from McMaster University's Healthy Active Living Group are visiting Muslim organizations from Hamilton to Toronto to talk about nutrition, fitness and mental health in a religious and cultural context. The group speaks to audiences of new Canadians who may not be aware that there are Muslim counsellors who understand their cultural or religious circumstances and can treat them in a context that is comfortable.



In 2013 more than

12,100

students, and multiple universities in Ontario, participated in Get Swabbed.

Building up communities

Creating inclusive, forward-looking programs alongside leading research.



Ontario's universities are involved in their communities at every level in this province and work closely with local organizations to tackle issues such as violence, bullying and mental illness.

Many adults have never had the opportunity to attend university. Humanities 101 is a community-based outreach program at Lakehead University's Thunder Bay and Orillia campuses that ensures that community members have access to university-level education despite financial or social barriers. Participants are 18 to 80 years old, and learn about a wide variety of topics through the program. They are also provided with a student ID to take advantage of all of the services at the university, as well as transportation, child or elder care support and meals, thanks to multiple community partners. To-date, 325 students have taken part in the program. A similar program exists at McMaster University, Trent University Durham, and several other universities in Ontario.



Lakehead University's Humanities 101 Program.

The Poverty and Social Policy Externship Pilot Program is a partnership between the University of Windsor's Faculty of Law and Pathway to Potential, a collaborative anti-poverty network funded by the City of Windsor and County of Essex, and supported by the United Way Windsor-Essex. The project provides learning and research opportunities for law students in critical anti-poverty areas: living wage, social enterprise, food security and transportation. The program enhances policy-focused experiential learning opportunities for the Faculty, and helps reduce and prevent poverty in Windsor-Essex.



Professor Debra Pepler has partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada, Australia, Ireland, New Zealand and Russia; Red Cross Canada; and Scouts Canada, reaching hundreds of thousands of youth.

York University Professor Debra Pepler is training adults across Canada to model and promote healthy social skills and relationships for children, preventing violence by breaking patterns that are likely to carry into adulthood. The Healthy Relationships Training Module was developed with Queen's University Professor Wendy Craig and clinician Dr. Joanne Cummings. Pepler has partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada, Australia, Ireland, New Zealand and Russia; Red Cross Canada; and Scouts Canada, reaching hundreds of thousands of youth.



The exhibit "Walking With Our Sisters" has been travelling around North America to feature

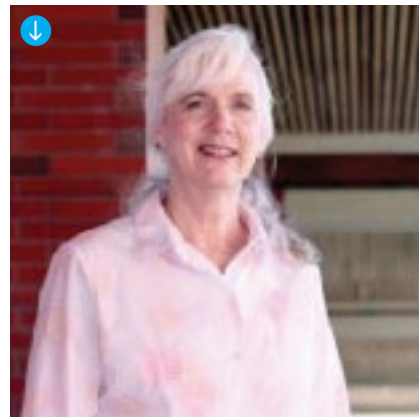
1,726

pairs of moccasin tops or vamps to honour the nearly

1,200

Indigenous women and girls who have been missing and murdered in Canada since 1980.

Artists bring new light to misunderstood topics and can make profound political statements with their work. The exhibit "Walking With Our Sisters" has been travelling around North America to feature 1,726 pairs of moccasin tops or vamps to honour the nearly 1,200 Indigenous women and girls who have been missing and murdered in Canada since 1980. At the exhibit, viewers remove their shoes and walk on a path alongside the vamps. Algoma University will feature the exhibit in 2015 to give voice to the important issue in the Sault Ste. Marie community.



Professor Wendy Stanyon
University of Ontario Institute of Technology.

Helping police officers identify signs of people experiencing mental health issues was the foundation of a partnership between Durham Regional Police and the University of Ontario Institute of Technology. Professor Wendy Stanyon created a series of police simulation videos, which have been used to educate thousands of police officers to recognize possible indicators of mental illness and respond appropriately. A second video series was recently created to raise awareness about elder abuse, which brought in more community partners. Together, the simulations involved partnerships with the Ontario Provincial Police, Durham Region, and several seniors' groups. The videos are now mandatory training for several police services, and are in high demand around Canada and abroad.

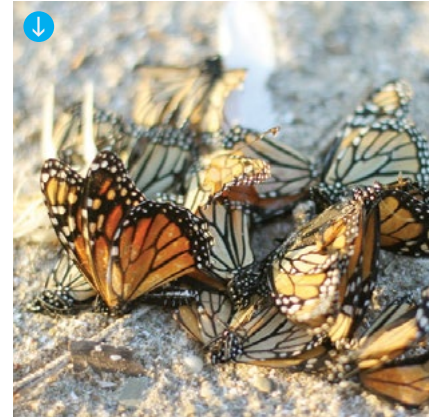


Photo from OCAD University's exhibition: Generations of Queer. Photo credit: Kiley May.

As an official partner of the first WorldPride in Toronto, OCAD University provided a strong community voice for the event, complete with a thought-provoking exhibition and blog. The university created the Queer Pride Chronicles, a blog that remains active, to profile stories about coming out and the significance of Pride. OCAD University also staged the compelling exhibition Generations of Queer: Robert Flack / John Greyson / Elisha Lim / Kiley May. The exhibition centred on a dialogue between the work of two senior artists and younger artists who are the beneficiaries of their activism.

Trent University's Lauren Ostrowski wanted to have an impact on her community before she entered the workforce. Through a university partnership with the Trent Centre for Community Based Education, the forensic science student developed a protocol for victim services workers who interact with families who have lost loved ones to homicide or sudden death. The protocol, which resulted from a partnership with the Peterborough-Lakefield Community Police Service, gives support workers the tools to communicate about these sensitive issues, helping to create more compassionate communities.

Wilfrid Laurier offers, **Introduction to Community Engagement, a course that introduces students to concepts of social inclusion, local democracy, distributive economics, and community development.** The course requires intensive on-the-ground learning experiences that take place in Kitchener's urban core through a partnership with The Working Centre, a non-profit that addresses unemployment and poverty, and engages citizens in creative solutions to community issues. The course is part of Laurier's multi-community, multi-campus Community Service-Learning program, which more than 1,500 undergraduates take part in each year.



In reimagining a North Bay garbage dump, Nipissing University students are helping to save a rapidly declining species, the Monarch butterfly. At the Marsh Drive dump, students are growing and planting milkweed, the only plant that caterpillars eat and Monarch butterflies lay eggs on. Now milkweed-rich, the old dump site is being transformed into a sanctuary for these butterflies, and the project is providing community partners with an important service while equipping students with leadership experience. The project is part of the Flora of Northern Ontario biology course at Nipissing, and involves partnerships with Nipissing Naturalists and the City of North Bay.

When campus impact spans the globe

Many students are developing their own organizations, programs and products that are contributing significantly to worldwide communities while strengthening Ontario's global standing.



For Ontario to remain globally competitive, international partnerships and collaborations are essential.

Universities are leading numerous global projects that have students building bridges to other parts of the world.

Cambodia has the highest rate of iron deficiency in the world, affecting 44 per cent of the population and resulting in an estimated \$70 billion of lost GDP.

Chris Charles, a PhD student at the University of Guelph, became a social entrepreneur when his studies led to the creation of the Lucky Iron Fish. When placed in a cooking pot, this product can provide 75 per cent of the recommended daily intake of iron for anemic people. Living in Cambodia for almost five years, Charles distributed the product to villagers who continue to use it to boost their iron levels. The project was recently awarded \$500,000 through Grand Challenges Canada.



The Lucky Iron Fish
can provide

75%

of the recommended
daily intake of iron for
anemic people.



The Lucky Iron Fish. Photo credit: Chris Charles

A match-making career service is helping new Canadians in Sudbury find the work they're qualified for.

Professions North/Nord, launched by Laurentian University, transforms the lives of professionals who were trained and earned their credentials outside of Canada. The agency helps employers find the skilled workers they are looking for, and assists internationally trained professionals – more than 700 so far – to secure employment in their fields with services including portfolio development, bridging to accreditation, networking and mentorship.



“This project allowed me to contribute to improving the education of students, something I am really passionate about. It has also helped me gain understanding of how development works – or doesn’t – rather than reading about it in a text book.”

Anna Soper, University of Ottawa

Ghanaian students are required to learn how to use computers, but they often don’t have access to them.

When University of Ottawa student Anna Soper headed to Ghana as part of her graduate studies, she was determined to build a financially viable computer lab in Bobikuma, Ghana. The construction of the facility was a collaborative effort between Soper, Ghanaian community members, the local school and NGOs. It now provides 400 primary and junior high students with free access to computers. Outside of school hours, students from secondary school and the broader community use the computer lab facilities for a nominal fee. The funds generated by the school help pay the lab’s operation and maintenance costs.

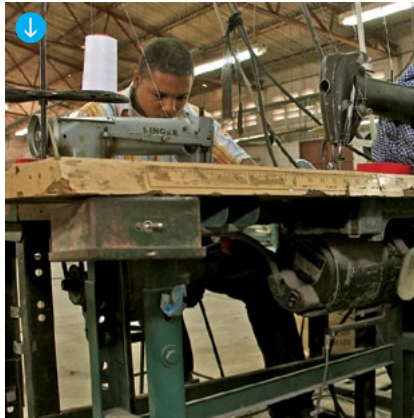


Photo credit: Local Buttons.

A student at Ryerson University is proving that not only can fashion be sustainable, it has the potential to vastly improve communities around the world.

Anne Pringle is a graduate student who co-created Local Buttons, a global social enterprise that creates sustainable fashion by deconstructing old garments and repurposing the fabric into new styles. Each style is designed in Canada and manufactured in Haiti, and the company provides ethical wages and benefits during the workday including transportation and meals for employees.

While completing a placement in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut, University of Ottawa law student Iman Amin noticed that the procedures and policies at the Kataujaq Society Women’s Safe Shelter had not been updated since the 1980s.

To bring the operations of the shelter up-to-date and help meet the needs of the women it serves, Amin decided to take on a 12-month community service assignment in Rankin Inlet before entering her articling year. Also facilitating training initiatives for staff at the shelter, Amin aims to promote positive change by implementing refreshed policies and procedures that will help challenge the systemic violence faced by historically disadvantaged women, namely Inuit women in the Kivalliq region.



Amin’s project is being designed in direct partnership with the Kataujaq Board of Directors and staff, and brings an undeniably positive contribution to the community.



Disability in Kasese Project.
Photo credit: Carleton University

People with disabilities in Uganda are not only looking for mobility aids, but also financial independence. Carleton University's Industrial Design students worked with people living with disabilities in Uganda to develop technologies that improve their mobility in rugged terrain, creating livelihood opportunities. Designs developed through the Design Innovation for Disability in Kasese Project were manufactured in Uganda to support local economies, and included a wheelchair that converts into a tricycle, a mobility device that can hold both a mother and her child, and a rolling gardening chair. "We learned that you can't really design for people, you have to design with people," said Jennifer Vandermeer, a student who participated. The designs may be adapted for use in other areas with similar terrain.



Young people living in and near refugee camps in Kenya can access education through the York University-led **Borderless Higher Education for Refugees Project**, earning certificates, diplomas, and eventually degrees. This major international collaboration, offering online and onsite courses, secured a \$4.5 million funding commitment from the Canadian government and serves as a model for transforming education in refugee communities.



Queen's University graduates Hasina Daya and Gabrielle Armstrong with team in Kenya.

Queen's University Arts and Science 2014 graduates Hasina Daya and Gabrielle Armstrong are increasing the economic independence of a small rural village in Kenya through the establishment of a **Co-operative Coop**, a farm with 1,000 chickens that provides a sustainable income source for the community of Piave. Community members are paid for their work on the chicken farm – additional revenue is reinvested into the farm and also supports people living with HIV/AIDS, orphans and vulnerable children in Piave. The end goal is for the project to be self-sustaining by the time the graduates leave the community. Support for the project was provided by the Pathy Family Foundation.

Universities are inextricably linked to the betterment of their communities. There are numerous examples in Ontario of universities lifting communities out of economic devastation while enhancing social programs, and bringing cultural activities to life.

If unconvinced of the influence universities have on their communities, examine their impact on members of society who experience the highest rates of marginalization. For example, when a disadvantaged student is introduced to a mentor who helps foster a love of learning, teaches critical skills and demonstrates that high goals are within reach, suddenly anything is possible for that young person. Multiply that effect by the thousands of people university students and faculty work with throughout the year, and the impact is staggering.

Ontario's universities enrich their communities socially, culturally and economically, and inspire success.