

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

March 18, 2025



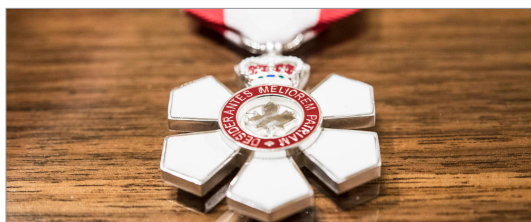
REPUTATION AND COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



More than 400 members of the Carleton community attended President Tetley's first public event on Jan. 23.

President Tetley Meets the Carleton Community

President and Vice-Chancellor [Wisdom Tetley](#)'s first public event on campus was well-received with over 400 faculty, staff and students attending his speech and reception in the Richcraft Hall atrium on Jan. 23, while hundreds more watched via livestream or viewed the [post-event video](#). The occasion was emceed by Provost and Vice-President (Academic) L. Pauline Rankin, with a formal introduction provided by Beth Creary, Chair of Carleton's Board of Governors.



Four alumni were named to the Order of Canada in early January for their contributions to the country.

Four Carleton Alumni Appointed to Order of Canada

Four [esteemed Carleton alumni](#) were named to the [Order of Canada](#) in early January. Recognized for their extraordinary contributions to the nation, the newest Carleton community appointees are Vijayakumar Murty (BScH/77), a leader in mathematics; Barbara Jean Perry (PhD/92), an expert on hate crime; Michael Prince (BAH/75), an advocate for disability rights; and Diane Sims (BJ/86, MJ/90), a writer and advocate for accessibility.



Erin Tolley's research is sharing the stories of Black Canadians who have run for and served in office.

Supporting Black Canadians in Politics

The achievements of Black Canadians in politics are often marginalized, missing or erased from "official" historical records. In response, the "[Black Canadians in Electoral Politics](#)" project is excavating, archiving and sharing the stories of Black Canadians who have run for and served in office. Led by Carleton's [Erin Tolley](#), Canada Research Chair in Gender, Race and Inclusive Politics, in partnership with [Operation Black Vote Canada](#), the project was the focus of a Feb. 11 event.



Journalism professor Duncan McCue is the director of Carleton's new Indigenous journalism program.

Carleton Launches Indigenous Journalism Program

Carleton's School of Journalism and Communication is launching a one-year [Certificate in Journalism in Indigenous Communities Certificate](#). The innovative program, supported by \$3.2 million from the Mastercard Foundation's [EleV program](#) and a partnership with the [Inspirit Foundation](#), will be delivered on the ground in Indigenous communities to break down barriers and give Indigenous learners a chance to explore careers in journalism. The Mastercard Foundation's support was celebrated at a Jan. 29 event on campus.

REPUTATION AND COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



Researcher Eugene Fletcher and students Hannah Doyle and Sara Takaloo are featured in the Challenge campaign.



Carleton's new signs, at the main entrances to campus, feature the updated logo and efficient LED lighting.



Carleton's new Special Constables were sworn in recently at ceremonies with Ottawa Police leaders.



Carleton has raised nearly \$4 million over three decades of collaboration with the United Way.



The Carleton-based Canadian Accessibility Network celebrated its fifth anniversary in December.

Brand Campaign Highlights Carleton's Impact

The third phase of [Challenge](#), Carleton's brand and reputation campaign, is currently in market. The digital strategy takes a multi-platform approach and is aimed at influencers. The campaign's storytelling showcases how Carleton researchers, students, faculty and alumni are having a positive impact on the world, with articles on how researchers are addressing the [health of newborns](#), [accelerating the development of drugs](#) and [transforming waste](#) into biofuel and other valuable byproducts, among many others.

All Roads Lead to Carleton

Carleton has completed installation of new signs at all four main entrances to campus. The signs — at Stadium Way, Brewer Park, Hog's Back and on Bronson Avenue — feature the university's updated logo. With a limestone base and stainless-steel backing in the shape of Carleton's wave, they have been constructed to withstand the Ottawa climate. The signs also feature efficient LED lighting which, at the Bronson entrance, can be changed into different colours to recognize special events.

Ottawa Police Chief Swears in New Special Constables

Ottawa Police Chief Eric Stubbs and Deputy Chief Steve Bell recently swore in five new Carleton Special Constables at ceremonies held in January and February. Chief Stubbs also expressed his appreciation for the value of the Ottawa Police-Campus Safety Services partnership.

United Way Campaign Supports Local Programming

Carleton's 2024 annual [United Way campaign](#) raised almost \$70,000 for local programs that support initiatives around mental health and well-being, vulnerable seniors and youth homelessness. The university's campaign is run by faculty and staff who volunteer to organize events like the Polar Bear Dip, the MacOdrum Library Auction and the Great Carleton Garage Sale. Carleton has raised more than \$3.9 million over 30-plus years with the United Way.

Enhancing Accessibility Across Canada

In December 2024, the Carleton-based [Canadian Accessibility Network](#) celebrated its five-year anniversary. Keynote addresses were given by Tina Namiesniowski, Deputy Minister Champion for Federal Employees with Disabilities, and Stephanie Cadieux, Canada's Chief Accessibility Officer. Meanwhile, Carleton's [Accessibility Institute](#) continues its impactful research, including an AI for Accessibility Services pilot, a federally funded project on the Accessibility of Emergency Management and the \$1.5-million [Neuroinclusivity in Housing](#) knowledge mobilization collaboration.

ACADEMICS



Biology researcher Dalal Hanna is one of four professors receiving a Faculty of Science Excellence Award.



Carleton's Halim Yanikomeroglu has received the IEEE Communications Society Harold Sobol Award.



Sprott and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy connect students to global careers.



Nunavut Arctic College students came to Carleton to learn about university and environmental science careers.



President Tetley and Journalism's Adrian Harewood spoke on stage at a Black History Month event.

Recognizing Academic Excellence

- Alexander McClelland (Criminology and Criminal Justice) received a [King Charles III Coronation Medal](#).
- Kyle Biggar (Biochemistry), Dalal Hanna (Biology), Heath MacMillan (Biology) and Robyn McQuaid (Neuroscience) were awarded the [Faculty of Science 2024 Excellence Award](#).
- Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus John Chinneck (Systems and Computer Engineering) was awarded the [2024 Impact Prize](#) at the INFORMS Annual Meeting.
- Chancellor's Professor Halim Yanikomeroglu (Systems and Computer Engineering) received the 2024 IEEE Communications Society [Harold Sobol Award](#).

Operating Budget Update

- In November, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) L. Pauline Rankin and Angela Marcotte, Interim Vice-President (Finance and Administration), provided the community with an update on the [university's financial sustainability](#). Afterwards, the [Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program](#) was introduced.

Academic Updates

- Sprott has [partnered with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy](#) to connect students with careers in public financial management.
- Teaching and Learning Services and the Faculty of Science received \$1 million through the Ministry of Colleges and Universities Training, Equipment and Renewal Fund to acquire instructional equipment for Carleton's new nursing program.
- Employment and Social Development Canada has awarded an additional \$350,000 to Carleton's [FUSION Skills Development program](#). This self-directed online learning experience bridges academic and employability skills.
- Sprott's Master of Finance program has been accepted to the CFA Institute's University Affiliation Program for its alignment to the Certified Financial Analyst program curriculum.
- Ottawa-based enterprise marketing company [Knak has partnered with Carleton's Innovation Hub](#) to inspire and engage student entrepreneurs.

Indigenous Initiatives

- Faculty, staff and students have been invited to attend one of four "Understanding and Honouring Indigenous Forms of Identity and Belonging Town Halls" that provide historical context on Indigenous identity issues and outline how the [university's two new Indigenous verification policies](#) aim to address these challenges.
- In December, the Centre for Indigenous Support and Community Engagement hosted [Nunavut Arctic College students](#) as part of an effort to encourage Inuit participation in postsecondary education and environmental science careers.

Special Events

- In January, [the School of Social Work and the Centre for Studies on Poverty and Social Citizenship celebrated their 75th and 50th anniversaries](#) with events.
- In February, Carleton marked Black History Month with an [inspiring conversation](#) featuring President and Vice-Chancellor Wisdom Tetley and Adrian Harewood (Journalism). The event was organized and hosted by professors Audra Diptee and Nduka Otiono, who are Faculty Advisors on Anti-Black Racism and Black Inclusion.

RESEARCH



Menna Agha's research on inclusive design is the type of project supported by this new fund.

New Fund for EDI Research and Pedagogy

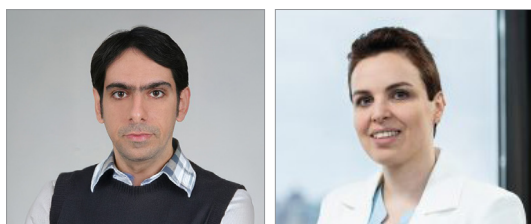
The [CU-CUASA Special Fund for EDI Research and Pedagogical Innovation](#) was introduced in late October to support research excellence and pedagogical innovation undertaken by members of equity-deserving groups or on topics with significant EDI considerations. The first recipients are faculty members Menna Agha, Catherine Bonier, Angela Dionisi, Nuša Fain, William Hébert, Xiao Huang, Frenand Léger, Beth Martin and Melissa Redmond, Azar Masoumi, Iain McKinnell and Martha Mullally, and Robyn McQuaid.



Cognitive Science researcher Mary Kelly is tackling AI's risks and limitations to make it more human-like.

FASS Researcher Making AI More Effective

Cognitive Science's Mary Kelly is [tackling AI's risks and limitations](#) like bias, ethical concerns and "catastrophic interference," which cause neural networks to forget previously learned tasks. Her team is exploring solutions such as functional specificity and holographic memory to make AI more adaptable and human-like. They are also looking at ethics, focusing on mitigating risks like disinformation and harmful decision-making. Kelly is advocating for a human-in-the-loop approach to ensure AI decisions are safe and transparent.



Masoud Barati (left) and Nafiseh Kahani are doing cybersecurity research to help protect children.

Cybersecurity Research to Enhance Online Safety for Children

The [National Cybersecurity Consortium](#) has announced that [Carleton has been selected](#) along with a slate of [successful project proposals](#) as part of its second annual call for proposals. Carleton's [Masoud Barati](#), School of Information Technology, and [Nafiseh Kahani](#), Department of Systems and Computer Engineering, have been awarded \$88,800 for their R&D cybersecurity project — Privacy Assurance for Canadian Children: A Safe and Secure Framework for Large Language Models.



Canada Research Chair John Anderson is exploring how hearing loss affects cognitive reserve.

Supporting Deaf and Hard of Hearing Communities

With new support from Canadian Hearing Services, Canada Research Chair John Anderson is exploring [how hearing loss affects cognitive reserve](#) — the brain's ability to resist aging and damage. This groundbreaking study will map brain regions linked to cognitive reserve, examine how different types of hearing loss relate and propose strategies to combat cognitive decline. The findings aim to inform brain health interventions and offer a framework for cognitive support in the deaf and hard-of-hearing community.



Hubert Jean-Ruel is Carleton's new Canada Research Chair in Advanced Photonic Sensing.

New Canada Research Chair to Study Advanced Photonics

Carleton hosted a TIPS (Tri-Agency Institutional Program Secretariat) funding announcement event on Nov. 14 featuring Members of Parliament Yasir Naqvi and Mona Fortier. Carleton secured \$5.3 million in research support funding, \$606,000 in incremental grants, \$295,000 for research security and welcomed Hubert Jean-Ruel as its [Canada Research Chair in Advanced Photonic Sensing](#).

RESEARCH



Amy Rand's research is exploring whether gut microbes can break down harmful "forever chemicals."

Can Gut Microbes Break Down Forever Chemicals?

Carleton researchers, led by Amy Rand (Chemistry), are exploring whether gut microbes can break down harmful PFAS, or "forever chemicals," which resist degradation and pose health risks. Using human fecal matter, they aim to identify microbes capable of breaking carbon-fluorine bonds. Funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council's New Frontiers in Research Fund, [this groundbreaking study](#) could revolutionize PFAS pollution mitigation and reduce risks.



Researcher Jeff Smith is working with a biotech startup to fast-track affordable drug development.

Private Sector Partnerships Expedite Pharmaceutical Research

Carleton biochemists Kyle Biggar and Jeff Smith are partnering with biotech startups NuvoBio and Virica to [fast-track affordable drug development](#). Supported by Capital BioVentures, Biggar's work focuses on peptide therapeutics, including NeoPeptix for fungal meningitis, aiming for FDA trials by 2027. Smith's expertise in mass spectrometry aids Virica's efforts to enhance viral medicine production. These collaborations advance cutting-edge therapies while creating opportunities for students and addressing global healthcare challenges.



Matthew Pearson's work aims to enhance ethical reporting and protect the mental health of journalists.

Trauma-Informed Journalism

Journalism professor Matthew Pearson, drawing on personal experiences with traumatic reporting, [researches trauma-informed journalism](#) to enhance ethical reporting and protect the mental health of journalists. He developed Canada's only trauma reporting course, featuring interview simulations that prepare students for sensitive topics. Pearson co-authored the 2022 Taking Care report, highlighting journalists' mental health challenges and advocating for systemic support. His research and teaching aim to create compassionate reporting practices and foster a more resilient media industry.

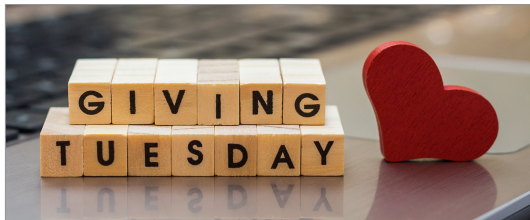


Social Work researcher Nimo Bokore is leading Carleton's effort to support social work education in Somalia.

Supporting Social Work in Somalia

Carleton's School of Social Work is collaborating with the University of Hargeisa in Somaliland to address the region's urgent need for trauma-informed care and mental health services. Led by Social Work researcher Nimo Bokore, Carleton supported the development of [Somalia's first social work program](#), which has produced 550 graduates since 2010. Bokore's research highlights the growing acceptance of social work, with a new master's program preparing specialists to shape policy and expand care.

ADVANCEMENT



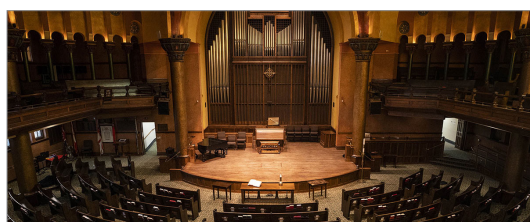
Carleton's Giving Tuesday campaign raised over \$500,000 for 242 charitable projects from 937 donors on Dec. 3.



The Carleton Ravens football program is one the beneficiaries of 90 new major gifts and pledges.



Philanthropic support will help Carleton remove barriers to accessibility in the MacOdrum Library.



The Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre will soon be the location of a new "tap to give" tool.



Left to right: President Tetey, Associate VP Kahente Horn-Miller, Mastercard Foundation Senior Director, Canada Programs Jennifer Brennan and Prof. Duncan McCue unveiled a new Indigenous journalism program.

Revenue (May 1, 2024 to Feb. 7, 2025)

Philanthropic.....	\$12,650,084
Gifts in Kind	\$3,838,985
Sponsorships	\$1,638,198
Research & Partnerships	\$15,714,009
Total.....	\$33,841,276

Advancement will enhance revenue strategies to support Carleton's mission.

- Grow annual giving revenue (gifts under \$25,000): \$2.96 million.
Highlights: winter and spring appeals are planned to begin in February with a focus on alumni, parents and other audiences via phone, direct mail, email and personal solicitations; Carleton's re-booted Giving Tuesday raised over \$500,000 for 242 charitable projects from 937 donors in 24 hours on Dec. 3.
- Secure 90 new major gifts and pledges over \$25,000: 37 gifts (\$10,408,273), 31 pledges (\$5,715,711). This philanthropic support has been directed to several areas including scholarships, bursaries, experiential learning, library collections, athletics and research initiatives.
Highlights: \$472,000 in new funds committed to the football program; \$170,700 towards removing accessibility barriers in the MacOdrum Library; \$100,000 to support the student experience in the Art and Architectural History program.
- Increase the number of new gifts by will and continue to enhance the profile of the planned giving program. This fiscal year, over \$4.2 million in realized legacy gifts have been received, supporting a range of initiatives, a substantial increase from the \$922,000 received during the same period last year. Eleven new gifts by will have been confirmed to date.
Highlights: seven scholarships, six bursaries and three annual funds were supported through realized estate gifts. Additionally, for the first time, Carleton received a bequest of RBC Avion points, which were converted into \$6,700 worth of grocery store gift cards and donated to the Unified Support Centre's Emergency Essentials Assistance Program.

Advancement will broker, manage and celebrate partnerships with purpose.

- On track to announce two Holistic Integrated Partnerships by the end of this fiscal year.
- Exceeded our goal of three grants greater than \$100,000 through the One Carleton for Foundations initiative, with an additional 12 under review by various funders.
- Increased collaboration with the Carleton University Alumni Association executive to strengthen alumni engagement.
- Tested new digital engagement methods of potential funders including women philanthropists, sports enthusiasts and U.S.-based alumni.
- Advancement is working with ITS to overhaul the university's giving web site (Future Funder) and deploy new "tap to give" mobile donation tools across campus in locations such as the Art Gallery and Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre.

Advancement will continue to implement innovative approaches to operational, strategic and systemic challenges.

- Supporting the President in meeting with Carleton's most generous supporters and committed volunteers in his first 100 days, including leveraging the President's inaugural address to the campus community to invite a select group of donors and alumni to a pre-reception.
- Facilitated President Tetey's first partnership announcement: a new program, supported by the Mastercard Foundation, to expose Indigenous youth to the profession and practice of journalism in their home communities.

STUDENT LIFE



Carleton students supported The Ottawa Mission as part of the Campus to Community program last year.



The annual SOAR 2025 Student Leadership Conference on Feb.1 drew 250 registrants for 15 workshops.



Carleton's Winter Career and Networking Fair on Feb. 5 attracted 50 employers and 1,725 students and alumni.



Open houses are one of the most effective ways to introduce prospective Ravens to the Carleton campus.



A special guest celebrated the Ravens women's basketball team win at the Capital Hoops Classic on Feb. 7.

In the fall 2024 term, Health and Counselling Services (HSC) increased its capacity to see students seeking counselling by 54 per cent compared to fall 2023. As of early February 2025, there are four students on the waitlist to see an on-campus psychiatrist, down from a waitlist of more than 350 five years ago. The average wait at Carleton is two to three weeks compared to 4 to 12 months in the community.

The Co-Curricular Record (CCR) provides an opportunity for Carleton students to document and showcase their involvement in leadership, mentorship, extracurricular activities and community service. By utilizing the CCR, students can present an official record alongside their academic transcript to enhance their applications to prospective employers and graduate programs. Since November 2024, 996 new positions have been added to students' records, bringing the total students engaged with the CCR during the 2024-2025 period to 1,019.

In fall 2024, students had the opportunity to engage in community-based learning through the [Campus to Community](#) program. In collaboration with local organizations throughout Ottawa, the Student Experience Office hosted six half-day service events at [The Ottawa Mission](#) and [Operation Come Home](#) from Nov. 2024 to Jan. 2025, offering students meaningful opportunities to give back to the community while enriching their learning experience.

The Student Experience Office's [SOAR 2025 Student Leadership Conference](#) welcomed Mohawk Olympian, reconciliation advocate and Carleton alum Waneek Horn-Miller on Feb. 1. Horn-Miller shared her personal journey of leadership, offering powerful reflections on her Indigenous roots and the importance of resilience. With over 250 registrants, the event also featured 15 workshops led by Carleton alumni, students and staff, connecting to themes of reflect and re-energize, service through skill, authentic leadership and opportunity exploration.

During the fall 2024 term, Career Services hosted 20 employer recruitment sessions to connect Carleton students and alumni with actively recruiting organizations. Nearly 1,700 students registered for these sessions, which featured employers such as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Structural Group, Canada Revenue Agency and Ciena. On Feb. 5, Career Services held its successful Winter Career and Networking Fair, attracting 50 employers. Attracting 1,725 students and alumni, this was the busiest Winter Career Fair to-date.

In fall 2024, Career Services launched the new International Student Employment Program. The program is designed to equip international students with the knowledge, skills and confidence to navigate the Canadian labour market, as well as connect students with paid work opportunities. In the program's first term, 710 students registered, 218 completed the educational modules and 35 paid placements were filled, marking a successful start.

Co-operative Education continues to offer exceptional events and support to students. In November 2024, Co-op hosted the second annual TECHWorking event at CU@ Kanata; 120 co-op students networked with 11 organizations. One attendee described it as "one of the best networking events in Ottawa." During the first week of the winter term, the Co-op Student Advisor team saw 310 students, an increase of 82 per cent over the same period last year.

In November 2024, the International Student Services Office (ISSO) launched an "IRCC Facts & Fallacies" workshop designed to address the recent changes to the international student and post-graduate work permit programs by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). The workshop was organized to answer common questions, address misconceptions and misinformation, as well as provide students an opportunity to ask questions, identify challenges and learn more about the supports that the ISSO immigration advising team offers.

ENROLMENT AND RECRUITMENT UPDATE

Undergraduate Enrolment Update

**First year 101 (Ontario high school) applications by university
Jan. 16, 2025 vs Jan. 16, 2024 (OUAC Data)**

	2024	2025	% Change
Carleton Total Applications	21,512	21,758	1.1
Carleton Total Applicants	15,403	15,426	0.1
System Total Applications	552,915	577,724	4.5
System Total Applicants	94,178	99,112	5.2

**First year, new, applicants (Carleton data) by region as of
Jan. 22, 2025 – 101 applicants**

	2024	2025	% Change
All	15,403	15,426	0.1
Ottawa	5,616	5,811	3.5
Other Ontario	9,440	9,354	-0.9
Other	347	261	-24.8

Items of note from the applicant pool:

- The OUAC 101 application deadline was in mid-January. Carleton's applications over last year for the OUAC 101s are up slightly at 1.1 per cent and the applicant numbers are similar to last year.
- First choice is up more amongst 101s at 1.6 per cent, as are applicants from the Ottawa area at 3.5 per cent. This is encouraging given Carleton's historically strong yield rates amongst these applicants, and considering this means that the university maintained and then built on the double digit increases from last year for these same categories.
- Other Ontario includes a decrease in the GTA at -2.4 per cent. Other includes 101s from the rest of Canada, but mostly international.
- Some of the program areas that increased the most in OUAC applications across the sector include areas that Carleton does not have programs in such as education, health professions and kinesiology. There is a lot of growth in nursing system-wide and at Carleton.
- A notable decrease at the system level, as of Jan. 16, is a 28 per cent decrease in computer science related programs. Carleton's Computer Science program is following that trend with a notable decrease in applicants.
- It is too early to predict international student applications at this time.

Recruitment Update

From Nov. 2024 through Jan. 2025, the International Admissions and Recruitment team conducted 96 in-person and online events, including school visits, education fairs and in-country partner events, directly engaging with over 522 prospective international students. Notably, the Virtual Open House for International Students in December attracted 410 registrations and 198 attendees from 47 different countries, with the highest participation from India, Nigeria and Ghana.

International Admissions and Recruitment offered Application Q&A and How to Apply webinars in Nov. 2024 and Jan. 2025, with 160 and 127 registrants, respectively. They also hosted an information session for international guidance counsellors, offering updates on admissions and Canadian study permit changes, with 71 counsellors registering from around the world. Email campaigns are also sent regularly to over 16,000 prospective student leads, promoting How to Apply sessions and other cycle-specific events and resources.

The Undergraduate Recruitment Office completed over 500 high school visits from Sept. to early Dec. 2024, including participation in Ontario University Regional Fairs across the province and in Post-Secondary Information Evenings in the Greater Toronto Area with the other Ontario universities. Out of province recruitment has also continued, with tours in British Columbia, Alberta, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Manitoba.

The Undergraduate Recruitment Office hosted a hybrid Family Information Evening on Dec. 3 with 171 guests joining in person event and 562 guests joining online. The office continues to collaborate with numerous faculties and departments to host in-person and online events, including a Faculty of Engineering and Design Showcase, a Faculty of Public and Global Affairs Showcase, a Nursing Spotlight Event, a Sprott School of Business Spotlight Event and a Humanities Spotlight Event.

The Recruitment Coordinator, Indigenous Initiatives participated in a variety of community events, including the Spirit of the Drum Powwow, an Indigenous Student Career Readiness Program, the Odawa Treaty Event and Summer Solstice Festival. The Undergraduate Recruitment Office also continues to foster and build relationships with the Urban Aboriginal Alternative High School and the other local school boards.

