



2019-2020

# Report to the Community

 **MOHAWK**  
FOUNDATION





## Now, more than ever, we can change a student's tomorrow. Together.

Many of us are facing challenges due to COVID-19, including our students.

They are now up against financial difficulties that they could never have anticipated. Students, like many others, are looking at situations such as loss of part-time jobs, adjusting home resources to accommodate online learning, and unplanned trips home.

If you are looking for ways to help, consider supporting our students through the gift catalogue. Your support will provide immediate assistance to Mohawk students in these challenging times.



[mohawkcollege.ca/gifts](https://mohawkcollege.ca/gifts)



# Together, we are changing students' lives

Mohawk believes that accessing and completing a postsecondary education should be a realistic goal for all students. Paying for college is a significant challenge for many. Throughout the past year, Mohawk Foundation asked our community and employees to 'give the gift of education' through a gift catalogue. A brand new initiative this year, it contains carefully selected items students are struggling to afford like tuition, food, rent, textbooks, supplies, and emergency funds.

One of the recipients of this funding is Anthony Stark. It had been 10 years of chasing a dream of completing postsecondary for Anthony. After trying three different programs at three different colleges, Anthony finally found his perfect fit – Mohawk College.

"Mohawk College is more than just a college and four walls with a roof. It's full of people who truly care and wear with pride what they do for the students. That's rare and ever so beautiful, trust me, I have checked."

But finding the perfect fit didn't end Anthony's struggles. Like many students, he found it difficult to afford his education. Fortunately, Anthony was able to receive funds raised through the gift catalogue initiative.

"This funding took a million-ton weight off my chest and gave me the ability to breathe again. It confirmed that someone somewhere cared. You're an angel and a gift from above. I couldn't have done it without you."

## A match challenge to boost impact

Past Mohawk President, Keith McIntyre, was browsing Facebook one day when he saw a post about the gift catalogue. He began to wonder about student leaders he worked with during his time at the college as President.

He decided to start a challenge where he would match gifts from graduates between 1976-1996 who served in Students' Athletics Committee or Students' Representative Council leadership, up to \$1,000 per year.

"I thought I could generate some interest in supporting current students because they need the help. Colleges are never funded to the extent that they need."

Seeing firsthand the shortfalls of funding and the rising cost to be a student, Keith says philanthropy has always been important to him.



**2020 CCAÉ  
Prix d'Excellence award  
for Best Fundraising Materials**

"I hope to instill the belief of philanthropy into our graduates and leaders."

One of those past student leaders who took advantage of the match challenge is Alex Paris, who currently works in the Facilities department at Mohawk.

During his time as Chair of the Students' Athletic Committee (SAC) and serving on a subcommittee of the Students' Representative Council (SRC), he remembered Keith's leadership fondly.

"I am grateful for Keith's guidance and leadership and his open-door policy for everyone." It is because of Keith's impact that Alex was inspired to give.



**Keith McIntyre  
was Mohawk President  
from 1976-1996**



# A welcome surprise for Sebastian Venditti

Like many students, Sebastian’s finances are stretched thin while he studies massage therapy full time. Even though he was managing to balance two jobs, he was beginning to feel burnt out, until he received a bursary made possible by donations.

“Paying for school supplies, rent, bills, groceries, etc. can be difficult and disheartening. This financial help gave me hope. It takes weight off my shoulders and reminds me that there is help out there when we need it.”

Sebastian was able to purchase a massage table, a key piece of equipment that will allow him to practice and hone his skills outside of the classroom.

“Donors are building the doors that will lead students to new paths and I am very grateful to knock on this door when I needed help.”



# Inspiring students at convocation

Multiple times a year, the McIntyre Performing Arts Centre is bursting with excitement and happiness as thousands of students are ready to receive their credential.

Now, as students eagerly await their name to be called to cross the stage, they will see a name plate on the arm of a seat, from a generous donor. This plaque serves as a reminder to students of the people who believed in them. From the funds raised, over 45 student bursaries have been given out to help students in need.

**Win Big Wednesday 50/50** lottery offers employees a fun way to support students. 50% of the proceeds go to financial assistance for students and 50% to the lucky winner! Over \$27,000 has been given to students in need.



**President’s Golf Classic** raised funds for access bursaries in effort to reduce financial barriers for students who are the first in their family to attend postsecondary, Indigenous learners and crown wards. The tournament raised over \$44,000 last year.



Activities in Vancouver, BC included a visit to the Squamish Lil’Wat Cultural Centre for silversmithing, cedar weaving, self-reflection through art, and an Esemkwu Ceremony with Elders from Squamish First Nation.

# Pathfinder: Indigenous Youth Program

Pathfinder is a summer program for Indigenous students that focuses on learning about Indigenous culture, identity, leadership skills, while creating pathways into postsecondary. Indigenous students explore cultural identity and building healthy relationships through experiential learning in a postsecondary environment.

This past year, students aged 18-21 in the program had the unique opportunity to spend one week in Vancouver, British Columbia working toward earning a Mohawk College credit through experiential and practical learning. For the past nine years, the Pathfinder program had been entirely in Ontario.

This past summer, students traveled to BC to engage with local Elders, knowledge keepers, facilitators in

sessions and ceremony. Upon returning to Mohawk, their learning continued through activities like social songs and dances, a visit with Kanata Village for traditional games and history, a greenhouse and longhouse tour, and canoeing on Six Nations reserve, in addition to courses with a College professor. Afterward, they have the opportunity to visit with coaches to learn more about what Mohawk has to offer if they chose to attend.

This past year, the Foundation received new support from the Tachane Family Foundation and the Hogarth Family Fund of the Hamilton Community Foundation, two families that share the college’s vision to help Indigenous learners overcome barriers to accessing a college education.

“I loved hearing their traditional stories and teachings and seeing parallels to our own. Another great experience was just being at Mohawk College for the first week because I now feel comfortable navigating the campus by myself this fall.”  
– Recent participant

# Local McDonald’s restaurants support Mohawk students

Glen Steeves, Chair of the Mohawk Foundation Board, and owner of a number of McDonald’s franchises in Hamilton, partnered with Mohawk to raise money in support of student bursaries that help cover costs including tuition, school supplies, and living expenses. This past year, McDonald’s restaurants sold coupon books to raise money in support of students.

Drew Steeves, Glen’s son and an operations supervisor in the restaurant group, says the hope with the bursary is to support young people who are struggling to make ends meet while pursuing education.

“We are excited to be helping with a Mohawk College bursary. We have a lot of young employees and their education is important.”

**Make the difference today!**

Support Mohawk College students

Get 6 treats for only \$3 plus tax  
That's a savings of over \$10!

All proceeds go to a Mohawk College bursary and other local charities.  
See coupons for expiry dates and redemption details.

**MOHAWIK**  
HIGHER EDUCATION

I'm lovin' it!





Over 700 students have enrolled at Mohawk since City School began in 2015



Over 130 courses offered including general construction, welding, intro to small business and entrepreneurship, and personal support worker



City School by Mohawk College officially opened a second mobile classroom, bringing greater access to apprenticeship training and college education in high-priority areas of the community



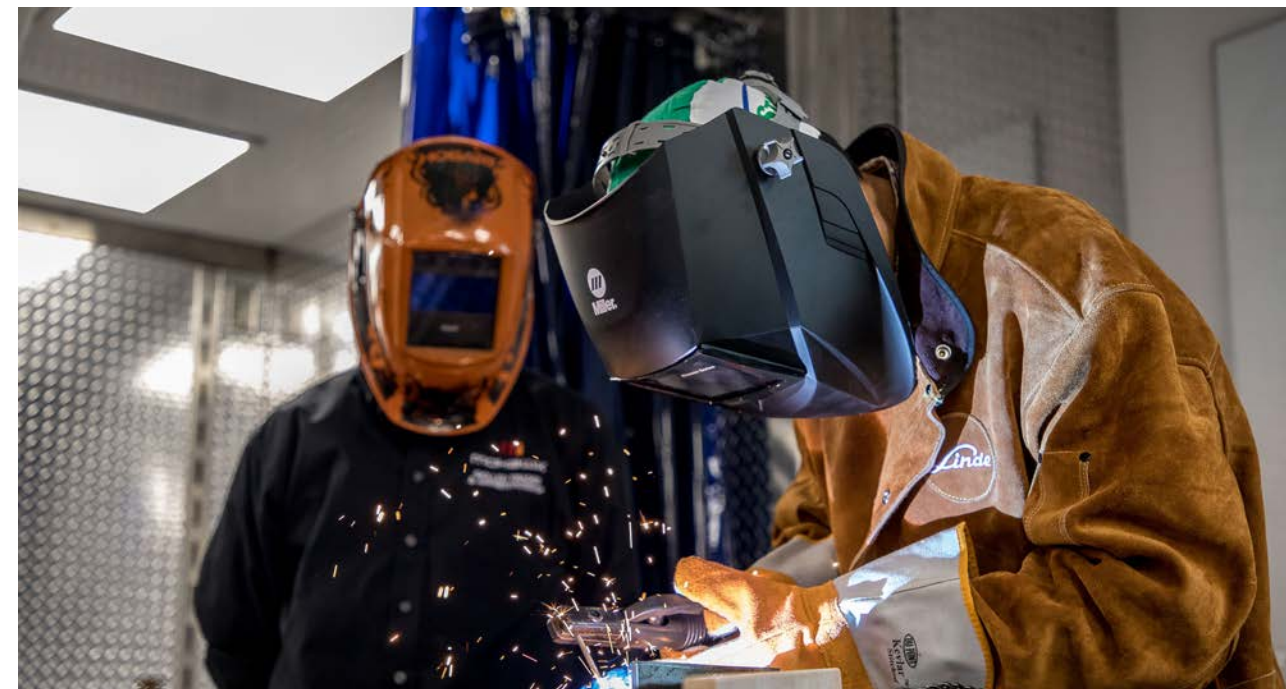
## City School by Mohawk brings college to the community

Now in its fourth year, City School by Mohawk continues to grow with the core mandate to break down barriers to education and employment. City School programming is completely free of charge, is delivered by Mohawk faculty in neighbourhood-based settings, and allows residents to experience a postsecondary education without worrying about some of the barriers and challenges they may have faced in the past.

In two community-based classrooms plus two mobile classrooms, students find a welcoming space to gain academic skills, build confidence and

get a sense of what attending college is like – all for free. Partners from the municipal, educational, business and community sectors play an essential role in City School's success, providing assets, resources and support.

City School brings the college directly into these neighbourhoods to offer free college courses, training and employment services. All programs are designed with community input. The credits students earn at City School apply to Mohawk academic and pre-apprenticeship programs.



For Grey Grant, the opportunity to take Intro to Millwrighting was a means to achieve a dream of becoming a journeyman at a local union. This course allowed Grey to gain some essential knowledge and hands-on experience before jumping into a brand new career field.

Grey learned numerous skills including: how to draft with small hand tools, rigging, calculations of mass, pneumatics, hydraulics, pipefitting, and how to properly wear personal protective equipment.

"I didn't have the funds to take a college program so City School helped me find a way to get the schooling without the cost. They provided so many resources and it felt like every single person was there to help the students reach their goals."

With the help of City School teachers, Grey has applied for their aptitude test they will need to start an apprenticeship.



## Challenge 2025

In the spring of 2019, Mohawk committed to Challenge 2025, an ambitious five-year workforce-recovery initiative that commits intensified Mohawk College resources to address the ongoing and interconnected issues of poverty, under-education, labour shortages, unemployment and underemployment in the Greater Hamilton Area.

Recognizing that education and training can lead to generational change and community prosperity, **Challenge 2025 builds on the success of City School by Mohawk** and is a college-led, community wide collaboration of health, education and business leaders in the city, co-chaired by President Ron McKerlie and Bill Young, President of Social Capital Planners.

A response to the urgent economic challenges caused by the pandemic, it is a call-to-action for community mobilization to support the reskilling required to be re-employed.

Fortunately, Challenge 2025 is a responsive, scalable model based on experience and evidence that can be deployed quickly and replicated in many jurisdictions.

### The Challenge 2025 'triple A'

**A**mplify Mohawk's impacts on poverty in Hamilton and beyond.

**A**ccelerate the impacts of the City School model which demonstrates Mohawk's ability to engage underserved students and its commitment to remove barriers to education at the community level.

**A**lign with demand-led employment initiatives to address the 'mismatch' of skills and opportunities— a timely response to a changing workforce and changing workforce needs.



# Creator of Mo the Hawk gives back

During his time at Mohawk in the 60's, Rick Sydor worked as an editor for the school newspaper, Opus, covering sports. Hockey and basketball were the only two varsity sports the college competed in at the time, so to fill the pages and showcase more athletes, Rick had to get creative. "I created a column where Mo the Hawk flew around to the many campus locations sharing stories from all the intramural teams," explains Rick. After he graduated, Rick assumed the character he created would end with him.

It was at his 25th class reunion in 1994 that Rick met Mohawk's official mascot, Mo the Hawk, for the first time. "I had no idea until that moment that the college had made a real-life mascot from my old newspaper column."

In 2019, Rick returned once again to his alma mater to celebrate his 50th reunion. Seeing the growth that has taken place at Mohawk since his college days, Rick felt compelled to give back to students by creating a planned gift in the form of a student award.

"I want to help students have access to a good education and the opportunities it can offer them."



# Luke Prominski gives back to his program

Alumni Luke Prominski has intentionally surrounded himself with reminders of his time at Mohawk. Over half of his staff are alumni from the Business Insurance program he graduated from in 2014. Two years after graduating, he began his own local business, Billyard Insurance Group Hamilton.

"There is something special about being a Mohawk student. It has a hometown feel with a level of education that can't be matched elsewhere. I have found that every Mohawk Alum we have hired has this sense that they are ready to work and provide the best service," Luke said.

Noting that his time at Mohawk was "one of the best experiences of his life," Luke holds the school close to his heart because it offered opportunities that he otherwise would not have had.

"I had some troubled times in my life prior to Mohawk. Graduating was my first "real" accomplishment after those times."

Feeling inspired and grateful, he decided to start a student award because he wanted to give back to the program that helped him improve his life.

"I wanted to give a few students a year a glimpse of hope that someone is looking out for them. If someone does not have to worry about the monetary side of school, they'll really be able to get educated to the highest level that they deserve."

# Carrying on a legacy

Barbara's Mom, Dorothy Gordon, taught in the Early Childhood Education program at Mohawk for decades. As a teacher, Dorothy saw the financial needs of students every day and wanted to help as much as possible. She was inspired to create an award for students in their second or third year of the ECE program.

Unfortunately, Dorothy passed away in 2016 at 90 years old. Dorothy's daughter, Barbara, saw an opportunity to honour her mom's memory and carry on her legacy. She happily took over funding the award and took advantage of a unique opportunity for a matched endowment from the Mohawk College Board of Governors.

"I like to think at some point there is something that is connected to my mother. People may not remember who she is, but now students can get even more help when they need it."

By taking advantage of the match, the award amount available to each student has doubled and Dorothy's memory will live on.

“People may not remember who she is, but now students can get even more help when they need it. – Barbara Gordon”



# guard.me creates global experiences

For students wishing to work and learn abroad, funding is a major barrier. With special funding from guard.me, students now have access to global experiences.

Over the past two years, students and faculty have participated in global experiences that enrich cultural understanding, and help them grow as compassionate, globally responsible citizens. Work placements abroad have included Milan, Italy, Ecuador, and Campeche, Mexico.

Jarod Aresenault, a student who completed a work placement at PricewaterhouseCoopers law firm in Italy, says that the experience helped him step outside of his comfort zone and experience a new way of life. "It's really important for students to step out of the education stream they're in and get experience in the real world and what it will be like working, and come back and reflect on those experiences and how they intertwine."

As part of the funding, faculty were encouraged to participate in global experiences to develop intercultural competencies, so they could lead future student trips and build global perspectives into the curriculum. For Simon Galton, a Professor in Computer Science, his learning trip in Ecuador changed everything.

"This trip opened our eyes to some of the issues that international students would face when they are coming to Mohawk. I have a lot of international students and no real first-hand experience as to what it's like to be learning something in a different culture," said Simon.

The funding from guard.me is helping provide opportunities to students and faculty for personal growth and enhanced, inclusive learning for students.

# A classroom transformed

The deaf empowerment program has received a classroom makeover that has transformed the way our deaf students interact, learn, and grow. With a generous donation from Global Furniture, this space is giving students a surrounding that nourishes learning.

Patrick Cross, Faculty in the Academic Upgrading Deaf Empowerment Program, has noticed the students are enjoying the new environment because of increased participation in the classroom.

"Previously, we had to sit side by side, and as deaf people signing, that's very difficult. Now, I am able to sit in a space in front of them, and we can work together and see each other clearly," said Patrick.

Mohawk is grateful to accept non-cash donations as gift-in-kind, like books, equipment, software licenses, computer equipment, tools, and furniture, to improve the student learning experience.

“Previously, we had to sit side by side, and as deaf people signing, that's very difficult. Now, I am able to sit in a space in front of them, and we can work together and see each other clearly. – Patrick Cross, Academic Upgrading Deaf Empowerment Program Faculty”



## Preparing students for the clinical environment

The donation of MedaPhor's ScanTrainer technology has enabled students in sciences programs to develop a comprehensive, practical skillset before they enter a clinical environment.

Based at the Institute for Applied Health Sciences at McMaster, the technology is embedded into curriculum to offer students the ability to scan virtual patients, since students are unable to practice the technology on a real person until they are in a clinical placement.

"It's hard to convey anatomy and how they relate to each other using only lectures, 2D images, and videos. When they use the software, I see lightbulbs turning on," said Meghan Jefferson, a professor in the Medical Radiation Sciences ultrasound program. "Without ScanTrainer, I don't think the students would have been able to achieve the same level of understanding of relational anatomy and appearance of pathologies."

The technology allows students to practice and learn in the classroom without fear or apprehension, which leads to increased confidence for the practical application of skills in real patient care settings.

## RBC and Mohawk empower women for the jobs of tomorrow

In 2017, Mohawk participated in a Canada 150 Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) workshop. Participants at this workshop identified the need for females in technology to network as a community.

That same year, Mohawk conducted a research project on women in trades that confirmed that while the general workforce is comprised of both men and women, in skilled trades only 3-5% of the workforce is comprised of women.

As a result, Women in Technology and Trades (WITT) was formed with the goal of increasing opportunities and support for women in technology and trades in all fields, through a rich networking and support community. WITT welcomes industry, staff, students and faculty across all areas of the college and all genders, backgrounds, races and orientation to become involved and contribute to the support of women in technology and/or trades.

Thanks to funding from RBC Foundation, Mohawk can provide additional resources for students in WITT to work with industry leaders through opportunities like a mentorship program, workshops, and events that are all aimed at preparing women for work in a male dominated environment. This will help students develop a personal network of mentors to assist them throughout their careers.

Melissa Montenegro, a student in the Energy Systems Engineering Technology program, actively participates in WITT programming.

"I found a strong and supportive network of likeminded females that are willing to share experiences and knowledge. People are really interested in participating and contributing to help



One of the many students taking part in WITT programming.

overcome some mindsets in regards to women in tech and trades careers."

As she continues to pursue her career in the energy sector, she hopes to work on industry projects that help transition to sustainable energy. "I will also continue to participate in and support programs that are focused on helping young women to pursue their "non-traditional" careers."

## Making a difference during Covid-19

Mohawk College and our alumni have found ways to make a difference during this challenging time. Thank you to everyone who has helped support the community. View the whole collection at [mohawkcollege.ca/making-a-difference](https://mohawkcollege.ca/making-a-difference)



### Mohawk contributes medical supplies to healthcare providers

Mohawk employees and campus security staff from Paragon Security collected medical materials from the Fennell and Stoney Creek Campuses and the Institute for Applied Health Sciences. They then delivered the college's supply of gloves, masks, face shields, gowns and sanitizer in an effort to support healthcare providers dealing with the COVID-19 outbreak in our region.

### Mohawk Nursing grad works on the frontlines of COVID-19

A graduate of Mohawk's Practical Nursing program, Carter Rudge '18's first job was in the Day Surgery Department at St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton. He worked in the department until leaving to go back to school to pursue his Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Last June, Carter was able to return to St. Joe's on a clinical teaching unit focused on internal medicine and cardiology.

Carter is carrying on as best he can under the circumstances. "My co-workers and my patients keep me going," he says. "There's no better feeling than watching a patient progress and get better."

He credits his education with preparing him for many scenarios he's already faced. "The simulation lab and all the lab techs prepared me for being in these clinical situations and helped with my clinical reasoning."



### Over 1600 sandwiches for the homeless

The day Paul Logan, Child Care Worker '80, delivered his first sandwich was supposed to be his last day of work before he retired. He was set to enjoy retirement before the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the globe and felt inspired to help out those in need. Now he and Adam Irwin-Gunn are making sandwiches for the homeless.

### Connecting Hamilton through event planning

Broadcasting-Radio grad, Matthew Surina '08, has been running Hub of the Hammer for the past five years. In a typical month, Hub of the Hammer runs four to five weekly event nights for things like trivia, comedy shows, and movies. They are also one of the organizers behind larger-scale events like the I Heart Beer Festivals that are held twice a year in Hamilton, Guelph, London and Kitchener.

He's since turned his physical business into a virtual one by launching a weekly online version through Facebook Live. Prizes for certain nights are gift certificates to support the local businesses they've worked with over the years.

"We're just rolling with it as best we can," says Matthew.





You made  
this possible!



780

number of  
awards available



\$1,082

average award  
amount per student



\$846,542

total amount of donor  
funded awards available

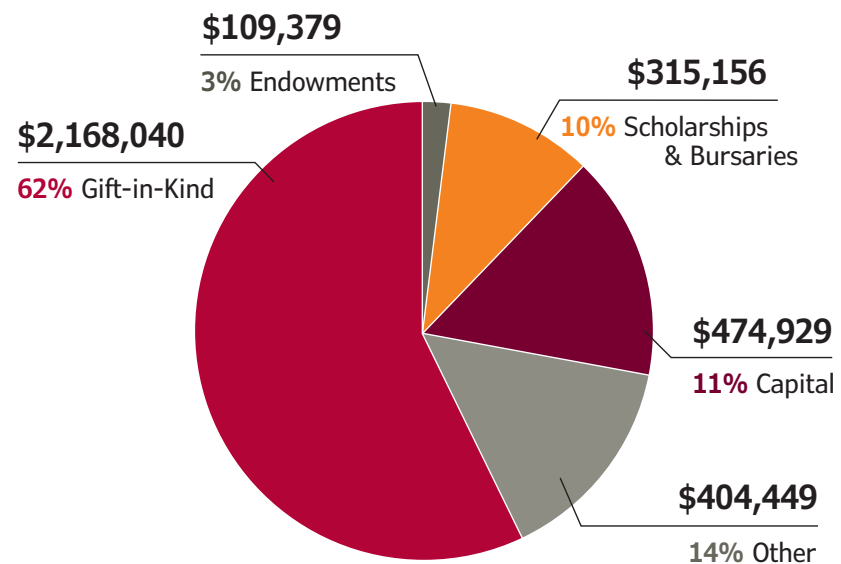
To learn how you can  
support students through  
bursaries and awards,  
visit [mohawkcollege.ca/  
foundation/ways-to-give](https://mohawkcollege.ca/foundation/ways-to-give)

# Financial overview\*

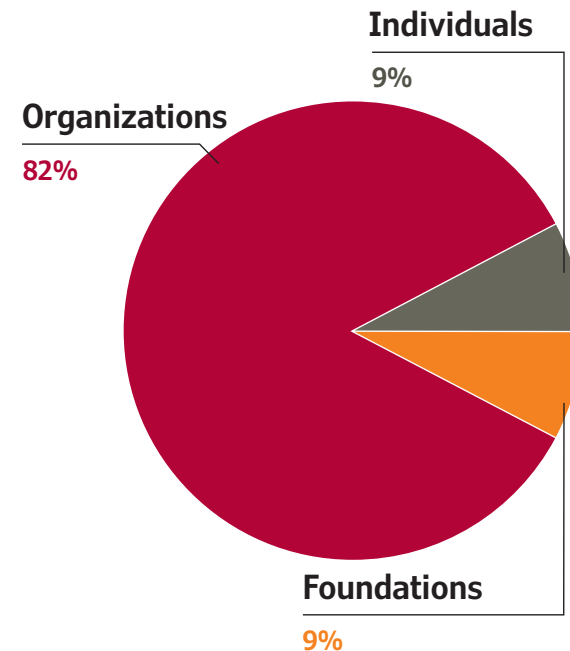
## \$3,471,953

\*April 1, 2019-March 31, 2020

### Donations by Designation



### Donations by Source



“

I want to express my sincerest gratitude to donors. The award encouraged, inspired me to move towards my future, and provided me chances to improve myself and become a better student and person. It reinforces my relationship with the community and strengthens my desire to give back to the whole community.

– Kun Yu, student award recipient

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## Thank you for supporting our students

The COVID-19 pandemic is challenging the world in ways we never could have imagined. No segment of our society or our economy has been spared from the effects of this global emergency. Our students are no exception.

From the rapid shift to virtual learning, to the loss of jobs and income that funded their education and paid for food and housing, many Mohawk students are facing challenges that were almost unthinkable just a few months ago.

With support from our community, we have been able to ease the burden somewhat by providing emergency access to funds for up to 2,000 students. This includes many international students, who are currently unable to return home and lack the funds for an extended stay in Canada.

This emergency funding is funded in part by initiatives like the Gift Catalogue that was launched last fall, the McDonalds coupon book sales supported by Foundation Board Chair and McDonalds franchise owner Glen Steeves, and former Mohawk President Keith McIntyre's challenge to past student leaders. Thank you. These contributions are making a difference in the lives of our students.

Access to education has long been one of Mohawk's top priorities. It is a key element of our Strategic Plan, something we are known for in our community and across the province. As we consider what the future may hold, access to postsecondary education will be essential to rebuilding our economy as we emerge from the pandemic. Initiatives such as Challenge 2025 and City School by Mohawk will be even more important than they were when we first envisioned them a year ago. They will play a critical role in our economic recovery, helping people gain in-demand skills and helping employers gain the workforce they need to rebuild their businesses.

In extraordinary times like these, our resilience is determined by the strength of our community. We are fortunate, and proud, to be part of the strong community of Hamilton.

Thank you for everything you are doing to support our students.

**Ron J. McKerlie**  
President, Mohawk College Foundation



### Mohawk Foundation Board of Directors

**Back row:** Glen Steeves, Gary Nelson, and Pearl Veenema. **Middle row:** Linda Marshall, Bruce Pearson, Kim Watkins, Annette Hamm, Bob Savage, and Gregg Crealock. **Front row:** Ron J. McKerlie. **Not pictured:** Jay Hayward.



## Our Vision

Engaged communities creating transformational opportunities through the power of education.

## Our Mission

We raise funds and create opportunities to develop new partnerships and enable donors to realize their philanthropic dreams to provide funds and gifts to support the Vision and Mission of Mohawk College.

## Our Values

### Respect

We foster quality relationships that are built on respect and gratitude.

### Accountability

We demonstrate accountability through effective stewardship and by practising the highest standards of ethical fundraising.

### Innovation

We encourage and support innovation for continuous improvements.

### Service Excellence

We are committed to service excellence and to best practices in fundraising.





**Mohawk College Foundation**

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