

Students' Association of  
Red Deer Polytechnic

# Annual Report

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2022/2023

Year Ending April 30, 2023



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# President's Message

Hi everyone!

This past year has been beautiful and full of life. We finally saw a return to normalcy after the pandemic, with classes back in full swing and lessons learned from our hybrid settings – lessons of flexibility, grace, and kindness.

We welcomed our new RDP President, Stuart Cullum. From the start, Stuart made it clear that he had a heart for the students. We've been very grateful for Stuart's compassion for the student experience and made a lot of progress under his leadership of the institution.

Our main struggle this year was around the food bank. We saw unprecedented numbers of people visiting the food bank, painting a picture of a very stark reality of post-pandemic inflation. The cost of living was rising so rapidly that we had students and families going hungry. We tried our very best to keep up, but ultimately, we had to do something we had never done before: We asked the school for help. And boy, did RDP ever come through.

During their holiday charity campaign, RDP staff and faculty donated nearly a ton of food to help keep students fed and in the classroom. I nearly cried when I saw it all piled in the room. The compassion I felt from our counterparts at the school was overwhelming. These were folks who were experiencing the same economic crisis that we were, and they pulled together to take care of us. I cannot express how grateful we were for their help.

Additionally, we worked out a deal with the Foundation to get tax receipts issued for monetary donations to the food bank. This will help us immensely going forward.

With the heavy reliance on the food bank, we turned to our other free food offerings. Thanks to the support of our sponsors, we were able to offer free breakfast on a second day every other week, as well as expand our free soup program to include bowls of pasta to give students a more substantive option to get them through the evening.

Our events were such successes this year. It was great to see some classics return – Risqué Bingo, Car Smash, and Bell Let's Talk were all well attended. We also held a clothing drive for workwear that pulled an impressive amount of donations – and we saw great attendance for the appointments with Dress for Success and Rob Rae Clothiers afterward.

Looking beyond the walls of RDP, some incredible things happened provincially and nationally. International students' work hour caps were lifted, allowing them more opportunities for paid internships and summer jobs. We also got the good news that tuition would be capped at 2% going forward, with promises of looking at meaningful consultation in tandem with the Alberta Post-Secondary Network. The tuition interest-free grace period was extended from 6 months to 12, interest rates were lowered to prime plus one, and the repayment assistance ceiling was raised from 20K to 40K. Overall, good news for students going forward.

I may be done with my time as SA President and as a student this year, but I'm looking forward to the incredible things to come with RDP. Thank you to everyone who experienced this year with our team!

Best of luck!



The Students' Association of Red Deer Polytechnic recognizes that our campus is situated on Treaty 7 land, the traditional territory of the Blackfoot, Tsuu T'ina and Stoney Nakoda peoples, and that the central Alberta region we serve falls under Treaty 6, traditional Métis, Cree and Saulteaux territory. We honour the First Peoples who have lived here since time immemorial, and we give thanks for the land where RDC sits. This is where we will strive to honour and transform our relationships with one another.

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# Mission

The Students' Association will enrich and enhance the quality of student life at Red Deer Polytechnic by providing affordable and quality service, effective political representation, and exciting opportunities for its members.

# Vision

All students at Red Deer Polytechnic will have a positive educational experience and contact with the student body resulting in personal growth and memorable experience.

# Values

- Consideration
- Fun
- Responsibility
- Flexibility
- Accessibility
- Initiative
- Efficiency
- Participation
- Co-operation, Collaboration, and Teamwork

# Your Association at a Glance

**Lockers rented**

1,475

**Semester Bus Passes sold**

1,803

**Facebook followers**

1839

**Instagram followers**

1983

**Amount given for CAT Fund sponsored events**

\$7,726.96



# Your Association Membership Fees

## GOVERNANCE

The SA is built upon representation and advocacy, as we lobby the government and the institution to ensure students are given an affordable education. The governance fund ensures accountability through elections and protecting student interests. We also assist students with academic appeals and other grievances.

## BUILDING FUND

The Students' Association owns and operates its own building for student use. A portion of SA fees are allocated for future expansion, renovations, and general maintenance – including insurance, utilities, janitorial, and repairs.

## OPERATIONS & FINANCE

The Operations & Finance budget covers the costs of our annual external audit, legal fees, general expenses (such as telephone, internet, software, and our operational and accounting staff).

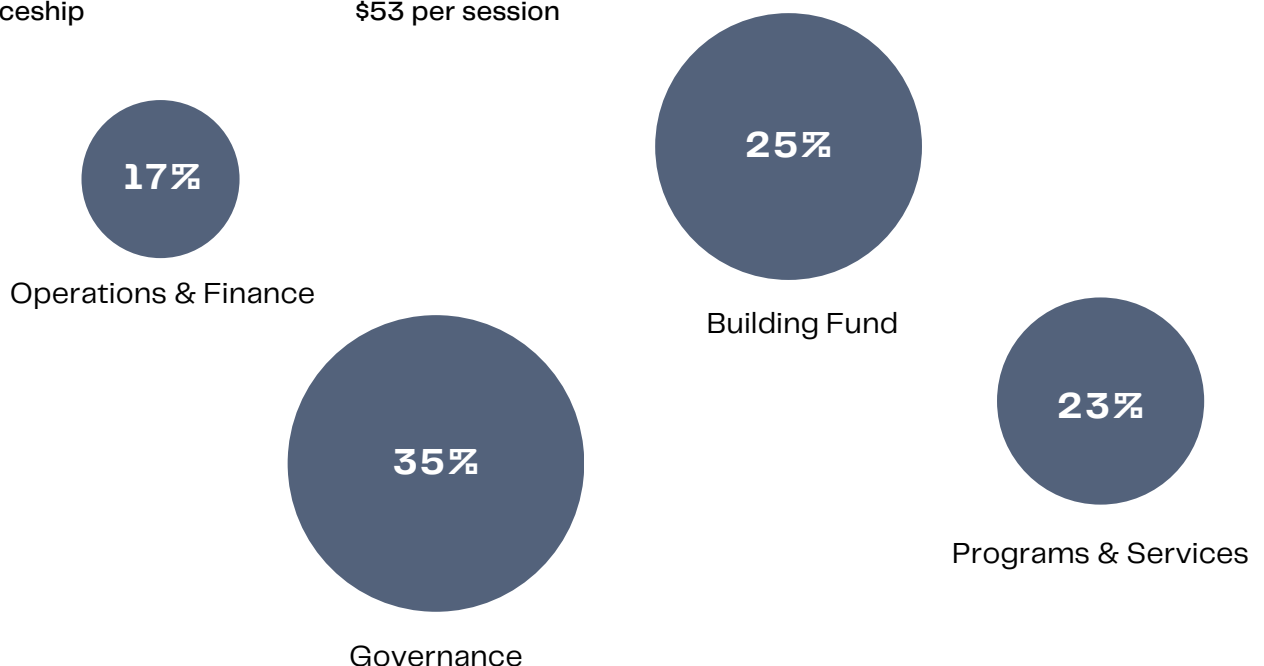
## PROGRAMS & SERVICES

The SA provides the following services:

- Awards & Scholarships
- Health & Dental Plan
- Lockers
- Communications/Publications
- Transit Passes
- Food Bank
- Cultural Activities Trust Fund
- Student Groups
- Peer Tutoring
- Mental Health Initiatives
- Awareness Campaigns
- Free Legal Help

Full-time (9 credits or more)  
Part-time (8 credits or less)  
Apprenticeship

\$102 per term  
\$53 per term  
\$53 per session





# Student Council

Council consists of 12 elected students and the members of Executive Council. Council is the highest governing body of the Students' Association. All major organizational decisions are made by Council, including Bylaw and Policy development, approval of the annual budget, and approval of the audited financial statements. Councillors are elected to govern the affairs of the Association on behalf of the Membership.

The students on Council have many roles and duties. Some of these include ensuring that the opinions and concerns of their fellow students are represented in the decision making of the Council, promoting the interests of the Membership, and putting the interests of the Membership above their own.

# Executive Council

**Savannah Snow**

President

**Alex Fuiten**

Vice President Academic

**Laura Beaveridge**

Vice President External  
May - August

**Erin Bast**

Vice President External  
October - April







# 22/23 Election Results

A vacancy in the office of Vice President External resulted in the need for a By-Election. The 2022/2023 By-Election was held between Wednesday, September 27, and Thursday, October 6. We had 2 candidates put their names forward for the position of Vice President External. Voting days occurred from Tuesday, October 4 to Thursday, October 6 on RDP's The Loop. With a voter turnout of 19.7%, Erin Bast was elected.

The General Election was held between Tuesday, March 14, and Thursday, March 23. We had 1 candidate for the position of President, 2 candidates for the position of Vice President Academic, no candidates for Vice President External, and 7 candidates for Student Council. Voting was available online through the students Loop accounts and was open from 9:00 a.m. on Monday, March 20, and 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 23. With a voter turnout of 15.5%, the candidates were elected. The General Election was contested on Friday, March 24 and a formal investigation took place. As a result of the investigation, the election of the Vice President Academic was deemed invalid and the office remained vacant until a By-Election in Fall 2023.

## **Elected Officials - May 2022- April 2023**

Savannah Snow, President  
Alex Fuiten, Vice President Academic  
Laura Beaveridge, Vice President External (May - August)  
Erin Bast, Vice President External (October - April)  
Erin Bast, Councillor (May - October)  
Felicity Arndt, Councillor  
Erin Bast, Councillor  
Kindra Woodford-Duthie, Councillor  
Lovejeet Kaur, Councillor  
Shree Aiyer, Councillor  
Kiara Welch, Councillor  
Tessi Yomi-Dada, Councillor

Laura Beaveridge, Councillor  
Marian Canas, Councillor  
Ryan Henri, Councillor  
Chloe McLaughlin, Councillor  
Channing Pass, Councillor  
Tiara Rudd, Councillor  
Ali Sadeghi, Councillor  
Odessa Talay, Councillor  
Jhanvi Khanna, Councillor

# Advocacy

## **Addition of 1.5 positions in Counselling Services**

The Students' Association advocated for more Counsellors to be hired in Counselling Services. We were thrilled to learn that Red Deer Polytechnic was hiring an additional 1.5 Counsellors to assist our students.

## **Removal of Fees**

Red Deer Polytechnic removed the \$20.00 iCard sitting fee and \$25.00 iCard withdrawal fee.

## **Piloting 9:00am Class Start Times**

In the 2022 General Election, students were asked a plebiscite question, "Would you support RDP moving to a 9:00am class start time in Fall 2023?". 76.4% of voters answered "Yes". Students have been asking for later start times at RDP for many years for a variety of reasons. The most popular reason being so that students have time to drop their children off at school before coming to the Polytechnic in the mornings. RDP has chosen to pilot this start time for the 2023-2024 Academic year and will evaluate it based on student and faculty feedback.

## **Increased Affordability for Support**

The Students' Association of Red Deer Polytechnic has advocated to the Alberta government to deliver a sustainable affordability plan and support for students attending Post-Secondary. On February 16th, 2023, as part of the Alberta 2023 Budget, the Alberta government announced their plans to improve affordability for post-secondary students by:

- Capping domestic tuition increases at two per cent (across an institution) in 2024-25 and for future academic years.
- Reducing interest rates on student loans to the prime rate, which will help reduce the cost of borrowing for both current and future Alberta student loan borrowers.
- Doubling the student loan interest-free grace period from six months to 12 months to give students more time to find gainful employment without having to worry about student loan payments.
- Increasing the thresholds for the Repayment Assistance Plan to \$40,000 from \$25,000 so more students can benefit from the program.

# Capital Projects

## Office Renovation

In July, we gave our office a much-needed renovation. Included in the renovation was creating a functional workspace for the Student Food Bank, redesigning the reception area, adding an office and emergency exit door, and updating the feature wall, paint, and flooring.

## Parenting Room

Together with members of the Nursing Faculty and Matthew Zess with Campus Management, the Students' Association funded the creation of the Parenting Room. The Parenting Room is located in the 2500 hallway and is meant for students, staff, faculty, and guests to take care of all their parenting needs while on campus. Work was completed in November 2022 and a grand opening is planned for September 2023.



# Sustainable Development Goals Accord

On October 31, 2022, Red Deer Polytechnic and the Students' Association of Red Deer Polytechnic joined 298 other post-secondary institutions and 59 Student Unions around the world in signing the Sustainable Development Goals Accord (SDGA).

## The purpose of the SDG Accord is twofold:

First it is to inspire, celebrate and advance the critical role that education has in delivering the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the value the interlinked objectives brings to governments, business and wider society.

Second, the Accord is a commitment made by learning institutions to one another, to do more to deliver the SDGs, annually report on individual progress as a Signatory, and do so in ways which share the learning with each other both nationally and internationally. Objectives include annually presenting the updated Accord metrics at the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. “

\*[www.sdgaccord.org](http://www.sdgaccord.org)



# Sustainable Development Goals Accord

## What we are doing to align with the SDG Accord:

### Goal #2 – Zero Hunger

- Free Breakfast Program offered every Tuesday & Wednesday
- Pay-What-You-Can Pasta & Soup Program available in the Far Side Bar & Grill
- Student Food Bank

### Goal #3 – Good Health and Well-Being

- Affordable Health & Dental Program
- Advocating for Addictions Recovery on campus
- Free menstrual products available in the Far Side Bar & Grill washrooms

### Goal #4 – Quality Education

- Over \$50,000 annually in scholarships, awards, and bursaries

### Goal #5 – Gender Equality

- Progressive Pride Flag painted on 2 crosswalks on campus
- Permanent Progressive Pride Flags at the RDP front entrance

### Goal #8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth

- Employing Red Deer Polytechnic students in the Far Side Bar & Grill, The Lift, and on the Street Team

### Goal #10 – Reduced Inequalities

- Introduction of the Parenting Room in Fall 2022
- Permanent Treaty 6 & 7 and Metis Flags at the RDP front entrance

### Goal #15 – Life on Land

- Auto shut-off lights in the Students' Association office
- Energy efficient lighting in the SA Office, Far Side Bar & Grill, and Lift

# 22/23 Financial Summary



**Pivotal LLP**  
 #201, 33 McKenzie Crescent  
 Red Deer County, Alberta  
 T4S 2H4

## REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Students' Association Council of: Students' Association of Red Deer Polytechnic

### Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at April 30, 2023 and the summary statement of operations for the year then ended are derived from the audited financial statements of Students' Association of Red Deer Polytechnic for the year ended April 30, 2023.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements, in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

### Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditors' report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and the auditors' report thereon.

### The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated October 30, 2023.

### Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

### Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

Red Deer County, Alberta  
 October 30, 2023

*Pivotal LLP*  
 Chartered Professional Accountants

## SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION APRIL 30, 2023

ASSETS	2023	2022
CURRENT ASSETS .....	\$ 1,669,990	\$ 1,539,158
OTHER ASSETS .....	1,498,546	1,253,911
CAPITAL ASSETS (NET OF ACCUMULATED AMORTIZATION) .....	1,183,622	1,141,790
	<u>\$ 4,352,158</u>	<u>\$ 3,934,859</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
CURRENT LIABILITIES .....	\$ 416,643	\$ 379,761
NET ASSETS		
Net investment in capital assets .....	1,183,621	1,141,790
Unrestricted net assets .....	1,310,371	1,210,038
Internally restricted reserves .....	1,441,523	1,203,270
	<u>\$ 4,352,158</u>	<u>\$ 3,934,859</u>

## SUMMARY STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2023

	2023	2022
REVENUE - net .....	\$ 1,352,280	\$ 977,034
EXPENSES .....	880,972	763,369
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES BEFORE THE FOLLOWING	<u>471,308</u>	<u>213,665</u>
Amortization of capital assets .....	(92,211)	(91,216)
Gain on disposal of capital assets .....	1,320	-
Subsidies and grants .....	-	103,523
	<u>(90,891)</u>	<u>12,307</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES .....	<u>\$ 380,417</u>	<u>\$ 225,972</u>

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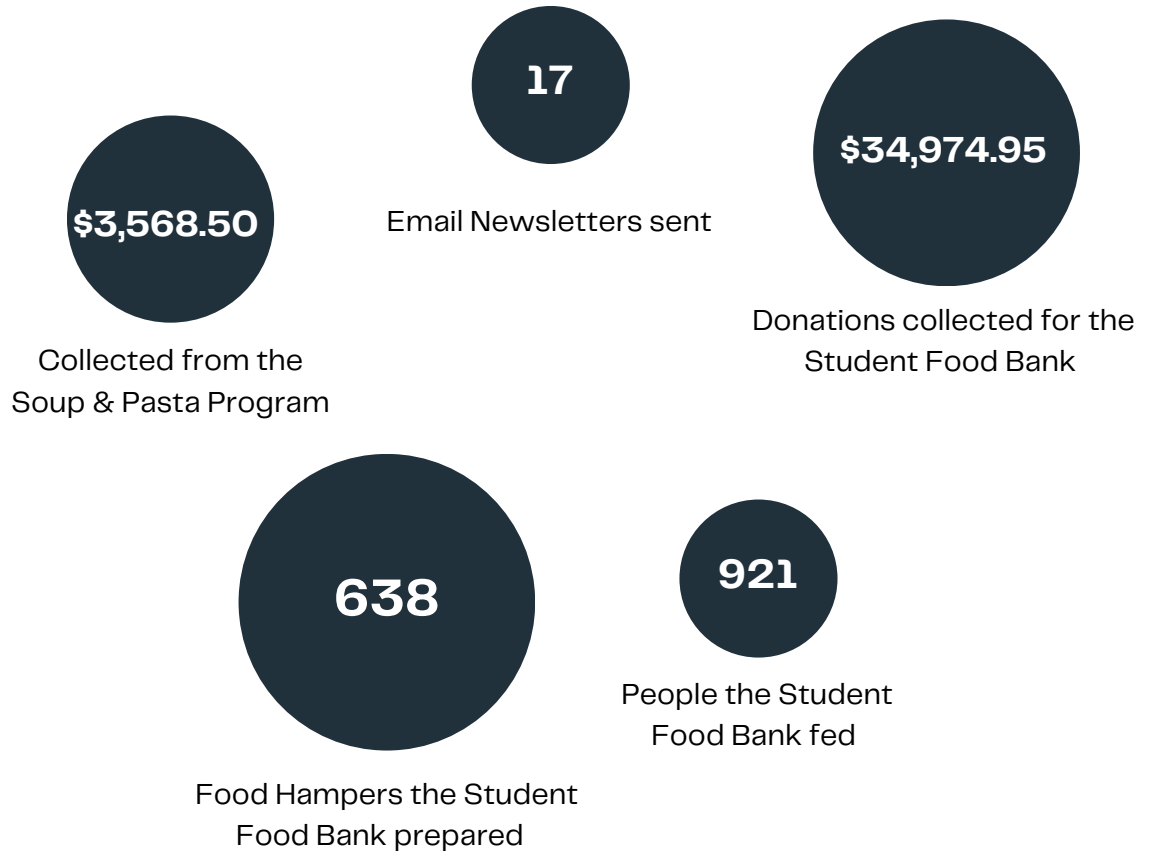
**pivotalcpa.ca**

# Membership Engagement

Last year we saw normalcy return to our campus, which meant the return of in-person events! We started the year with a Welcome BBQ, cohosted with Red Deer Polytechnic. We introduced a second Free Breakfast Program morning in October and saw great success. The Free Breakfast Program will continue to be offered every Tuesday and Wednesday. In January and February, we partnered with Dress for Success, Rob Rae Clothiers, RDP International Division, and CEED to bring our students free clothing for their professional needs. We received many donations, and students could book appointments at either Dress for Success or Rob Rae Clothier to try on the items and leave with professional clothing. In collaboration with Pivotal LLP, on March 25 we hosted Free Income Tax Filing. We saw great success, and booked all appointments within a week of advertising the date. In 2022/2023, we saw the return of many events such as Puppy Rooms, Car Smash, Karaoke, and parties in the Far Side Bar.



# Services



## Lockers

In 2022/2023, the Students' Association rented 1,475 lockers to students. This number is nearly 400% higher than the previous year.

## Transit

1,803 Semester Bus Passes were sold to students, which is a significant increase of 430% from the previous year.

## Student Groups

17 student groups were active with a combined total of 641 student members.





# Services Cont.

## **CAT Fund**

The Cultural Activities Trust Fund (CAT Fund) helps fund cultural events held at Red Deer Polytechnic. Both students and faculty sit on the committee to review and approve subsidy applications.

This year, CAT Fund assisted the Agora Conference, Student Science Conference, and the Indigenous Perspective Conference and collectively provided them with \$7, 726.06..

## **SIP**

SIP (Student Initiatives Program) helps fund events to showcase leadership, help our members grow personally and professionally, and foster new items while promoting change. In 2022/2023 we gave \$600 to 3 initiatives. The initiatives were as follows: HRC West Competition, Canadian Psychological Association Annual Conference, and the Alberta Dean's of Business Case Competition.

# Food Bank

Our student-run food bank is one of our busiest services on campus and this year, we saw the highest usage we have ever seen. While it is difficult to see students struggling with food insecurity; we are thankful we can help. In 2022/2023, our team fed 921 students and their families with 638 food hampers.

We rely on the kindness of donors from the institution as well as the greater Red Deer area. We have food bank donation cans in the Lift and Far Side Bar & Grill and we accept donations on our website and over the phone. Due to the large increase in demand, we reached out to our Red Deer Polytechnic community and received an overwhelming amount of support. Through numerous campaigns, we were grateful to have received a total of \$34,974.95 in food bank donations.

The Soup Program began in 2019/2020 and later expanded to include pasta. Each purchase of soup and pasta at the Far Side Grill is sold on a "pay-what-you-can" basis, and each dollar spent is put towards our Student Food Bank. This year, the Soup & Pasta Program donated \$3,586.50 to the Student Food Bank.

We are grateful to those who donated and made a difference to our students.



# Businesses: Far Side Bar & Grill & Lift

## Lift Most Popular Items

- Bubble Tea
- Coffee

## New Lift Items

- Bubble Tea
- Deliciously Homebaked Cookies

## Far Side Grill Specials

- Quesadilla
- Sweet Chili Crispy Chicken Burger
- Crispy Buffalo Chicken Wrap

## New Far Side Grill Items

- May Cakes Baked Goods

## Quick Facts

4,562

Burgers Sold

8,093

Orders of Fries

7,829

Cups of Coffee

Bacon  
Cheeseburger

Most Popular Food Item



# Marketing & Social Media

Email newsletters were proven to be an effective way of communicating SA programs, services, and initiatives to our students. In the monthly newsletters, we include a survey – mostly fun; however, in January we sent a Mental Wellness Survey. We surveyed our students to better understand their needs and determine how we can better support them – 12.15% of the student body participated in this survey. The results of the survey were shared with Red Deer Polytechnic.

Additional avenues were taken to market to our students such as installing and utilizing a TV at the bottom of the SA stairs, increasing video content on Instagram and Facebook, and scheduling the Street Team for specific event promotions in the hallways.

## Email Newsletter Stats



3932

Average Number of Students Emailed

3.25%

Average Link Click Rate

20

Email Blasts Sent

22.01%

Average Email Open Rate



# Scholarships & Awards

The Students' Association is dedicated to supporting and encouraging student endeavors and pursuits. We are currently sponsoring more than 50 awards and scholarships totaling over \$50,000 each year!

## **STUDENT OF THE YEAR**

Lovejeet Kaur

## **INVOLVEMENT IN COLLEGE GOVERNANCE SCHOLARSHIP**

Chiyla Hemeyer

Annika Sudlow

## **DR. GUILLERMO BARRON PHILOSOPHY SCHOLARSHIP**

Ewan Bowler

## **TERRY WOOD SCHOLARSHIP**

Erin Bast

## **COLLEGE MEMBER CONTRIBUTION TO STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Dr. Jacqueline Cowan

Dillon Andrus-Dobbs

## **STUDENT GROUP AWARD**

G.A.M.E Society

Filipino Society

## **ROY NORTH SCHOLARSHIP**

Ryan Henri

## **OUTSTANDING DEDICATION**

Annika Sudlow

Tiara Rudd

Amy Syzmanek

Ryan Henri

Jessica Nelson

## **MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE AWARD**

Annika Sudlow

Ryan Henri

Tiara Rudd

Jessica Nelson

Lovejeet Kaur

## **STUDENT VOLUNTEER AWARD**

Arik Weersink

Brianne Campbell

Chiyla Hemeyer

Laura Beaveridge

## **PART TIME STAFF MEMBER**

Justynne Valencia

Mia Kristel D. Perdio

Katrina Patricia Oliveros

John Miguel Oliveros

# Our People

<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Board of Governors</b>
<p>Shree Aiyer            Felicity Arndt            Erin Bast            Laura Beaveridge            Marian Canas            Kindra Duthie-Woodford            Ryan Henri            Lovejeet Kaur</p> <p>Jhanvi Khanna            Chloe McLaughlin            Channing Pass            Tiara Rudd            Ali Sadeghi            Odessa Talay            Kiara Welch            Tessi Yomi-Dada</p>	<p>William Langille            Savannah Snow</p>
<b>Academic Council</b>	<b>Executive Council</b>
<p>Erin Bast            Alex Fuiten            Annika Rose            Ali Sadeghi            Savannah Snow            Annika Wilson            Kindra Duthie-Woodford            Marian Young</p>	<p>Savannah Snow, President            Alex Fuiten, VP Academic            Laura Beaveridge, VP External            May - August            Erin Bast, VP External            October - April</p>
<b>Council Chairperson</b>	<b>Election Officials</b>
<p>Anne Marie Watson</p>	<p>Martin Cruz, Elections Officer            William Langille, DRO            Marian Canas, DRO</p>

# Our People

## Students' Association Office

Liz Sweiger, Executive Director  
Marie Evangelista, Operations Director  
Jessica Walker, Member Engagement Manager  
Marian Young, Governance and Student Support Coordinator  
Karen Krasowski, Operations Assistant and Health & Dental Plan Coordinator

## Lift

Jill Brown, Lift Supervisor

## Far Side Bar & Grill

Rodrigo Morataya, Far Side Bar Supervisor  
Patti Drover, Far Side Grill Supervisor  
Marian Canas  
Jermy Iliscupidez  
Lita Iliscupidez  
Mia Kristel D. Perdio  
Conny Czarinah Galam  
Miguel Oliveros  
Katrina Patricia Oliveros  
Paolo Aguado

## Street Team

Alicea Morillo  
Odessa Talay  
Lovejeet Kaur  
Justynne Valencia