

## Annual Report 2014-15

### Foundation & Alumni Relations

**It was a record-setting year with a \$1.2 million lead gift to the Achieving Dreams Campaign from the Walker family and Walker Industries Holdings Limited. Achieving The**



*The Walker family and its Niagara-based Walker Industries Holdings Limited made a commitment of \$1.2 million to the Achieving Dreams Campaign – the largest corporate gift the college has ever received. From left shown with the architect's concept of the Walker Industry Innovation Centre are: Allan Schmidt, chair, Niagara College Board of Governors; Dan President, Niagara College president; Sheila (Walker) Bonapace, representing the Walker shareholders; and John Fisher, CEO of Walker Industries.*

The Achieving Dreams Campaign is raising \$7 million to support exciting campus redevelopment plans through Capital Vision 2015; purchase instructional equipment and learning resources to help make students work ready; and to support students through scholarships, bursaries, study-work abroad and leadership development opportunities.

Capital Vision 2016 is a \$55 million project that will provide new and expanded facilities at the Welland and Niagara-on-the-Lake campuses to support growth, enhance the student experience, and expand Niagara College's research and innovation capabilities.

The first phase of the project includes the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre at the Welland campus, and an expansion of the Canadian Food & Wine Institute at the Niagara-on-the-Lake campus.

The plan also features inspiring learning spaces and environments to accommodate a variety of academic activities, such as individual study, group work and collaborative learning opportunities. Key academic support services will be brought together where students already gather. New fitness and recreation spaces will support Niagara College's commitment to students' health and wellness.



## Philanthropy Goals and Results:

- Develop and implement a plan for the Achieving Dreams Campaign to run from 2013-16 to raise money for new facilities; equipment and learning resources; scholarships and bursaries, and applied research.
- Raise \$1.5 million in the second year of the campaign toward the \$7 million community goal.
- Generate revenue through donations from individuals, businesses and organizations; grants from foundations; legacy gifts from estates; and events and other fundraising activities.

## **A total of \$3.36 million was raised in the second year of the Achieving Dreams Campaign towards the \$7 million community goal.**

Donations, grants and bequests totaling \$3.09 million were secured from individuals, companies, organizations and foundations.

Fifteen new scholarships and bursaries were established through donations and fundraising revenue. New Student Opportunity Funds were set up for students in Media Studies and Business programs to enter industry competitions and gain real-world experience.

Staff provided support to internal partners in their fundraising efforts for the Many Hands Project and for Study Work Abroad activities in the Schools of Justice Studies and Community Services.

More than \$309,000 was made available for the College to purchase instructional equipment to help make students work ready.

*Top photo: Eva Lewis was a long-time supporter of Niagara College. Since 2002, Eva's endowed funds have helped 240 students -- 15 to 20 students annually benefit from her generous donations. She encouraged students to fulfill their dreams, embrace lifelong learning and contribute to the development of their communities. Eva passed away in 2013 and left a bequest in her will to benefit NC students. From left to right: Rev. Alice Medcof, Eva's cousin; award recipients Corey Crawford, Elizabeth Hawkins and Jessica Neufeld; and Dan Patterson, Niagara College president are shown at the awards ceremony for the School of Environment and Horticulture.*



*Bottom photo: Students taking part in the Study Work Abroad opportunities that expand their worldview, experience and employment opportunities.*

## Events & Other Fundraising Activities Goals and Results:

- Generate \$212,000 in net revenue from the Seafood Gala, Golf Classic and other fundraising activities, such as sales of frames and flowers at convocation, and revenue from affinity partners. Another \$80,000 was realized through the Student Priority Bursary set aside from tuition fees.

## Events and fundraising activities generated \$227,000 in revenue in 2014-15.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Seafood Gala in April 2014 was a fitting anniversary celebration with more than 730 guests in attendance at the Fallsview Casino Resort. The event raised \$130,000 for equipment and learning resources, and scholarships and bursaries.

The Golf Classic in September 2014 raised \$36,000 to fund scholarships for student athletes. This financial support helps ease the burden for students who work hard to achieve their academic and athletic goals.

Other fundraising activities generated \$46,000 including the sale of frames and flowers at convocation, and revenue from affinity partners. The net proceeds were earmarked to fund priority capital instructional equipment to help make students work ready and meet employers' expectations.

*Top photo: Fallsview Casino is the generous host of the Seafood Gala providing gift-in-kind support and a donation of \$25,000 to help students. From left: Bob Jackson, vice-chair of the Foundation board; Richard Taylor, vice-president, Operations of Fallsview Casinos; Dan Patterson, president, Niagara College; Blair Pollard, Foundation chair; and Sean Kennedy, CEO of the Foundation.*

*Middle top photo: Some of the more than 100 student volunteers take some time out from helping to make the Seafood Gala such an enjoyable experience for the guests.*

*Middle bottom photo: Some of the student volunteers are shown in front of the Broadcasting program's mobile television production unit that was on hand for the first time at the Golf Classic.*

*Bottom photo: Student athletes and other volunteers extend a warm welcome to golfers.*



## Alumni Relations Goals and Results:

- Work with academic and service areas to engage grads in mutually-beneficial activities and relationships.
- Celebrate alumni excellence through success stories and Premier's Awards nominations.

Efforts are ongoing to strengthen relationships with alumni, and academic and service areas to establish connections with NC grads.

Eight new members were recruited for the NC Alumni Council to act as ambassadors and connections to their sectors. We assisted academic program areas to identify successful grads to take part in class visits, recruitment and orientation activities. NC Alumni branded items were made available for alumni guest speakers, to use as door prizes for networking events, re unions and other activities. The monthly e-newsletter was distributed to 12,000 alumni to share success stories and NC news. More than 2,000 grads are on the NC Alumni LinkedIn site and 1,700 on Facebook. Efforts continue to update alumni contact information for NC's more than 70,000 grads.

Six Niagara College graduates were nominated for the prestigious 2014 Premier's Awards to recognize outstanding graduates from Ontario's 24 colleges. Close to 1,000 guests attended the gala celebration in Toronto in November 2014 to celebrate with the nominees and announce the six winners, including our nominee, Captain (Navy) Rebecca Patterson in the Health Sciences category.

## Niagara College's 2014 Premier's Award nominees:



**Tara Colaneri** – Business  
Hotel & Restaurant Management  
1999  
Vice President, Pinewood Homes  
(Tara) Ltd and Executive Director,  
Licensee Sales, Colaneri Estate  
Winery



**Dave Maciulis** – Creative Arts &  
Design  
Horticulture Technician 1991  
Principal, Natural Landscape Group



**Captain (Navy) Rebecca  
Patterson** – Health Sciences  
Category Winner  
Nursing 1987  
Commander 1 Health Services  
Group, Canadian Armed Forces



**Kevin Rempel** – Recent Graduate  
Event Management 2009  
Motivational Speaker, member of  
Paralympic Sledge Hockey Team  
Canada



**John Zambakkides** – Technology  
Electrical Engineering  
Technology 1971  
President & CEO, Z3 Controls Inc



**Wendelyn Johnson** – Community  
Services  
Law & Security Administration 1986  
Consultant & CEO, Mississaugas of the  
New Credit First Nation, Pan Am  
Games Secretariat