

UPDATE



Bursary helps student 'access' new career path



Angela Gagnon at work in the lab

They say hard work and perseverance pays off. It did for Angela Gagnon - returning to school after 25 years, the Environmental and Engineering Technology student and single mom is amongst the first recipients of The Risley Family Access to Opportunities Bursaries.

"I was very relieved and thankful when I got the news," says Angela, who came to NSCC's Waterfront Campus after carpal tunnel syndrome derailed her longstanding and successful career as an embroidery artist.

"To go from something I knew intimately to something I didn't know at all was a huge challenge," says the Plaster Rock, NB native.

She credits the "welcoming and supportive" NSCC staff who worked with her, first in Women Unlimited - NSCC's free trades and technology exploration program - and then Academic & Career Connections (ACC), aimed at helping mature students obtain needed credits and prepare for the classroom.

Now Angela is immersed in the two-year Environmental and Engineering Technology diploma program, which focuses on managing and protecting fresh water resources.

Because her family - her heritage is French and Métis - lived off the land in their rural community, "I understand the importance of natural resources and keeping our environment as strong as we possibly can," she says.

"With my new education I would like to explore options of how I can help in restoration and preservation of reserves and of native lands."

Angela is one of 100 first-year students who received a renewable Risley Family Access to Opportunity Bursary for \$1,500, which has greatly relieved financial pressure for Gagnon, the sole support for her 18-year-old daughter who has significant disabilities.

In fact, following a win earlier this year in the NSCC campus-wide Ideas 2016 entrepreneurship competition, she's also pursuing a business opportunity to produce footwear for people with specific disabilities.

"I've been surrounded by encouragement, understanding and great teachers who want me to succeed. I want nothing more than to continue to learn and grow," Angela says.



“By providing the funding for the Access to Opportunities Bursaries, I’m able to see the immediate impact of my gift, and know that supporting these students is making a stronger Nova Scotia for everyone.”

John Risley, President and CEO, Clearwater Fine Foods

Cutten prizes NSCC-business sector collaboration

Up until a few years ago, Andy Cutten hadn't had much exposure to the community-college model. After all, he'd graduated with a Commerce degree from Saint Mary's University, received his CPA accreditation, and then attended Northwestern University in Illinois to obtain his MBA.

But then he started "bumping up" against Nova Scotia Community College through his work as a management consultant. Now he's not only a fan, but a new member of the NSCC Foundation Board of Directors.

"I've become a total advocate of community college and what it is trying to do," says Andy, a Truro native who returned to Nova Scotia and helped found Halifax Global Inc. in 2003.

"I'm continually surprised by what is going on here," he says, mentioning projects like the map digitization taking place at COGS and the recently announced COVE Project.

One of Cutten's consulting assignments involved facilitating visioning sessions on post-secondary education for the Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Advanced Education, which is how he met President Don Bureaux and other college employees.

"What really impressed me about NSCC is the way they interface with business and the private sector," says Andy. "This is highly important to graduate success and to our economy."

He also worked on a project in Yarmouth that connected him with Burrigade Campus Principal Mary Thompson, who told him "we have students here who would not be here if not for the Foundation and its financial support."

So he joined the Foundation board in February 2016, bringing with him a wealth of management and financial expertise honed during a career in global manufacturing and service businesses, which took him from Toronto to the UK to the United States, before the father of two and grandfather of one settled with his wife in Hackett's Cove.

"I'm pretty passionate about it. We're helping students in need - they can see that the fundraising that's happening is for them," says Andy, who was impressed by a recent meeting with a single mother of four who's enrolled in the Culinary Arts program and is an award recipient.

"I thought 'This is awesome' - in many cases it's giving people a second chance," he says.

Cutten's board experience also includes Nova Scotia Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters, the Halifax Chamber of Commerce, and the Canadian Forces Liaison Council Nova Scotia.



Andy Cutten joined the board in February

"I've become a total advocate of community college and what it is trying to do."

NSCC Foundation board member
Andy Cutten

Aid by the Numbers

593

NUMBER OF
STUDENT AWARD
RECIPIENTS IN 2016

\$745,000

VALUE OF 2016
STUDENT AWARDS

\$1,200

AVERAGE STUDENT
AWARD IN 2016

A message from NSCC President Don Bureaux

It's been a busy fall, the time of year that naturally lends itself to new beginnings and fresh starts.

At NSCC, we burst out of the gate with a bang - celebrating our new academic year with record enrollment. More than 11,000 full-time students are now making their way at 'Nova Scotia's college,' learning, working and creating on 13 campuses across the province. Before we know it, they will be out in the world, forging their own paths, building Nova Scotia's economy and enhancing our quality of life.

It's an exhilarating time. For them and for us.

The College has recently announced three projects under the federal and provincial Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund (SIF), which will enhance, modernize and improve sustainability of facilities at the Lunenburg and Pictou campuses and lead to the creation of the new Centre for Ocean Ventures and

Entrepreneurship (COVE) adjacent to the Waterfront Campus.

Meanwhile, we were thrilled to welcome 6,500 visitors to Open House 2016, an opportunity for prospective students and their families to explore NSCC's many offerings. We received 2,318 applications that day!

It was also a terrific chance for representatives from the NSCC Foundation to share their message with members of the community, enlightening them about the many financial scholarships, bursaries and awards on offer, as well as the program collateral and innovative learning opportunities supported by the Foundation.

Of course Alumni Relations reps were also on hand, cultivating connections and eliciting pride amongst past and future grads - and talking up our excellent partnership with TD Insurance Meloche Monnex, which allows us to offer alumni significant savings on insurance rates.

Indeed, we have much to be thankful for - as celebrated on National



Philanthropy Day Nov. 15 - but there is still much work to be done.

Our campus food banks are busier than ever, a sad reminder of the challenging financial situations experienced by some of our students and their families. And while the Foundation will have disbursed almost \$745,000 to 593 students in 2016, we are only responding to a fraction of the demand.

The Foundation continues its work on behalf of NSCC and our students, connecting those who seek to help with those who need a hand up.

Donor credits college with transformation

Barbara Nielsen credits NSCC with transforming her late son's life. That's why she invests in transforming the lives of other students via the Tom Norwood Endowment Fund.

"It really turned his life around to a life that was very satisfying, and he achieved so much," says Barbara. Her son attended what was then Halifax Regional Vocational School, a predecessor of NSCC, after struggling through high school and a short stint at university.

The Tom Norwood Award enhances his legacy through two or more \$1,000 bursaries available each year to full-time students. The recipients, enrolled in the Practical Nursing or Natural Resources Environmental Technology programs, must have a track

record of community involvement.

Tom received his Data Processing diploma in 1990. "It was absolutely amazing," recalls Barbara. "He was totally engrossed in the course. He did really well and it was a complete turnaround. It was the nature of the program, how it was taught, who was teaching it - it just hit the nail on the head for him."

Soon after graduating, he was offered a relief position at Dalhousie University, the beginning of a 16-year career in the Computing and Information Services department.

Barbara enjoys hearing from students who have benefitted from the awards. One of those is Justine Mallinson, a Practical Nursing student at Burrigade Campus in Yarmouth.

"This award lifts a huge weight off my shoulders," says Justine, a volunteer firefighter. "It allows me to focus more

of my attention on my education and follow my dreams of becoming a nurse ... your support is a reminder that I am on the right track."

Tom continued his education, as well, receiving a BSc with Honours in Computer Science from Dal in 2002. He died in 2006 of a stroke, caused by a blood clot linked to an injury he suffered while vacationing with his mother and other relatives in Florida. He was 37.

"They say it's not the length of your life but the quality of your life, and I really credit community college for turning his life around," says Barbara.



Tom Norwood with mother Barbara Nielsen

Student sponsorship program at Michelin

A brand new program spearheaded by the NSCC Foundation will be a catalyst in connecting the dots between college and employment.

The "Sponsor A Student Program" will see employers paying some or all of a student's tuition costs, a move tied to the recipient joining the company for work terms and possibly full-time employment after graduation.

"Employers can hand-pick recipients and be a part of their training process," says Michelle Bussey, the Foundation's Director of Development.

"Through this initiative, NSCC will be building a much tighter collaborative partnership with businesses and communities, and helping address problems related to skills gaps and our

aging population, as outlined in the One Nova Scotia report. It also illustrates the fact that we are an 'access' college."

The first company to come on board is Michelin North America (Canada) Inc., with plants in Pictou County, Bridgewater and Waterville, where NSCC has nearby campuses. The Michelin Technical Scholarship supports sixteen \$3,000 scholarships - worth \$48,000 - annually. Recipients will come from five different programs - in the engineering and mechanical technology realm - across seven campuses.

"We are excited to partner with NSCC," says Jeff MacLean, President, Michelin North America (Canada) Inc. "This innovative program not only provides a financial scholarship, but also includes hands-on work experience at our manufacturing sites - and possibly a career in the future."

While the approach is flexible and can be customized per employer, the Michelin program was promoted directly to students in relevant courses via email, followed by information sessions during which interested applicants took an aptitude test. The application process and resulting interviews are winding down now, with recipients to be announced in the next few weeks.

"From a student's perspective, along with the financial assistance, it also gets you over that 'no work - no experience' hurdle by providing guaranteed relevant work experience," says Michelle Bussey.

"For sponsors, they're investing in their future workforce, which will help address skills shortages and job gaps through this engagement funnel," she says. "And the Foundation is maximizing its community impact by helping link local employers with future employees."

Grad hooked on NSCC

For NSCC alum Callum Mireault, the pull of Nova Scotia Community College is almost as strong as the pull of the ocean.

"I wouldn't be where I am without NSCC," says Callum during Our Ocean Playground Education Day 2016 in Halifax on Nov. 23, where his appearance was sponsored by the NSCC Foundation's Alumni Engagement Fund.

A featured speaker at the event, which drew 750 junior and senior high students from across Nova Scotia, the Cobourg, ON native was among the first students in NSCC's emerging Oceans Technology Advanced Diploma program (he found the program through a Facebook ad). He graduated from NSCC in 2015 after earning his BSc in marine biology from Dal.

"I went in with a pretty open mind, for the applied skills. I just said 'Give me everything you got!'" says Callum, whose internship included time in the far north with ArcticNet.



Callum Mireault at Our Ocean event

"Right from the get-go, it became very clear that I could really hone my skills in underwater photography ... to think that this is what I get to do for the rest of my life is astounding to me."

He's now doing his Masters degree in geography at Memorial University, but expects to be back in Nova Scotia during

breaks - possibly on the Waterfront campus furthering his research into sea potatoes (NSCC's Craig Brown is one of his advisors) - and maybe beyond.

"I'm really excited to see where the program goes. It offers such broad skills and knowledge, and NSCC is really finding a niche market with advanced diplomas."

Stay connected. Share news. Show your pride.

NSCC Alumni are part of a growing network of successful graduates with a massive collective reach. A brand new initiative, called NSCCisMe, connects graduates from across our 13 campuses and numerous predecessor schools.

The NSCC Alumni Program offers privileged access to the TD Insurance Meloche Monnex program for alumni and students. The TD program launched less than a year ago and already boasts 2,500 members who are reaping the benefits. When our alumni and students choose TD Insurance, they also give back, providing support for the Foundation's Alumni Engagement Fund.

NSCC Alumni prove the College is delivering on its mission to build Nova Scotia's economy and quality of life through education and innovation.

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