

# Fall Update



▲ Katie Marshall, an Occupational Health & Safety student, is ready for the fall term.

# NSCC President welcomes the new year

As we embark on this new academic year, we have made several changes to accommodate a new way of learning. As always, the safety and welfare of NSCC students and staff is our highest priority. I am confident in the College's ability to continue to deliver high-quality, industry-driven training and education. This has included an innovative approach to adding resources, both physical and technological, to support an online and blended program delivery model.

Now more than ever, the support of donors and partners like you will create opportunities and ensure success for students as they begin, or continue, their journey with NSCC.

In this update, you will find highlights from the past few months, including:

## Career supports

We have launched a new Career Hub to support both our graduates with their career goals following graduation, and employers looking for committed and highly skilled individuals to join their workforce.

## Amplifying voices on anti-racism

We have been overwhelmed with the support from donors and members of our NSCC community as we work towards lasting change to make a real impact on anti-racism.

We are working with partners to improve equitable access to financial assistance, provide support and offer opportunities for listening, educating and open dialogue.

In a special edition update to our alumni, we had the opportunity to hear from alumni who represent our African Nova Scotian/Black and Indigenous/Mi'kmaw communities.

## 100% of Irving Pathways to Shipbuilding cohort graduates

In this update you will hear about a small group of students now known as the **20for20**. It is an uplifting story about new beginnings, the power of community, and what happens when we stand together. I am proud to report that all 20 of these students successfully completed their program.

We remain committed to listening, learning and responding to the needs of our students and our campus community. Your partnership in this effort is invaluable and your continued support is making it possible for our students to stay on track and excel in the face of social, health and economic challenges.

Thank you for your support.



With deepest gratitude,

Don Bureaux  
President, NSCC

# Jack Watson is on the road for new mariners

Jack Watson graduated from NSCC's Marine Navigation Technology Program in 2019. This fall, he is riding a bicycle around the entire coast of Nova Scotia to raise money to support students.

Jack has created the New Mariners Award and will be fundraising \$2,000 to be awarded to a Nova Scotian student that wants to work in commercial shipping.

The NSCC Marine Navigation Technology Program was a perfect fit for Jack. "I wanted to be on the water and work on ships." He says the program exceeded his expectations. "The program offered everything I was looking for. Everything I learned has been very practical in my life and it was easy to apply at my current job as a Watchkeeping Mate."

The award is open to new and returning students in Marine Engineering Technology, Marine Navigation Technology and the Bridgeway programs at NSCC Strait Area Campus.

His goal is to spread awareness about the program. "It is very rewarding and can lead to a great career in the end. **I want to share this experience with others and help anyone that is willing to do this.**"

Jack started his route on September 15th and will be riding for approximately 20 days. You can support Jack by donating to his fundraiser or sharing a message of support on his Facebook page, [please click here](#).



▲ **First stop:** Strait Area Campus. L-R: Jennifer Allen, Marine Faculty, Lauryn Delaney 2nd Year Marine Navigation, Joe Murphy, Marine Faculty, Jack Watson, NSCC Nautical Institute Alum, Holly MacDonald, 2nd Year Marine Navigation.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



“I decided to come to NSCC because, to me, it is an international hub for practical learning and diversity. My goal is to become a contributing member of Nova Scotia through my program. I believe my personal experiences, professional skills, interest in construction, and job experiences in the field will fuel my drive to succeed at being an active member of the Nova Scotia community.

Thank you again for investing in students like me. I hope to give back to the College someday and impact the life of a student to reach their educational goals.

Jonathan Okwo  
Recipient, Ocean Contractors Limited Award  
Civil Engineering Technology, Class of 2021  
Ivany Campus

## Culinary excellence recognized

Six exceptional students were selected this year for the prestigious Lieutenant Governor's Award for Culinary Excellence in Nova Scotia.

The recipients are:

- Samantha Charlong, Culinary Management, Marconi Campus
- Julia Cormier, Culinary Management, Akerley Campus - Recipient, Lieutenant Governor's Medal for Culinary Excellence
- Olivia Elliott, Culinary Skills, Pictou Campus
- Ethan Green, Culinary Skills, Lunenburg Campus
- Stewart Maclean, Culinary Skills, Strait Area Campus
- Tara Roach, Baking & Pastry Arts, Kingstec Campus

In the last six months, thanks to the generous support of donors, close to 500 students have received laptops and access to internet in support of remote learning. The devices continue to be available to students through our library laptop loaner program.

“

I could never be more thankful to NSCC for loaning me a laptop and providing my home with temporary internet services to complete my Diploma. I was really struggling and stressed out trying to figure out how to finish my classes. Thanks to NSCC they really got me through this incredibly tough time. I finished my classes and received my diploma!

-Anonymous beneficiary

## Matt Currie: From award recipient to staff donor



▲ Matt Currie  
Manager, Student Awards  
and Financial Aid, NSCC.

When Matt Currie joined NSCC in 2013, he saw an opportunity to put his experience in finance and public relations to work for his alma mater in the Student Awards and Experience Office (SAEO).

As an NSCC Public Relations student in 2007, Matt received an award — an experience that he says gave him

a boost and made him feel like someone invested in him. Someone cared about him and the journey he was on. “I wanted to play that role in someone else’s life.”

A lot has changed in 7 years. When Matt started at the SAEO, on average, 1 in 7 seven applicants received funding. Now, thanks to the Make Way Campaign and the generosity of donors, 1 in 4 applicants receive an award.

However, the need is still great, as 75% of those that apply do not receive funding.

The biggest challenge continues to be the barrier faced by students when they return to school to change career paths. In working with these students, Matt says it is clear to see that great sacrifices have been made. In many cases, they had to give up a full-time job, sell their property, or relocate their lives to come to college. Some have dependents and over and above the tuition fees, they have day-to-day living expenses to worry about.

Receiving this support is often the make-or-break in whether they will succeed.

Matt has been an NSCC staff donor for the last five years. “Every day I have the privilege of witnessing the impact that awards and scholarships have on our students and I wanted to contribute to that impact.” His motivation is clear. **“If I can help alleviate any bit of pressure a student can have so they can worry a little bit less about their finances and focus a little bit more on their program, then that is a win for me.”**

As Manager, Student Awards and Financial Aid, Matt continues to advocate for students and to encourage more staff to support. “I feel like I won the lottery with this job. I get to make an impact on students every day. I am blessed to be able to do this work to help make education a reality for some that may not have been able to pursue that.”

### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



“

Going to school at NSCC has allowed me to have many different experiences that I would not have elsewhere. I am grateful for the instructors and NSCC staff for always being willing to help.

Receiving this award allows me to cover part of my tuition and to experience many new opportunities. Although I worked through high school as well as during my first year at NSCC there is still a financial burden. With this award, I will be able to invest more time and efforts into volunteering, focusing on my studies, and helping others along

the way. Once I graduate from the Social Services program, I hope to further my education in this field, hopefully gain employment and ultimately one day, I hope to start my own business helping others.

Thank you so very much for your generosity. I can promise that this award will be put to good use in my life and my studies.

**Taylor Montambeault**  
Recipient, Doug and Elaine Thistle  
Yarmouth Community Bursary  
Social Services, Class of 2021  
Burrige Campus

## 20for20 – A celebration of perseverance and community

In June, 20 African Nova Scotians successfully graduated from their Welding program at NSCC. The students made up the first Irving Pathways to Shipbuilding cohort for African Nova Scotians. The two-year program is part of an innovative approach linking education and industry while creating intentional opportunities for equity-seeking groups.

The program has resulted in unprecedented success. The students – now dubbed the **20for20**, all came from different backgrounds, and many were going through a career transition with little or no experience in trades. **What they had in common was a determination to succeed.** The selection process was intense, the program was physically and mentally demanding and COVID-19 challenged them to learn in a new way. No matter what obstacles got in their way, they stayed focused and pushed each other to get to the finish line.

Sattina Dabb, a mother of three, was one of only four women in the program. When she joined the class,

it felt intimidating, but she quickly learned that she was now part of a team that was committed to learning and supporting each other. “The best part of the program was the community that we built as a class. **We all worked together; if someone was struggling, there was always someone you could go to that was ready to help.**”

Through the program, students gained practical skills in a range of disciplines from metal fabrication and welding, to mathematics.



▲ Sattina Dabb.  
Welding, Class of 2020  
Akerley Campus

Sattina says joining the program was the best decision she’s ever made. “I took a chance and it worked out. I am doing something I enjoy. I can be a role model to my children, especially my daughter. I am showing them that it is possible to juggle family life with going back to school at this age and still working part time to provide for my family—that is something I can be proud of.”

The 2020 Pathways to Shipbuilding program was made possible through partnership with:

- Irving Shipbuilding
- Nova Scotia Community College
- East Preston Empowerment Academy
- Nova Scotia Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs
- Nova Scotia Department of Labour & Advanced Education
- Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency
- The CWB Welding Foundation
- The NSCC Foundation
- Unifor
- Employment Nova Scotia
- YMCA Dartmouth

## NSCC Career Hub expanded

The ‘What next?’ question is on every student’s mind in the months leading up to graduation. This year, due to the global pandemic, is unlike any that has been experienced before. Due to the unique challenges faced by students, alumni and employers it was important to do everything possible to support them, provide resources and enable connections in this new virtual environment.

NSCC’s recently unveiled Career Hub is helping to ease that transition and much more with a user-friendly platform. Returning students and graduates can now access the hub for training, mentorship, and employment opportunities.

For employers, the hub offers free access to thousands of potential candidates from over 140 disciplines as well as resources to support a

seamless recruitment process including government funding opportunities for work placements.

[Please visit the Employer Job Posting Form](#) to advertise your next work opportunity for free.

# Devour! reimagined



2020 marks the 10th anniversary of Devour! The Food Film Fest. During a typical year, people from around the world come to experience the beauty of the Annapolis Valley in the shoulder season, while they take in the best of food and film the province has to offer.

This year's hybrid in-person and virtual events format (coined Devour! 9.5) allows the safe welcome of local attendees to signature and outdoor events, while a virtual audience will join from the comfort of their homes.

While the festival lights up Wolfville and connects Nova Scotia to the world, it also provides NSCC students with a rich cultural and learning experience. Students have become a permanent fixture at the event, actively participating in the festival organization, workshops, and presentations.

"Since its inception, Devour! The Food Film Fest has had a strategic partnership with NSCC to provide students in the culinary, tourism, and hospitality programs with exciting learning and mentoring opportunities and exposure. It's been a rewarding and growing partnership through the years." - Lia Rinaldo, Managing Director, Devour! The Food Film Fest.

## Another first this year is the Devour! Hospitality Diversity Scholarship for NSCC students.

As an extension of the festival's support of NSCC, the scholarship seeks to ensure that the next generation of the hospitality workforce better represents the diversity of Nova Scotia.

The scholarship is open to students in Culinary Management, Culinary Skills and Tourism Hospitality from equity seeking groups.

[For the full program and ticket details, click to visit Devour!](#)

*Image above: NSCC students (in black t-shirts) help prepare for the 'Celebrity Chef Dinner based on Big Night' event during 2019 Devour! Fest.*

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



“

When I first heard about this award, I began to aim towards it. It is nice to be rewarded because it shows that all my hard work from this year has paid off.

After receiving my diploma, I would like to work as a ship's cook and, during my time off, travel while learning about other cultures and their unique cuisines.

**Stewart Maclean**  
Recipient, Lieutenant Governor's Award for Culinary Excellence – 2020 Culinary Skills, Class of 2021 Strait Area Campus

## Thank you. Your support makes a difference for students everyday.

**To get in touch, please contact:**

Call toll free: 1-866-745-7919 | Fax: (902) 491-4828.

Email: [foundation@nsc.ca](mailto:foundation@nsc.ca)

Website: [nsc.ca/foundation](http://nsc.ca/foundation). To donate online, visit [support.nsc.ca](http://support.nsc.ca)

Mail: NSCC Foundation | 5685 Leeds Street PO Box 1153, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2X1

Charitable Registration Number: 887210318 RR0001