



**Bow Valley  
College**

# **Students' Association of Bow Valley College (SABVC)**

**2021–2022 Impact Report**





## You are part of our success!

Thank you **SABVC**. You help make student success possible! The work of donors and Bow Valley College goes far to stabilize families, raise self-esteem and helps vulnerable people seek pathways to better and stronger options for their future. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our students and our community and for supporting student awards and Equity, Diversion and Inclusion on our campuses. Because of donors like you we are expanding access to innovative post-secondary programming right here in Calgary.



As Calgary's only comprehensive community college, and a proud access college, Bow Valley College is crucial to the well-being of our city and our province. We meet our students where they are, and seek to remove as many barriers as possible so our students can access the life-changing education that our College provides. We pride ourselves on giving our graduates employment ready skills so they can find work in high demand industries such as healthcare, entertainment arts, business and technology. Our student-centric approach helps us fuel the base of the economic pyramid in Alberta by training our future leaders, employers, employees and changemakers. These students become graduates who contribute to the health and social vitality of our communities.

As we continue to challenge ourselves, take risks and open doors and minds for our students we remain committed to expanding access to an education for all, ensuring we can meet the needs of a varied student body from different social, economic, cultural and educational backgrounds. Our college serves a unique student demographic: the average age of our students is 30 years old, 70% of our students are women, and they come from 137 countries around the world. We are focused on supporting Alberta's economic growth by responding nimbly to the needs of industry, and continuing to grow and innovate in the way we approach and deliver education in the post-COVID world. What doesn't change is the support and learning environment we provide our students: small class sizes, high-quality, industry-trained instructors, work integrated learning opportunities, applied learning and extensive student support services including a commitment to EDI (equity, diversity and inclusion) and Indigenization across our campuses. Your generosity allows us to continue this work and to redouble our commitment to student success – thank you!

In this report we look forward to sharing with you what's new at Bow Valley College and details about how your investment has made a real difference in the lives of our students. Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to their success.

## A Message of Thanks From Our President

Dear Jay and the student leadership team,

Thank you for your commitment to Bow Valley College and to our students. Since 2020 our College has been challenged and we have seen much growth and change. Our donors like you are crucial to our ability to continue to support students through trying times. Thank you for your generosity.

This past year we have expanded our commitment to student success by continuing to work with industry to ensure that Bow Valley College graduates are work ready right at graduation. Our commitment to our students is to ensure that the education they receive at Bow Valley College is accessible, affordable, and world-class, preparing them for the future of work in our province. Thank you for helping us create transformational learning experiences for our students in Calgary, and beyond.

In February 2022 we welcomed back our student body to campus for in-person learning. Seeing students on campus again, learning, interacting and building a brighter future for themselves is inspiring, and I look forward to seeing you on campus in the near future as we open our doors to the public once again.

We believe, and see firsthand, that when students receive donor support and funding that they know they are supported by the community, and this gives them the confidence and validation to continue with their studies. Our graduates contribute to our community as skilled employees and creative entrepreneurs, and you help make this possible. **Your contributions to our College help us double down on our commitment to open doors and open minds and provide meaningful and supportive educational opportunities from students of all backgrounds.**

As you will see in this report, Bow Valley College continues to grow – we welcomed our first cohort of students into the Bow Valley College Centre for Entertainment Arts in October 2021. We were happy to open our new Okotoks Regional Campus in January 2022. We look forward to working with our industry partners to expand access to Work Integrated Learning opportunities and to sharing more with you about the many ways you can be involved in the great work undertaken by college employees each and every day.

We as a College have taken risks, cultivated relationships and responded to the needs of our community with innovative programming and committed partners, like you. Thank you for your contributions to our College and for your faith in our students. You have helped to change lives.



Photo of Dr. Misheck Mwaba, Bow Valley College's President and CEO

## Year in Review – What’s New at Bow Valley College

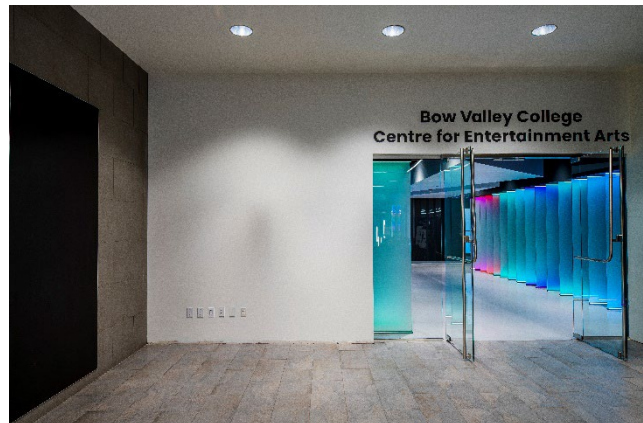


Despite the challenges brought in 2021/2022 our College continued to support our students, deliver a world-class education environment and we continued to adapt to a changing education landscape with tenacity and resiliency. In February 2022 students returned to in-person classes at the College, and many of our staff returned in-person as well.

Thanks to our donors, in 2021/22 Bow Valley College awarded over \$918,000 in awards and bursaries to over 565 students, assisting students with the financial help to ensure they are able to complete their education give them a pathway to a brighter future.

It was a busy, exciting and innovative year here at the College – here are some highlights!

- Bow Valley College’s new and innovative Centre for Entertainment Arts began instructing students in January 2022 with 14 students registered. In September 2022 we are excited to welcome 60 new students and almost 100 students total to exciting and state-of-the-art digital and entertainment arts programming. We are also thrilled to open a new gaming lab which allows students to share and connect with their peers in a simpler way. Tabletop gaming and collaboration will be encouraged and we will also be creating an audio room which will allow for eSports broadcasting, podcasting and audio recording for all projects. Students will have access to VR technology as they work to build new worlds in mixed reality as part of the program.
- An EDI (equity, diversity and inclusion) Strategist was hired to help the College develop, coordinate, and evaluate student-focused EDI programming. Additionally, the largest and most impactful Bow Valley College Pride week was held February 14-18, 2022, offering an intellectually challenging program exploring the intersections of gender identity, disability, culture and Indigeneity.



- Bow Valley College received a \$400,000 grant from the Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Innovation to support the Women Pivoting in STEM bursaries, helping to support female students seeking to enter STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) diploma/post-diploma programs and to remove barriers that have traditionally held women back from careers in these fields.



- On November 30, 2021 we hosted Bow Valley College's first ever Giving Day, a one day fundraising initiative engaging our community of donors, staff, alumni, corporate partners and students to raise funds for student awards and bursaries. We raised over \$60,000 to support students in need through direct financial assistance in the form of bursaries and student awards.

- Our Academic Success Centre is engaged in a new Digital Inclusion Initiative to better prepare and support lower literacy students with help accessing technology for the first time at Bow Valley College. This support includes resource and workshop development to help foster fundamental computer literacy skills and will provide direct orientation support for practical level students in the School of Global Access.

- We were thrilled to host our first in-person convocation in over two years on December 1, 2021. Over 300 students attended the ceremony and crossed the stage to receive their hard-earned credential. We also celebrated four in-person convocation ceremonies in June 2022 where close to 900 students crossed stage.



## By The Numbers

We are proud of our work at Bow Valley College last year, and we are proud of the students we have helped support through their educational journey. Whether our students come to us to pivot their careers, gain foundational skills, learn a new skills or begin their career training we are here to support them. Over 11,000 students took classes last year at the College, with many of them taking a hybrid of in-person and virtual delivery options as the College responding to shifting public health measures and endeavoured to keep our College community safe.

As we welcome all students, and the public, back to our campuses in the Fall we are continually proud of Bow Valley College students for their tenacity, resilience, strength and resourcefulness as they continue to apply themselves to their education and to building a brighter future for themselves and their families. Thank you for the important role you played in their success.

### ABOUT OUR STUDENTS

**11,789** – students enrolled, making us Calgary's only comprehensive community college

**88%** - graduation rate

**76%** - graduates who are employed in their field

**96%** - students satisfied with their education

**70%** - female students

**30** – average age of our students

**127** – languages spoken by students

**425** – Indigenous students



## Report to SABVC

As you have seen, donor funds make a real difference in the lives of our students and allow our College to continue to provide a life-changing education for many. In your work, you see firsthand the needs of our students and the ways in which our College is able to provide accessible, impactful and meaningful careers options for students from all walks of life. Your support is critical for us as we seek to remove financial barriers to education and create a more vibrant and inclusive community on our campuses.

We are proud of our commitment to student success and thank you for your key role in ensuring we can continue to provide our students with access to the financial supports they need to focus on their studies and graduate on-time. In 2021/2022 we awarded over 565 students with over \$918,000 in awards and bursaries, making a real difference in the lives of these students as they used these funds to pay for their education, feed their families or ease the burden of financial pressures that often come with pursuing post-secondary education.

Since 1995 SABVC has contributed over \$1.4 million which is funneled right back into programs aimed at promoting student success, including ten annual awards supporting a variety of programs across schools at the College. SABVC's commitment helps support the Academic Success Center peer tutoring initiatives, funds an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategist with Learner Success Services and supports student awards, directly impacting student success on campus.

Peer tutoring programs run through the Academic Success Centre provide students with additional academic and technology support by providing content help with specific courses in the High School Upgrading, School of Health and Wellness and School of Technology Programs. Technology support is also available for all Bow Valley College students through these programs.

Peer Supports took place online through MS Teams for the Fall 2021 semester and moved to a hybrid, in-person/online model for the Winter 2022 and Spring 2022 semesters. In Fall 2022 we are excited to offer more in-person peer supports while continuing to have online appointments for all peer support services.

Peer tutors that are recruited through the Academic Success Center take part in training that includes completing training courses in D2L Brightspace for Level 1 and Level 2 peer tutoring. Level 1 training includes an overview of communication skills, tutoring vs teaching, working with different learning styles, how to ask questions, giving feedback and working with a diverse student population. Level 2 training includes, incorporating learning strategies into tutoring sessions, building leadership skills, transferring peer tutor skills into the workplace and planning letters of reference.



In 2021/22 the Academic Success Center hosted:

- 728 Peer Tutoring Appointments
- 436 Peer Technology questions
- 42 Peer tutors
- 9 Peer Tutoring Technology Assistants

In 2021/2022 the Academic Success Center is excited to offer the following initiatives:

- Peer Language Coaches:
  - o Peer Language Coaches work with practical level English Language Learning (ELL) students to provide practice and support for course content and general language skills. Through one-on-one work with students, Peer Language Coaches identify individual needs and provide strategies for improving language skills, with a focus on speaking, listening, and reading. Peer Language Coaches recognize the role and importance of English language skills in helping students meet their day-to-day practical needs and goals.
- Peer Writing Coaches:
  - o A Writing Peer Tutor's role is to work on specific questions (e.g., How can I improve my writing? What is subject-verb agreement? What are articles and where do I insert them in a sentence? What is a thesis? etc.) or parts of an assignment brought by the student. Peer Tutors must commit to regularly scheduled shifts (minimum 2 hours per week) during which they will be physically located in the tutoring space inside the Academic Success Centre, and willing to contribute to resource development if not booked by students. Writing Peer Tutors do not need to have prior knowledge of study or writing strategies, but they must be willing to learn new ones.

In addition to peer tutoring support provided through your annual commitment, in October 2021 Learner Success Services (LSS) hired a Student Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) strategist, a role partially funded by the SABVC. The Student EDI Strategist has been instrumental in advising the College on human rights legislation, developing student-focused EDI programming, and delivering a suite of education and training opportunities.

In particular, the EDI Strategist has focused on the following over the 2021/22 academic year:

- Advised and processed decisions related to student requests for accommodations on religious grounds to BVC's Vaccine Policy
- Initiated a four-part Anti-Racism Training workshop for employees and students

- Completed a trainer-the-trainer workshop to manage and deliver anti-racism training at the College
- Created and delivered EDI Workshop series to create authentic, brave and courageous spaces that pave pathways towards belonging, cultural humility and safety; session included Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI): An Introduction; Creating a Racially Literate Environment; Unconscious/Implicit Bias; Microaggressions; Gender Identity and Gender Expression
- Co-chair of the Pride Committee which ran BVC Pride Week and led the Calgary Pride Parade Planning
- Developed an EDI Student Event guide & checklist
- Reviewed learner Policy and Procedures with an EDI lens
- Developed an EDI webpage & College Connect (intranet) page

## **Financials**

Thank you for your generous ongoing commitment of \$110,544 in 2021/22, as part of your significant and ground-breaking 2017 pledge of \$1.25 million. As evidenced above, these funds make a real difference to student life on campus each day, giving students academic peer support they need to succeed in their studies. A renewed focus on EDI with our students helps us create a more inclusive campus, responsive to the needs of our diverse student body.

Additionally, the impact of your funding is felt by students who benefit from student awards funded through your generous gift. Last year, 10 students benefited from SABVC funded student awards. Thank you!

## Student Thank You

As you know, our students are the heartbeat of everything we do, and they are thankful for your support. Day in and day out we hear from grateful students about the impact that donor support has had on their lives.

Students supported in 2021/22:

<b>Award Name</b>	<b>Recipient(s)</b>	<b>Program(s)</b>
Students' Association Award - English Language Learning	Naveeda Khowaja	English Language Learning
	Thuy Dang	English Language Learning
Students' Association Award – Chiu School of Business	Lok Him (Dennis) Chan	Medical Office Assistant
	Alissa Grams	Business Administration
Students' Association Award - School of Community Studies	Zaire Sealy	Child and Youth Care
	Javeria Rana	Education Assistant
Students' Association Award - School of Foundational Learning	Yana Shevchuk	Upgrading
	Nusrat Awan	Upgrading
Students' Association Award - School of Health and Wellness	Adele Campbell	Practical Nurse
	Jaimie Dewald	Practical Nurse
Students' Association Award - School of Technology	William Fong	Digital Design
	Joanne Mindanao	Kitchen and Bath Design
Students' Association of Bow Valley College Entry Bursary*	Mark Challoner	Cybersecurity
	Remith Raghavan	Cybersecurity
	Mahmoud Taha	Cybersecurity

\*Please note that these awards were funded with leftover funds from the Winter 2022 awards cycle.

We have included thank you letters and testimonials below so you can read for yourself the impact that your generosity has on the students you help support. Thank you again for your commitment to student success. You have changed lives!

*To Whom it May Concern,*

*Thank you for establishing a scholarship at the Bow Valley College. It is an honour to be this year's recipient of the Students' Association Award - Chiu School of Business.*

*I am studying for the Medical Office Assistant Certificate, and I wish to become an administrative manager in public healthcare. I also aspire to serve the community by participating in volunteer work to transform the knowledge I learned in college into actual contribution to the community.*

*I came from a grass root family in Hong Kong, and I have always dreamed to immigrate to Canada because it is a free and democratic country where we can dare to dream and achieve. I chose Bow Valley College because the programs are well-designed, student-focused and affordable. Staff here are very friendly and helpful as well.*

*The scholarship means a lot to me. It is not only an encouragement for me to continue with my passion, but it is also a great relief to my financial burden especially during this time with huge inflation across the country.*

*Thank you so much for the award once again.*

*Sincerely*

*Dennis Chan*

*To whom it may concern,*

*Thank you for establishing a scholarship at Bow Valley College. It is an honour to be this year's recipient of the Students' Association Award - School of Health and Wellness. I am so grateful to receive this award in order to fund my continuing education in the practical nursing program. This will assist me in pursuing my dream of being a nurse in the neonatal intensive care unit.*

*I chose Bow Valley College as I was very interested in the expedited, highly recommended practical nursing program. As a mature student, having the ability to choose an expedited program was very important to me as I continue to pursue my dream career. I greatly appreciate the numerous opportunities this program provides as well as the opportunity to participate in the peer tutoring program at Bow Valley College.*

*I am absolutely honoured to be this year's recipient and cannot thank you enough for selecting me amongst the applicants. This scholarship will support me greatly as I continue in my program and work towards my dream.*

*Sincerely,*

*Jaimie DeWald*

## In Closing

As you have seen, the impact of your generosity is profound, and we could not do what we do here at Bow Valley College without the support of our donor and corporate community partners. The College continues to prioritize access to an affordable and meaningful education for our students, and you help make this happen. Your commitment to our shared mission helps us include all students, to challenge our thinking, to remove all barriers, to provide opportunity and to make all learning count. Thank you for joining us in our vision to help shape the future of college education in Alberta.



Donors are crucial to everything we do at the College and our success, and the success of our students, would not be possible without your commitment. We look forward to continuing our important work to open doors and open minds. Thanks to your support our students have bright futures to look forward to, and our city and province is better for it.

Your partnership is meaningful; thank you **SABVC** for investing in our students, in our community and in the future of our city, our students and our College.



**Prepared for**

Students' Association of Bow Valley College

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