



Community Partnerships Office **Impact Report**

**GEORGE
BROWN**
POLYTECHNIC



Attract and Engage Diverse Learners

Priority 1

Community Outreach

Ontario Post-Secondary Access & Inclusion Program

The Community Partnerships Office (CPO) delivers the Ontario Post-secondary Access and Inclusion Program, funded by the Ontario government, with the goal of increasing post-secondary education knowledge, access, and success for underrepresented populations. The program has three pillars:

- 1. Outreach:** promote knowledge of post-secondary options and pathways for equity-deserving populations in the community.
- 2. Access & Transition:** promote successful post-secondary education access and transitions.
- 3. Retention:** retain students who are admitted and enrolled in post-secondary through student success supports.



Funding Amount

\$310,127

Number of Students

1,678

"Workshops like these are a critical component of our Indigenous Literacy Program, as they illuminate potential pathways for our learners as they work to develop and shape future plans and goals. Partnerships between programs like ours is a powerful way of working towards a shared vision of building healthier communities through higher education and training."

Robert Connelly

Indigenous Literacy Program Coordinator
Alexandra Park Neighbourhood Learning Centre

Funder

Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence & Security (MCURES)

Community Partners

City Adult Learning Centre (CALC); Jessie's Centre for Pregnant Teens; Eva's Initiative, Jane & Finch Centre Youth Hub; Pape Adolescent Resource Centre (PARC); Children's Aid Society (CAS); Mennonite New Life Centre (MNLC); North York Community

House (NYCH); Game Changers; United Way of Greater Toronto (UWGT); Jarvis High School Student Success; Vivir LGBTQ; Central Toronto Academy; Harbord Special Education; CultureLink; APLC - Indigenous Literacy Program; Monsignor Fraser- Isabella and Annex Campuses

Internal Partners

Black Student Success Network (BSSN); Academic Upgrading; CHOICES

Educational Partnership

Post-Secondary Experience Events for High School Students

The CPO delivers a series of on-campus post-secondary education exposure events, tours, and forums to introduce high school students – and their teachers and guidance counsellors – to the many college and apprenticeship pathways available to them after they graduate. In 2025, we delivered:

- **Move: Change Your State:** a summit for 100 students from Emery high school and Gulfstream elementary school, in partnership with the non-profit Self-Love Youth Wellness & Empowerment.
- Four professional development days for 136 guidance counsellors from TDSB and York Catholic DSB, educating them on post-secondary pathways available to their students in the skilled trades and hospitality sectors.
- A tour of George Brown's health sciences labs and technologies for a group of TCDSB students interested in careers in healthcare, in partnership with George Brown's Health Sciences Faculty.
- Skilled Trades and Technology events for 520 TDSB and TCDSB students and teachers to explore careers in technology and trades.
- The annual **Social Justice Conference** for 225 grade 11 and 12 TDSB and TCDSB students, to develop an understanding of social and restorative justice to drive change in their communities.



Funding Amount

\$54,150

Number of Students

1440

Funder

Ontario Ministry of Education

Community Partners

Toronto District School Board (TDSB), Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB), York Catholic

District School Board (YCDSB); Self-Love Youth Wellness & Empowerment; Vivir LGBTQ; CultureLink; APLC - Indigenous Literacy Program;

Internal Partners

George Brown Recruitment; Centre for Health Sciences; School of Hospitality

"In my opinion more opportunities like this need to be provided to more young minds like ours. His [Dr. Joel Kerr's] words empowered me to keep moving and guide my future."

Liam B, Grade 8 Student

Move: Change Your State Summit Participant"

Sponsored Initiative

Workplace Safety and Insurance Board Student Retention Supports



The CPO partners with Ontario's Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) and George Brown's academic centres to provide academic upgrading and vocational programs for injured workers, combined with personalized student advising support to increase their success rate. The goal is for participants to return or transition to suitable employment. The CPO provides wrap-around services that include pre-sponsorship guidance, student case management/ advising, coordinated registration and billing.

Funding Amount

\$134,596

Number of Students

84

Pre-Sponsorship Guidance Sessions

49

Funder

WSIB

Community Partners

Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB)

Internal Partners

All Academic Divisions;
Registrar's Office;
Finance, ALS

Sponsored Initiative

Better Jobs Ontario Student Advising and Retention Supports



Better Jobs Ontario (BJO) is a provincial funding initiative that provides mature learners with up to \$35,000 in funding to support skills training for in-demand careers. The CPO supports the recruitment and retention of BJO sponsored students across all academic divisions by providing funding-specific advising, coordinated referrals, and BJO training documentation to current and prospective learners.

Funding Amount

\$332,000

Number of Students

50

Funder

Ministry of Labour,
Immigration
Training and Skills
Development

Internal Partners

All Academic Divisions;
Registrar's Office;
Finance, ALS

Employment Skills Training

Hairstyling Pre-Apprenticeship Training for Women



The Women Transitioning to Trades and Employment (WTTE) Hairstyling Pre-Apprenticeship program addresses the needs of women who have experienced violence and/or economic insecurity and delivers multifaceted supports for them to rebuild their lives, gain skills, and secure better jobs within Ontario's fashion and entertainment sector. This collaborative initiative consists of 24 weeks of employment skills training and includes four weeks of Academic Upgrading, 12 weeks of Level 1 Hairstyling Theory – 332A (primary trade), additional exposure to Wig Techniques, and an integrated eight-week industry placement.

Funding Amount

\$350,935

Number of Students

20

Funder

Ministry of Children,
Community and Social
Services

Community Partners

Times Change:
Women's Employment
Services

Internal Partners

School of Work &
College Preparation;
School of Make-Up
and Esthetics

"This program completely changed my life! From the free tools and resources, to connecting us with high quality salons and networking engagement opportunities such as being a part of fashion shows, hairstyling for models and representing the industry as Black women, this program exceeded my expectations."

Kezia Williams.

WTTE Program Graduate

Employment Skills Training IT Helpdesk Training for Women

The IT Help Desk Technician program addresses the needs of women who have experienced violence and/or economic insecurity and delivers multifaceted supports for women to rebuild their lives, gain skills, and secure better jobs in the IT industry. The program offers customized academic preparation, 12 weeks of technical training in IT Help Desk and an eight-week placement for 20 survivors of gender-based violence. This project addresses the urgent need for skilled computer assistance talent within Ontario's economy while also improving economic security by facilitating pathways to education and employment.

"This collaboration goes beyond knowledge-sharing, it changes lives. Graduates leave the program better positioned to secure stable employment, achieve financial independence, and create safer, more secure futures for themselves and their children. By combining trauma-informed support with access to education and high-growth career pathways, we are not only helping individuals rebuild their lives but George Brown College helps contribute to breaking generational cycles of abuse and advancing a society free from violence."

The Redwood Shelter



Funding Amount

\$79,410

Number of Students

20

Funder

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services - Women's Economic Security Program

Internal Partners

School of Work & College Preparation; Continuous Learning (Construction Trades & Technology)

Community Partners

The Redwood Shelter

Employment Skills Training CNC/Precision Machining Training for Women

This project addresses the urgent need for skilled labour through a short-duration program that enables 54 Women and Gender Diverse Individuals on low incomes to be employment-ready for entry-level CNC/Precision Machinist jobs in less than six months. Simultaneously, the project tackles the immediate and systemic issues of creating supportive and inclusive workplaces to ensure long-term retention of women, trans and non-binary individuals. The CNC/Precision Machining Project aims to address the skilled labour needs of Ontario for skilled precision machinists. This project is a collaborative partnership between WoodGreen and George Brown that leverages broad expertise to address talent shortages and provide quality work-integrated learning opportunities for participants.



Funding Amount

\$125,576

Number of Students

20

"Through Plumbing and CNC/Precision Machining, we've expanded access to hands-on training that employers recognize and trust, and supported participants to move into in-demand careers. Through Building Code, we've helped internationally trained professionals translate their experience into a Canadian context and pursue roles that better match their education and background."

Karin Deane

Sr Manager, Workforce Development
WoodGreen Community Services

Funder

Ministry of Children,
Community and Social
Services - Women's
Economic Security
Program

Community Partners

WoodGreen
Community Services

Internal Partners

School of Work
and College
Preparation; Centre
for Construction
Engineering and
Trades & Technology

Employment Skills Training

Building Code Skills Development for Internationally Trained Individuals

The Building Code Skills Development Program for Internationally Trained Individuals aims to address the skilled labour needs of Ontario's construction and public administration sectors while also helping highly skilled internationally trained immigrants join the workforce quickly in jobs that match their skills, education and experience. The project is a collaborative partnership between George Brown and WoodGreen Community Services that leverages broad expertise to address talent shortages and provide quality work-integrated learning opportunities for participants. George Brown and WoodGreen work closely to recruit, provide academic and employment support, and facilitate high quality experiential learning opportunities for program participants. We also engage and partner with construction and municipal planning employers across the GTA to raise awareness of building official career pathways to build a talent pipeline for these sectors.



Funding Amount

\$451,549

Number of Students

50

"Participating in the program provided me with a significant boost in confidence, especially through the communication and workplace culture courses, which were extremely valuable for understanding professional expectations in a Canadian context. The technical courses—such as building code fundamentals, plan examination, general legal requirements, house safety, building science, and Part 9 building envelope—greatly expanded my knowledge and practical skills. Together, these courses helped me develop a much clearer understanding of the Building Official pathway and opened new and realistic career opportunities for me."

Elham Zomordi

Building Code Skills Development Program Graduate

Funder

Ministry of Labour,
Immigration
Training and Skills
Development - Ontario
Bridge Training
Initiative

Community Partners

WoodGreen
Community Services

Internal Partners

School of Work &
College Preparation;
Continuous Learning
(Construction Trades
& Technology)

Employment Skills Training Construction Project Management for Internationally Trained Individuals



The Construction Project Management for Internationally Trained Individuals project prepares internationally trained individuals with education and work experience backgrounds in the construction industry, such as contractors, construction supervisors, civil engineers, and architects for employment in construction project management. The project delivers technical training including an overview of the construction industry in Ontario, materials, methods, blueprint reading, cost control, estimating, planning and scheduling, project management and site safety, as well as workplace culture and communications training and employment supports tailored to construction project management. Program participants are connected to employers in construction project management through mentoring and networking activities and employment supports.

Funding Amount

\$371,600

Number of Students

40

Funder

Ministry of Labour,
Immigration
Training and Skills
Development - Ontario
Bridge Training
Initiative

Internal Partners

School of Work &
College Preparation;
Continuous Learning
(Construction Trades
& Technology)

Community Partners

WoodGreen
Community Services

Employment Skills Training

Plumbing Apprenticeship Training for Underserved Communities



The Level 1 Pre-Apprenticeship in Plumbing addresses Ontario's skilled labour shortages in high-demand trades and supports newcomers to Canada and others with barriers to employment with job readiness and experiences. The program exposes 20 students from underrepresented groups to industry relevant trades training and helps them to become better equipped to enter an apprenticeship in the Plumbing/Sheet Metal trades in less than 6 months. Students receive full Level 1 training in Plumbing and one week of exposure to the Sheet Metal trade. The Plumbing Pre-Apprenticeship program is a collaborative partnership between WoodGreen and George Brown that leverages broad expertise to address talent shortages and provide quality work-integrated learning opportunities for participants. WoodGreen and George Brown work closely to recruit, provide academic and employment support, and facilitate high quality experiential learning opportunities for program participants.

Funding Amount

\$155,715

Number of Students

20

Funder

Ministry of Labour,
Immigration
Training and Skills
Development - Ontario
Bridge Training
Initiative

Internal Partners

School of Work &
College Preparation;
Continuous Learning
(Construction Trades
& Technology)

Community Partners

WoodGreen
Community Services

Educational Partnership High School Within Our Polytechnic

High School Students/ Youth - SWAC

The CPO partners with the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) and Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) to deliver School Within a Post-Secondary Institution (SWAPSI, formerly known as: School Within A College SWAC): an educational program for youth ages 17–20 who require a change of environment and social circle to support them on their track to graduating high school. SWAC students spend a semester on campus at George Brown, gaining exposure to college life while having the opportunity to complete up to six high school credits in a classroom led by a teacher from their respective School Board. While they work toward completing their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) credits, SWAC students may also earn up to two first-year college credits by taking elective courses taught by George Brown faculty. These college credits help students, once they graduate high school, to make the transition to a college/polytechnic studies.



Funding Amount

\$214,380

Number of Students

125

Funder

Ontario Ministry of Education

Community Partners

Toronto District School Board (TDSB),
Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB)

Internal Partners

Faculty of Community Services &
Interdisciplinary Studies - Liberal Arts & Sciences
Continuous Learning (Construction Trades & Technology)

"The SWAC program showed me other careers I could be part of, thanks to the field trips and assignments we did in class. The guidance counsellor [advisor] did a really great job showing me degrees and programs I could take when I graduate. I like to recommend SWAC to students because SWAC has a lot of opportunities, things for you to learn, and is more of a hands-on learning. I took two college courses: psychology and film studies and found them really interesting. I really appreciate all the teachers in this program."

2025 TDSB SWAC Program Graduate

Ontario First Generation Student Bursary



First Generation Students

CPO in partnership with George Brown's Financial Aid Office distributes over \$75,000 annually in bursary support from the Government of Ontario to students who are first in their families to attend college and are facing financial need and other barriers in their post-secondary journey.

Funding Amount

\$75,000

Number of Students

100

Funder

Government of Ontario - Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security

Community Partners

Government of Ontario - MCURES

Internal Partners

George Brown Financial Aid Office



Connections that Build and Contribute to the Future

Priority 3

Educational Partnership Dual Credit Post-Secondary Pathway Program

High School Students - Dual Credit Program

The CPO partners with six public secondary school boards in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) to deliver a pathway program to help high school students make a successful transition to post-secondary education and to get a head start on their future post-secondary studies and careers. Grade 11 and 12 Dual Credit students attend class at George Brown once a week for one semester, earning both a high school course credit and a college credit upon successful completion. Dual Credit courses vary from year to year and include offerings from across George Brown's academic centres.

- Trades (e.g. welding, machining, electrical, construction health and safety)
- Arts & design (e.g. digital media, object-oriented programming)
- Hospitality (e.g. event planning, restaurant service)
- Liberal Arts & Sciences (e.g. film studies, forensic psychology)

The Dual Credit program also provides opportunities for students to explore career interests and build their knowledge and skills for a successful transition to college and apprenticeship education.

"I was taught a very helpful skill for my future and I had so much fun learning to weld."

**2025 Dual Credit Program
Participant, Welding Arts**



Funding Amount

\$861,655

Number of Students

610

Funder

Ontario Ministry of Education

Community Partners

Toronto District School Board (TDSB), the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB), Peel District School Board (PDSB), Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB), York Region District School Board

(YRDSB), and EC Drury School for the Deaf

Internal Partners

Faculty of Business, Creative Industries, and Culinary Arts; Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering Technologies; Faculty of Community Services and Interdisciplinary Studies

Educational Partnership Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)

High School Students - Skilled Trades

In partnership with GTA secondary school boards, George Brown's CPO, School of Culinary Arts, and School of Engineering Technologies deliver Apprenticeship Level 1 training to Grade 12 students who are interested in pursuing a career in the skilled trades. The program is one semester in length and incorporates theory courses and lab-based training as well as wraparound supports. Program streams include:

- Carpentry
- Sheet Metal Worker
- Electrician
- Refrigeration
- Plumbing
- Cook
- Bake

The Accelerated OYAP program paves the way for participants to pursue careers in the trades as well as enabling more students to graduate from high school. OYAP students have the opportunity to earn high school co-op credit and simultaneously get a jump start on their college education by completing Level of their skilled trade apprenticeship before they even graduate from high school.

"I enjoyed setting up the shop units and also enjoyed the immense support that I received making my homemade AC project, and also the chance that I got to learn about maintenance."

2025 OYAP Participant, Refrigeration



Funding Amount

\$101,171

Number of Students

129

Funder

Ministry of Labour,
Immigration
Training and Skills
Development

Dufferin Peel Catholic
District School Board
(DPCDSB), York Region
District School Board
(YRDSB)

Community Partners

Toronto District
School Board (TDSB),
the Toronto Catholic
District School Board
(TCDSB), Peel District
School Board (PDSB),

Internal Partners

Faculty of Business,
Creative Industries,
and Culinary Arts;
Faculty of Applied
Science and
Engineering
Technologies;

Youth Mentorship Program with Big Brothers Big Sisters Toronto



Youth Mentorship

The Community Partnerships Office and Big Brothers Big Sisters Toronto (BBBST) partner to “take the fear out of the unknown” in our Pumped for Post-Secondary program (PFPS). Groups of High School students are mentored by screened and trained George Brown Polytechnic students on George Brown’s campus throughout the school year. Through 13 group sessions that expose mentees to diverse aspects of college life, mentors empower and encourage mentees to successfully transition from High School to post-secondary education. Focusing on the developmental assets of planning & decision making, self-esteem, sense of purpose, and positive view of personal future, the program inspires mentees to envision themselves beyond High School. In the process, mentees strengthen their leadership and employability skills.

Number of Students

26

Community Partners

Big Brothers Big Sisters Toronto

Internal Partners

School of Theatre Arts
School of Makeup and Esthetics
School of Liberal Arts & Science
Student Association of George Brown College
Student Life

| Financial Sustainability

| Grant-Writing & Business Development



CPO actively assesses the federal, provincial, municipal, and philanthropic landscape for partnership opportunities that advance George Brown's post-secondary pathways and employment skills training for underrepresented groups. We collaborate with external community partners and internal academic divisions to develop innovative training solutions that advance funder objectives and industry needs. We have developed customized programs and training opportunities for the following grant streams: Women's Economic Security Program (MCCSS); Pre-Apprenticeship Fund (MLITSD); Ontario Bridge Training Initiative (MLITSD); Skills Development Fund; Toronto Children's Services.

Number of new seats requested through proposal development

170

Funder

Ontario Bridge Training Initiative (MLITSD); Pre-Apprenticeship Fund (MLITSD); Women's Economic Security Program (MCCSS); Times Change Women's Employment Services; Early Childhood Education Program for Newcomers (City of Toronto)

Community Partners

The Redwood, WoodGreen Community Services; Regent Park Youth 4

Employment - RPCHC

Internal Partners

Continuing Education (School of Make Up and Esthetics, Construction Technology & Trades); Centre for Construction and Engineering Technology; School of Apprenticeship & Skilled Trades; School of Work and College Preparation, School of Early Childhood Education; School of ESL & Immigrant Education



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