





You are part of our success!



Thank you, Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown for making a difference in the lives of our students and community. Your continued commitment to student success and ensuring access to education helps us fulfill our vision of opening minds and opening doors for our students. As our students returned to campus this year, your generosity helped ensure that Bow Valley College could continue to deliver a top-of-the-line education to all our students. Your continued support helps ensure our students are set up for success– thank you!

As Calgary's only comprehensive community college, Bow Valley College plays an integral role in Alberta's post-secondary landscape. Our student-centric approach prepares students to become our future leaders, employers, employees and changemakers. Our commitment to our students is to ensure that access to an affordable and accessible post-secondary education for all students, at their own pace and in their own time, remains unchanged. We are committed to ensuring our graduates have the skills and work-integrated learning opportunities to be employable right at graduation. Over 86% of our graduates find employment in their field at graduation, a true testament to the quality of instruction and support they receive during their time at Bow Valley College.

We remain committed to expanding access for students of varied social, cultural, economic, geographic, and academic backgrounds. Our college serves a unique student demographic: 75% of our students are women and they come from 141 countries around the world. Our student population is diverse and includes newcomers to Canada, international students, single parents, and Indigenous students and we welcome students from high school and adults looking to pivot their careers. We are laser focused on getting Albertans back to work, with an emphasis on upskilling and reskilling students to meet the demands of employers, allowing our graduates to remain competitive and work-ready upon graduation. Our curriculum and support services reflect the diversity of our students. We emphasize small classes, high-quality instruction, applied learning, focused work experience, and extensive student support services. Your generous investment and commitment to this shared vision enables us to strengthen 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. Your generosity helps us make all learning count!

A Message of Thanks from Our President

Dear Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown,

We remain focused on our students and providing them with an accessible and affordable education, enabling them to enter the workforce and contribute positively to our society. With your help, we can create and inspire these transformative learning experiences for our students, equipping them for success in Calgary and our regional communities!

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.



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

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.

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, and today have over 200 students enrolled. 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 programing 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.

Year in Review – What's New at Bow Valley College

Our students, staff and our entire community tackled the challenges of the last three years with resilience and hope. We have continued to adjust and adapt to changes in our public health environment, shifting from an online learning space to an in-person space with agility, and with the safety and wellness of our students and staff as our top priority.

To date in 2022/2023, we have awarded over 695 students with over \$1.1 million in student awards and bursaries which helps alleviate the financial burdens that can come when attending post-secondary. Donors like you help make this possible, and help our students change their lives. Thank you for helping to ensure that our students have access to all the tools they need to succeed.

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 skill, or begin their career training, we are here to support them. Over 14,000 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 responded to shifting public health measures and endeavored to keep our college community safe.

As we welcomed all students, and the public, back to our campuses last 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 play in their success.

ABOUT OUR STUDENTS

14,123 – students enrolled, making us Alberta's largest comprehensive community college

86% - graduation rate

86% - graduates who are employed in their field.

96% - students satisfied with their education.

75% - female students

30 – average age of our students

127% – languages spoken by students.

574 – Indigenous students

Report to Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown



Thank you, Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown, for your gift of **\$9000** in support of the Rotary Club Adult Literacy Bursaries. Since 1999, Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown has given **\$367,385** to support Bow Valley College students – we are so thankful for your support. Our students are resilient, and your generous contributions help them continue to reach their goals and make an impact in our community.

We were thrilled to host Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown at our Celebrating Student Futures event in May 2023 and we hope you enjoyed meeting student award recipients and seeing firsthand the impact that award and bursary funding has on our students and their families.

We were able to award 18 Rotary Literacy Bursaries in the Winter 2023 and Spring/Summer 2023 semesters.

Award Terms of Reference

Rotary will provide 18 literacy bursaries in the amount of \$500 each, with 6 bursaries awarded each trimester. Bursary awards are based on nominations by instructors with the following criteria:

- Available to Calgary campus students
- Full or part-time students registered in a Basic Literacy program (grades 1-9)
- Financial need and commitment to continue education.

Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown Literacy Bursary Recipients

Student Name	Program
Tara Crow Chief	Upgrading
Shaima Amiri	Upgrading
Shabnam Ramazan	Upgrading
Noah Hynes	Upgrading
Mustafa Mohammadi	Upgrading
Saba Gebrebrhan	Upgrading
Kidist Berhe	Upgrading
Ahmad Moslem Alibrahim	Upgrading
Hanna Gebremedhin	Upgrading
Rachel Baines	Upgrading
Mohammad Karima	Upgrading
Manizha Soufizada	Upgrading
Becky Nsele	Upgrading
Lyndsay Grier	Upgrading
Fatemeh Sadraei	Upgrading
Shabnam Ramazan	Upgrading
Parwana Merzaiee	Upgrading
Maria Barrios Rocha	Upgrading

Student Thank You

We are thankful, and our students are too. We have included thank you letters below from students supported by the Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown bursaries in the Winter 2023 semester. Thank you again for your commitment to our students. 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 Rotary Literacy Bursary.

This is my second year at Bow Valley College. Right now I am upgrading, to attend the Interior Design program at Bow Valley College. The courses I need to get into this program require Math10 and English 20-3. My interests are trying new things and collecting things like Star Wars.

I am from Siksika Nation just located east of Calgary. My family is big and very loving everyone is always supporting everyone. I am a mom of 5 kids myself ages 9,7,5,3, and 2 months. I chose to go back to school because I wanted to improve my own skills and challenge myself. I have been a stay at home mom for the past 9 years and decided it was time for me to return to my education.

Thank you again for this award, I am grateful for this and really appreciate this. This award really helps students and allows us to focus on our education.

Sincerely,

Tara Crow Chief

Dear Scholarship Donor,

Thank you for establishing this opportunity at Bow Valley College. It is an honour to be this year's recipient of the Rotary Literacy Bursary.

I am currently enrolled in Bow Valley College Academic Upgrading courses. I have completed almost three terms of my courses and plan to graduate in December 2023 after which I intend to pursue a career as a Licensed Practical Nurse. After graduation, I will make sure to use the valuable knowledge and skills I gained at Bow Valley College to contribute to society and people in need.

I am from Afghanistan, and I moved to Canada with my family a year ago which has been a wonderful experience. Besides my interest in nursing career, I am interested in arts as well as sports, and I enjoy participating in any art programmes offered by the college and I can honestly say that attending Bow Valley College was one of the best decisions I have made for my further education. They go above and beyond to support their students, and I couldn't be more appreciative of that.

I would like to thank you again for your generosity in funding this scholarship and thank you for your willingness to help me achieve my goals.

Sincerely,

Shabnam Ramazan

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 Rotary Literacy Bursary.

I am currently upgrading my high school education in Canada by studying English and math and planning to go to SAIT in the fall to do welding. My future goal is to become a red seal journeyman, because I was a welder in my home country Syria and it's my dream to be a certified welder here in Canada.

I am 28 years old, I am married with a 2 year old daughter, my wife and I are expecting our second baby in 2 weeks and we are very excited. It's been hard on me taking care of my family and going to school at the same time but I want to do it to provide a better life for myself.

I am so grateful to Bow Valley because all the teachers and staff have been so helpful in my journey and I feel Bow Valley is so caring and accepting of new comers like me who come here to better their life.

Thank you so much Bow Valley, and to the donors who support students like me, it means the world and I will always remember this moment.

Sincerely,

Hamza Karima.

To whom It May Concern,

My name is Saba Gebrebrhan, I would like to thank you for the support you give me. It is an honor to be this year's recipient of the Rotary Literacy Bursary.

This award means a lot to me because it helps me with finances to cover my expenses and makes me focus more on my studies.

I am in an Academic Upgrading program to complete my high school program; moreover, my aim is to continue my college studies at Bow Valley College to get better job opportunities.

I have been in Canada just four years and in Calgary for one year. I am a mother of three kids and a full-time student. The reason that I started school after almost two decades is to get a better career after I graduate from my studies and proved better life for my family.

Finally, I would like to thank Bow Valley College, my teachers and, to you too.

Sincerely,

Saba Gebrebrhan

Literacy Workshops (Supported in the 2020/2021 Academic Year)

Adult literacy extends beyond reading and writing to an expanded set of foundational skills that support literacy learning. These include skills such as digital literacy, time management, self-advocacy, communication, critical thinking/analytical skills, and life skills. Adult literacy learners face multiple barriers due to gaps in these areas. For example, they may have difficulty booking tutoring support or library resources because these are accessed online. Often gaps in these foundational skills impede learner success much more than academic abilities or prior learning.

To address these gaps, Bow Valley College partnered with Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown to develop and pilot a series of workshops to foster skill development in foundational learning and life skills to support learner success. The workshops could be delivered as a standalone series or faculty could opt to embed some, or all, into their courses. Workshops would be offered to learners free of charge as part of their normal program of study.

The School of Foundational Learning launched the Literacy Workshops in the winter of 2021. These workshops were held throughout the 2020/21 academic year.

Type of Workshop	Topics	Notes
A two-hour workshop on time management skills for learning and life	Topics included: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• balancing work, learning, and life;• creating and organizing to-do lists;• prioritizing tasks;• scheduling “me time”;• creating visual calendars using time-blocking.	Participants reported that they have received hands on information to help them be organized when it comes to their learning. They stated that they have learned some strategies to manage their time by creating a weekly schedule using a visual calendar to allocate time to priority tasks.
A two-hour workshop on wellness for learning.	Topics covered included: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• defining wellness;• the connection between wellness and learning;• maintaining balance to achieve wellness;• strategies for reducing stress;• tips of staying focused;• tips for learning independently.	Learners reported the workshop was quite timely as they were struggling with managing
A one-hour workshop on successful learning online.	Topics included: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• tips for learning online;	This workshop was delivered at the beginning of the spring/summer

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strategies for staying on track with tasks when learning remotely; • where to get help with technology. 	term to help learners get prepared
Ten 45-minute workshops on strategies for success as a learner	<p>Topics included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tips for success with online learning; • how to access financial supports and financial planning resources such as bursaries and funding for technology; • where to access training on learning technology; • mental wellness 	These were delivered to entire classes of new learners.

In Closing

Bow Valley College continues to lead the way in Calgary in providing accessible, affordable, and applicable education for our students. Our goals remain simple, and bold: you help us to include all students, to challenge our thinking, to remove all barriers, to provide opportunity and to make all learning count. Without your support, our vision to shape the future of college education by opening doors and opening minds would not be possible.



Our donors are integral to everything we do. Your commitment and partnership are deeply valued, and we continue to remain grateful for your support of our students. With your help our students take control of their lives and their futures. Thank you for helping to make that possible. Your generosity helps make our school and our city a better place.

We thank you, Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown, for your partnership and your commitment to helping us meet bold mission to transform college education in Canada. You are a key part of our team and our goal is to make all learning count. Thank you for your investment in our students and community.



Prepared for:

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**Bow Valley
College**