

New College 2024-25 Annual Impact Report

Building Community, Empowering Futures

This past year has been filled with inspiring moments of growth, connection, and dedication. We celebrated our graduates, supported students through scholarship and mentorship, and fostered a community deeply committed to equity and excellence. Together, these efforts have shaped meaningful experiences that resonate throughout the New College community.



Students at New College Scholarship Reception. Photo credit: Horst Herget



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Greetings from New College! I am Robert Gazzale, a Teaching Stream Professor in the Department of Economics and the Principal of New College. Stepping into this role a year ago has been incredibly rewarding. It has been a year filled with opportunities to listen, adapt and connect. Along the way, I have had the honour of meeting many students, alumni, staff, and faculty who care deeply about this community and inspire me with their generosity, creativity, and shared commitment to equity and excellence.

This past year, **we welcomed more than 6,400 students** and celebrated **over 1,000 graduates** across two ceremonies at our Spring Convocation. The campus was buzzing with **energy, pride and hope for the future**.

On March 25, the NEW community marked U of T Giving Day with **nearly \$25,000 raised in support of our student scholarships and programs**, surpassing last year's total and reflecting the collective power of our community. Perhaps the highlight of my year was seeing firsthand the effects of our alumni and donor community's generosity at our annual scholarship reception. At this event, we also celebrated student achievement at our annual scholarship reception, where we recognized academic excellence and student leadership. Thanks to our alumni and donor community, **we awarded over \$1 million in financial assistance to 800 students**.

Some of my most memorable moments included the meaningful conversations I had with students and alumni at events that were made possible by our community's loyalty and dedication. Our mentorship program paired **60 students with 40 alumni mentors**, with many students describing it as **a life-changing experience that will help them chart their career path**. While our popular Dinner@New brought students and alumni together to share stories, explore career opportunities and discuss the future, **creating meaningful connections among the 80 attendees**.

This year also marked the establishment and inaugural presentation of the Dr. Wayne Roberts Memorial Scholarship, created to honour one of Canada's leading advocates for food justice. With **over \$100,000 raised through community and donor contributions**, the scholarship will support students in the Critical Studies in Equity and Solidarity program whose work explores the intersection of equity and food systems. Dr. Roberts, who taught the first food and equity course at New College in 2002, was known for mentoring youth and planting the seeds of future food justice research and activism. His legacy continues to inspire our students and deepen the College's commitment to food equity.

It's the **generosity of our donors that makes these things possible**, and whose contributions not only provide the resources needed for our students to thrive, but **shape lives and strengthen the future** of our community. Thank you for your continued support of New College. We look forward to sharing more about our work and the impacts of your support.



Best Wishes,
Robert Gazzale, PhD
New College Principal
Teaching Stream—Economics

In 2025, New College
recognized students with

818
awards



Students at the New College 2025 Scholarship Reception. Photo credit: Horst Herget



New College 2025. Mentorship Reception. Photo credit: A.R. Magalhaes



New College 2025 Convocation. Photo credit: Horst Herget

Giving Day 2025: Celebrating Community and Connection

On March 25, New College joined the University of Toronto community in celebrating Giving Day – a 24-hour campaign showcasing the power of generosity. Together, we raised \$25,000 from 66 donors, strengthening programs that support our community. Our Giving Day Ambassador, fourth-year student leader and scholarship recipient **Kalsoom Shahzad**, helped spread the word and inspire participation. **“Donor support has had a profound impact on my life,”** says Kalsoom. “The scholarships I received have helped support my academic success while also giving me an opportunity to participate in experiential learning opportunities and extracurricular activities.” To mark the day, New College students also came together to handwrite personal notes to donors, sharing their gratitude and making Giving Day a memorable celebration of connection.



Left to right: New College Giving Day Ambassador, Kalsoom Shahzad and Principal Gazzale. Photo credit: A.R.Magalhaes

Planting Seeds for Future Food Scholars

This past Spring, the inaugural Dr. Wayne Roberts Memorial Scholarship was awarded to **Jyotsna Kumar** and **Christina Shvital** for their work in advancing food justice and equity. “Receiving this award was a deeply meaningful recognition of my work in food justice and migrant rights,” says Christina. “It affirmed the importance of community-led advocacy and continues to inspire me to build more equitable and sustainable food systems beyond my time at U of T.” Established through the generosity of family, friends, and the community, the **scholarship carries forward his vision of empowering new generations of scholars and activists.** A pioneer in the study and teaching of food equity at New College, Dr. Roberts’ inspired countless students with his optimism, commitment to social justice, and belief in the power of young people to create change.



Left to right: Lori Stahlbrand and Jyotsna at the New College 2025 Scholarship Reception. Photo credit: Horst Herget

[Check out the full story to learn more about his legacy and the scholarship’s impact.](#)

Land-Based Learning in Belize: Lessons That Last a Lifetime

For over a decade, the Indigeneity, Food and Sustainability International Experience Trip has taken students from various disciplines to Belize for an immersive, land-based learning. In May 2025, nine students engaged with Indigenous farmers, scholars, and activists, gathering new perspectives on food systems, sustainability, and community. “We grew up in completely different worlds, but it was easy to bond and find common ground,” says New College grad Sung Park. Reflecting on the importance of this opportunity, student Jasmine McLaughlin-Morgan shares, **“Donors are the backbone of experiences that change the lives of students** like me, who then go on to make change in the world.” This transformative experience continues to shape careers, spark advocacy and inspire meaningful change long after students return home.



Students participated in activities with the community during their Indigeneity, Food and Sustainability International Experience Trip to Belize in May 2025. Photo credit: Erika Ozols

[Check out the full story to learn more about this life-changing program.](#)



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Thank you for all your support to New College!

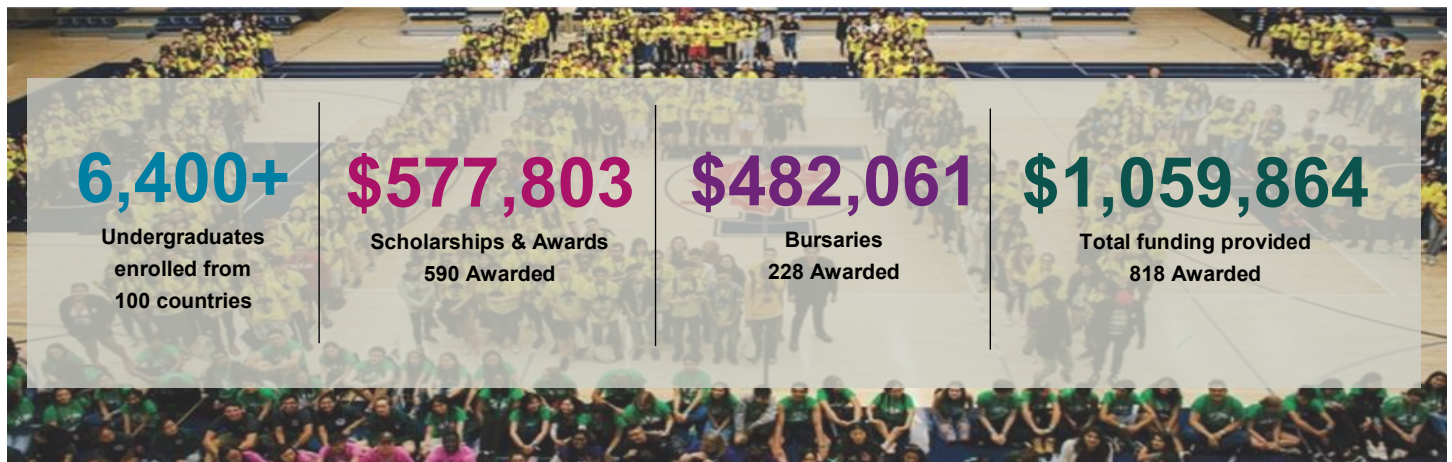
Thanks to the generosity of our donors, alumni and community, New College awarded over **\$1 million** in scholarships, awards and bursaries. These funds empower learners to excel in their studies, immerse themselves in College life, and embrace opportunities that shape their futures. Your support is more than a gift; it's an investment in the leaders, innovators, and changemakers of tomorrow.

But don't take our word for it. **Alysa Nguyen**, who received two scholarships this year, reflected on the remarkable difference your generosity has made in her journey.



Left to right: Sung Park, Alysa Nguyen, Dean Chen & Siliscy Guo at New College's 2025 Scholarship Reception. Photo credit: Horst Herget

“As a first-generation university student, being a scholarship recipient has been more than just financial support; it has been a testament that I am where I need to be. My father wasn't able to finish high school, and receiving the New College Admission Scholarship and James A. Priestley Scholarship allowed me the chance at a future he never had. This made every day at the University worth it and motivated me to push myself to further my educational studies.” – Alysa Nguyen, BCom'28, Specialist in Accounting & Minor in Economics



Leave a lasting legacy.

Since 1992, the University of Toronto has welcomed hundreds of individuals to the King's College Circle Heritage Society, which recognizes alumni and friends who have remembered the University through a provision in their will or another form of future gift commitment.

By joining this distinguished community, your help ensure that learners, educators, and innovators at New College and across the University can thrive for generations to come. Members enjoy special recognition, exclusive invitations, and the knowledge that their generosity will continue to strengthen our communities well into the future.

[Learn more about joining the King's College Circle Heritage Society.](#)

If you have any questions about your gift to New College, our programs, or other ways to support our students, please contact:

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