



# Ontario Professional Engineers Foundation for Education

Since 1959



## 2019 – 2020 Annual Report

**61** YEARS OF GIVING TO STUDENTS AND ENGINEERS

# GIVING TO STUDENTS

**Our purpose is to nurture tomorrow's engineers by providing excellent students with recognition, financial assistance and connections into the path to the P.Eng. licence.**

The Engineers Foundation is the official charity of the Ontario engineering profession. Our mission is to nurture engineering students into licensed engineers. We do this through:

- our entrance and undergraduate scholarships that reward academic and leadership excellence.
- our gold medals that acknowledge the success of the top graduating engineering students.
- our board and membership who connect students to mentors and employers.

Our vision is to expand the assistance engineering students receive to obtain the qualifying skills for their P.Eng. licence. We also seek to extend the network of professional engineers that donate their time and money back to the next generation of students.

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# GIVING TO ENGINEERS

**Our purpose is to care for professional engineers in need.**

The Engineers Foundation's Benevolent Fund is an endowment providing emergency financial aid to care for licensed professional engineers.

Our vision is to always be there for professional engineers in need.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the directors, officers, members and donors for their enthusiasm and dedication to the work of the Engineers Foundation. It has been a very busy and rewarding year.

I must also thank our part-time administrative coordinator, Javier Valdivieso, our accountants AZ Accounting Firm and our Fundraising Specialist Patricia Lim for their faithful attention to the many details of the Engineers Foundation's day-to-day operations.

And there are many engineers out there that I wish to thank who donate their time, talent and money to acknowledge the accomplishments of our engineering students and invite them into the path to their P.Eng. licence and to becoming engineers. Our future engineers will be helping to ensure that the well-being of the engineering career is protected.

**Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board of Directors,**



**Sue Tessier, P.Eng  
President and Chair, 2019-2020**

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held June 25, 2019, the members of the Ontario Professional Engineers Foundation for Education (FFE or Engineers Foundation) elected the following directors:

## Affiliated with Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO):

Sandra Ausma, P.Eng.	(current Councillor)
Márta Ecsedi, P.Eng.	(past Councillor)
Maria Iannone	(current Staff)
Arthur Sinclair, P.Eng.	(current Councillor)
Marisa Sterling, P.Eng.	(current Councillor)

## Affiliated with the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE):

Jonathan Hack, P.Eng.	(current Director)
Valeria Mueller	(current Staff)
Sue Tessier, P.Eng.	(past Director)
Laura Yu, P.Eng.	(current Director)

# OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

At the meeting of the Board of Directors on June 25, 2019 following the AGM, the following officers of the Engineers Foundation were appointed:

President and Chair	Sue Tessier, P.Eng.
Vice President	Art Sinclair, P.Eng.
Secretary	Maria Iannone
Treasurer	Jonatan Hack, P.Eng.

**Note:** Directors serve for 3 year terms as per 2019 by-law amendment but are eligible to be re-elected if otherwise qualified. The Officers are elected or appointed by the Board at its first meeting after the annual general meeting. The Secretary and Treasurer of the Engineers Foundation need not be members of the Board of Directors.

# ENGINEERS FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP

**The Engineers Foundation has a total of 22 members:**

- Réjeanne Aimey, P.Eng. NEW
- Sandra Ausma, P.Eng.
- Tracey Caruana, P.Eng.
- Karen Chan, P.Eng.
- Corneliu Chisu, P.Eng.
- Shelly Deitner, P.Eng.
- Bob Dony, P.Eng.
- Marta Ecsedi, P.Eng.
- Jamie Gerson, P.Eng.
- Ashley Gismondi
- Santosh Gupta, P.Eng.
- Jonathan Hack, P.Eng.
- Maria Iannone
- Roger Jones, P.Eng.
- Valeria Mueller
- Changiz Sadr, P.Eng.
- Arthur Sinclair, P.Eng.
- Baijul Shukla
- Marilyn Spink, P.Eng.
- Marisa Sterling, P.Eng.
- Sue Tessier, P.Eng.
- Laura Yu, P.Eng.

**We wish to thank the following retiring members their volunteerism and interest in the goals of the Foundation. We welcome them to the Friends of the Foundation team:**

- Kim Allen, P.Eng.
- Dave Brown, P.Eng.
- Noreen Calderbank, P.Eng.
- Colin Cantlie, P.Eng.
- Jeannette Chau, P.Eng.
- Bruce Clarida, P.Eng.
- George Comrie, P.Eng.
- Peter Cowherd
- Valerie Davidson, P.Eng.
- Bernard Ennis, P.Eng.
- Roydon Fraser, P.Eng.
- Lola Hildago Salgado, P.Eng.
- Jane Huang P.Eng.
- Stephen Jack, P.Eng.
- Matthew Jelavic, P.Eng.
- Catherine Karakatsanis, P.Eng.
- Chetan Metha
- Nick Monsour, P.Eng.
- Rakesh Shreewastav, P.Eng.
- Michelle Wehrl
- Richard Weldon, P.Eng.
- Michael Wesa, P.Eng.
- Rob Willson, P.Eng.

# BOARD ACTIVITIES

**Your Board of Directors met a total of 7 times since the last AGM on:**

- June 25, 2019
- September 17, 2019
- November 19, 2019
- January 14, 2020
- March 17, 2020
- May 19, 2020
- June 18, 2020

**Your Executive Committee met a total of 6 times since the last AGM on:**

- August 18, 2019
- October 16, 2019
- December 11, 2019
- February 12, 2020
- April 15, 2020
- June 17, 2020

# Student Awards

The Engineers Foundation distributed a total of \$143,000 in award monies between September 2019 and May 2020 across fifteen of Ontario's CEAB-accredited engineering schools. A total of 110 students were recipients of the Foundation's awards.

**Since the Foundation was founded in 1959, over 3.3 million dollars of scholarship funding has been invested in 3,562 deserving engineering students across Ontario.**



## **Entrance Scholarship (\$1,500 each, 2 per school, 50% female recipients)**

A total of \$42,000 was given to 28 first year engineering students who attained high academic standing in their final year of high school and were assessed to be well-rounded students with leadership characteristics. In each school, one male student and one female student received this scholarship.



## **Undergraduate Scholarship (\$1,500 each, 2-8 per school based on enrolment)**

A total of \$101,000 was given to 66 undergraduate engineering students in either their 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year of studies who exhibited exceptional role model qualities through participation in professional and non-academic activities while maintaining above average marks.



## **Gold Medal (no additional cash amount, 1 per school)**

A total of 15 graduating engineering students were awarded the Foundation's Gold Medal for achieving the highest academic standing in their class. The medals were inscribed with the student's name and were mostly presented at convocation ceremonies to an audience of the students' peers.

# Highlights of Accomplishments

## In the 2019-20 year, the Foundation achieved the following results:

- This year has been a very challenging year especially the latter part of the year with the onset of Covid19. As with many organizations, we have had to pivot our organization to be a work from home organization. This virtual AGM is also a first for the Foundation as a result of not being able to have indoor gatherings of more than 10 people.
- As the first Foundation President from Northern Ontario, the Foundation had started using the Zoom platform for all of the Board of Directors meetings and Executive meetings in the fall of 2019. It has proven to be more cost effective for the Foundation and allows for the possibility of more engineers from across Ontario to get involved with the Foundation in the future.
- This was the first year with our new administrative coordinator, Javier Valdivieso. We used this opportunity to understand and map the Foundations operating processes and moved towards a digital operation.
- The Foundation worked with the estate of an anonymous donor to finalize a major bequest in 2019. This bequest was the largest that the Foundation has ever received for a total of \$1.65 million dollars over two installments in 2014 and 2019. This money has been invested to help stabilize the Foundation's scholarships funding and create a safety net for the future in the event of lower donation and/or interest revenue.
- The Foundation's website was refreshed to a clean and modern look, with stories from student awardees and keeping the online donation portal.
- The fundraising committee was very active this year. Donation emails were sent out on #GivingTuesday, in November 2019, and more recently, in May 2020, to help support the scholarships which will be even more important to students who are struggling to get summer jobs due to Covid19.
- The Foundation was highlighted at the 2019 OPEA Awards Gala with slides explaining how the Foundation supports future engineers with scholarships. A small box of chocolates with a gift tag with donation information was given to each guest. An information booth was manned in the lobby of the gala



## Highlights of Accomplishments (cont'd)

- Sadly, a lot of the current Foundation members have not been meeting the minimum criteria to maintain their Foundation membership. All members were contacted by email to determine if they were still interested in participating in the Foundation. Of 42 members in 2019, 22 members wanted to maintain their membership and signed updated membership agreements. A by-law amendment was recommended to clarify the requirements of membership and will be voted on at this AGM.
- The original 5-year gift agreements expired in December 2019. The agreements were extended between the Foundation and all 15 accredited engineering schools in Ontario until the end of 2020. These documents have been extremely helpful to outline the purpose of the Foundation's awards and have more easily facilitated the roles of each party in administering them. The plan is to develop a new 5-year agreement in 2020 which will come into effect in 2021. The new agreement will include wording to ensure that all scholarships will be awarded equally to male and female students. We will also include wording to encourage racial diversity in our criteria for awarding future scholarships.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

**The Foundation is pleased to announce that Conestoga College will join the list of post secondary institutions receiving the Foundation's entrance and undergraduate scholarships as well as the gold medal. Conestoga is the first college to be included in our scholarship and medal program. The Foundation has been following the development of the degree granting engineering program, the CEAB accreditation and new engineering graduates. WELCOME CONESTOGA COLLEGE.**



## Engagement with Ontario's Engineering Schools

The Engineers Foundation has worked this past year to strengthen its relationships with Ontario's 15 engineering schools. The Deans of engineering, the engineering faculty members and the awards officers are key partners in the success of delivering our awards program since they select the awardees according to the Foundation's criteria.

Donor agreements with each school continue to provide universities with assurances of the Foundation's multi-year giving and to ensure that:

- All Engineers Foundation awardees meet the criteria and all monies are distributed within the same academic year.
- Every effort is made to arrange a suitable award ceremony among the students' peers with participation by at least one representative of the Engineers Foundation.
- Awardees are invited to join PEO's and OSPE's student membership programs and establish ongoing contact with the Foundation; and
- Engineering schools are invited to provide feedback to the Foundation on ways to improve the effectiveness of our awards programs.



Did you know? One **\$1,500 scholarship** could **save** an **engineering student...**



**130 hours** working a part-time, minimum wage job?

# FINANCIAL RESULTS

The Foundation's total revenue for 2019 was \$1,255,048 versus \$99,489 for 2018, an increase of \$1,155,559. The increase was primarily a result of a \$848,536 bequest.

- Donations received from individual engineers and PEO members were \$112,355 in 2019 versus \$103,183 in 2018, an increase of \$9,172.
- Investment income saw a gain in 2019 of \$294,157 versus a loss of \$17,391 in 2018.
- There were no Donations from corporations, associations and other sources in 2019.

The Foundation's expenses were \$214,621 in 2019 versus \$229,431 in 2018, a decrease of \$14,810 due in large part to lower costs for postage and stationary.

- Scholarships and awards totaled \$143,000 in 2019, which was equal to the amount given in 2018.

There was a resulting surplus of \$1,040,427 in 2019 versus a loss of \$129,942 in 2018. The Foundation is pleased to report it received a clean audit for 2019.

The directors and staff of the Foundation continue to manage expenses carefully to maximize the percentage of each revenue dollar that goes directly to our award recipients. Fundraising efforts are in place to diversity the Foundation's fundraising techniques and revenue streams.

The long-term goal of the Foundation is to increase both the value and the quantity of scholarships that it issues to students to continue to help defray the rising cost of an engineering tuition, expected to be over \$100,000 during an undergraduate degree.

# PROFILES

## OF TOMMOROW'S ENGINEERS



**Rachel Braganza**  
Civil Engineering at  
Ryerson University

### FINANCIAL RELIEF

Having only worked one summer job before beginning university, Rachel was overwhelmed by the cost of beginning an engineering degree. "On top of tuition, I needed books, supplies, and a new laptop. I would have had to use all the money I made in the summer to buy those things but with the help of the scholarship I bought a new laptop and could focus on paying my tuition."

### SOURCE OF VALIDATION

"The Foundation for Education's scholarship really helped fund my degree. I can work an entire summer and still not make enough money for tuition," Lia says, "It was especially meaningful because it came from Professional Engineers Ontario, a society of people who have already done what I'm trying to do. It helped me realize that I was on the right track and had the support of so many other engineers."



**Lia Codrington**  
Engineering Science,  
Infrastructure Option at the  
University of Toronto



**Khalid Backtash**  
Structural  
Engineering at  
Western University

### GREATER CONCERNS

"Being involved so much outside of the classroom, I had no time to take on a part-time job. Considering that I am also in school for the second time and have accumulated student debt, scholarships like this helped me get through my academic career," he says. "I am very fortunate to receive this scholarship because it helped me continue giving back to the engineering community and university by...[being] involved with extracurricular activities."



**Ontario Professional Engineers  
Foundation for Education**

**DONATE  
TODAY**

- Online: [engineersfoundation.ca](http://engineersfoundation.ca)
- Call: 1.800.339.3716, ext. 1222
- PEO fee renewal: check the donation box