

DONOR IMPACT REPORT

*“This support allows me to be
more focused and engaged
in my program, reducing
my financial stress and
increasing my success!”*

– 2019-2020 STUDENT RECIPIENT



MEDICINE HAT COLLEGE
FOUNDATION



A MESSAGE OF THANKS

KEVIN SHUFFLEBOTHAM, PRESIDENT & CEO

Medicine Hat College is committed to growing a vibrant future.

We are focused on 2030 today - removing barriers to education, meeting learners where they're at, and preparing them for success in college, in the workforce, and in life - all while strengthening regional vitality in Southeast Alberta.

Because of your generosity, students can pursue their passion and reach their full potential. Your support opens doors and creates opportunities. Your support provides certainty to students in uncertain times. Your support invests in our collective future.

Thank you for your continued engagement and trust.

GRASSROOTS: ACCESS TO EDUCATION FUND

Now more than ever students enrolled at MHC will require additional support to access and successfully complete their educational goals. Considering the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 global pandemic, and learning moved almost exclusively online, it is imperative that everyone pursuing education feels like it is accessible both practically and financially.

The Grassroots Access to Education Fund will offer tuition assistance to students enrolled in a knowledge-enhancing course or program – credit or non-credit. Annually, MHC services thousands of credit and non-credit learners in both Medicine Hat and Brooks. Of those learners, hundreds of credit-based awards are distributed each year. The Grassroots Access to Education fund will now allow non-credit learners an opportunity to also access funding. As a community college, we believe there should be room for everyone looking to grow in knowledge and improve their livelihood.

Help us celebrate learning and achieve our goal of **\$10,000.00** for the 2021-2022 academic year. The first \$5,000.00 in donations received will be matched.

This fund does not support emergency funding; the Pathways Student Life Enhancement Fund supports life's emergent needs. For more information on Pathways [click here](#).

YOUR IMPACT

Thank you for your contribution toward education in the 2019-2020 year. Here are some highlights!

\$979,985

AWARDED TO STUDENTS



898 AWARDS
DISTRIBUTED

GIVING AT A GLANCE

COULEE **56**
(\$1-\$499) **DONORS**

SWEET GRASS **49**
(\$500-\$2,499) **DONORS**

RIVER **14**
(\$2,500-\$4,999) **DONORS**

CYPRESS **9**
(\$5,000-\$9,999) **DONORS**

FOOTHILLS **11**
(\$10,000-\$24,999) **DONORS**

PRAIRIE **2**
(\$25,000-\$49,999) **DONORS**

GRASSLANDS **3**
(\$50,000-\$99,999) **DONORS**

CHINOOK **1**
(\$100,000-\$249,999) **DONOR**



STUDENT FEATURE

Skyla Ruth Oler: Perseverance and Post-secondary

Medicine Hat College scholarship recipient Skyla Ruth Oler did not have what would be considered a typical upbringing. Born and raised in a religious cult in the United States, her story is one of courage and perseverance.

Despite her passion for learning, education was not considered a priority for girls and Oler's formal schooling ended at age 12. She continued to work part-time in a factory to help support her large family and was prepared for motherhood and domestic duty. At the age of 17, she was wed through an arranged marriage and moved to Canada where she had four children and spent the next 10 years living within the sect.

But in 2013, she made a decision that would put her on a new path.

"I gathered my babies and as much courage as I could muster and walked away from it all. I left the cult, my husband and life as I knew it," recalls Oler.

Re-establishing herself in Redcliff, Alberta, she began the journey of self-discovery and the pursuit of education once more. Years after the opportunity for education was taken from her, she found herself seated at a desk at Medicine Hat College with a placement test in front of her to complete her high school equivalency. Only a few years later and against all odds, Oler received her Grade 12 equivalency diploma - a noteworthy moment of celebration to

commemorate her dedication and resiliency. In 2020, she completed MHC's Administrative Office Professional Certificate, graduating with honours.

She credits a great deal of her academic success to the financial support she received, including the Brooks Real Estate Board Scholarship and the Austin and Marilyn Curtin (Canadian Tire) Award.

"The truth is, being a full-time single mom while trying to gain educational footing was a huge challenge," admits Oler. Receiving the awards helped relieve the financial stress of balancing full-time college courses and single-parenting four children. The support allowed her some breathing room, and a chance to focus more energy on her joy of learning.

Her advice to anyone considering post-secondary is simple – just go for it! Oler acknowledges there will be moments of feeling overwhelmed, but seeking help and support from career advisors, financial aid, and instructors is critical.

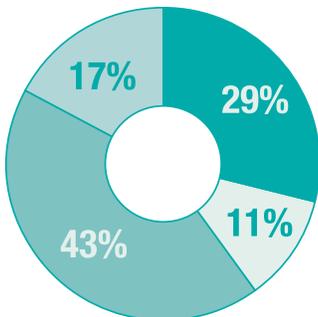
"You have to be willing to show up and put in the work but you can do it. Everywhere you look at Medicine Hat College there are people to help. You are never alone," adds Oler, making special mention of the mental health services available to students.

"We all feel all kinds of emotions and fear, and acknowledging those feelings will help you take the next step."

"The truth is, being a full-time single mom while trying to gain educational footing was a huge challenge."

DONOR SUPPORT IN 2019/2020

- ANNUAL AWARDS (29%)
- ENDOWMENT AWARDS (11%)
- PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS (43%)
- OTHER (17%)



25

AVERAGE STUDENT AGE
IN 2019-2020

291

RATTLER STUDENT-ATHLETE AWARDS

\$30,000+ EMERGENCY FUNDING
DISBURSED

TOP 3 ATTENDED PROGRAMS 2019-2020:



NURSING COLLABORATIVE
DEGREE



BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
DIPLOMA



UPGRADING

MEDICINE HAT
COLLEGE



HEALTH WELLNESS AND ATHLETICS EXPANSION

Medicine Hat College recently received funding from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) to support our Health, Wellness, and Athletics Expansion. The project will see investment in health and wellness facilities and simulation spaces in the east campus, as well as the creation of a cultural hub for the college and community with new, appropriately designed spaces dedicated to indigenous learning and events. [Click here](#) to watch a short video and learn more about the project.



PEOPLE.STORIES.LIFE.
real

Check out the Alumni & Friends e-publication, real, featuring former student-athlete, Megan Dehod (Nagy). Her international pro-athlete journey and professional aptitude are sure to impress!

[Click here to read more.](#)

**WE WANT TO
HEAR FROM YOU!**



Tell us your MHC story here:
alumni@mhc.ab.ca

MEET THE FOUNDATION TEAM

Want to learn more about projects happening at Medicine Hat College? Connect with a member of the Foundation team.



Kevin Shufflebotham
PRESIDENT & CEO



Jennifer Kerslake
DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
jkerslake@mhc.ab.ca
403.529.3897



Jenna Williams
COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER
jwilliams@mhc.ab.ca
403.502.8995



Mark Keller
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
ADVANCEMENT & COMMUNITY RELATIONS



Tonielle Pavlovic
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
tpavlovic@mhc.ab.ca
403.504.3585



Lisa Carnelli
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, FOUNDATION
lcarnelli@mhc.ab.ca
403.502.8997



MEDICINE HAT
COLLEGE