

VCC  
STUDENT  
AWARDS

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COLLEGE

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Foundation

# Annual Report

For the year ended March 31, 2024

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# Letter from Ken Cretney

Each year we look back on what we've achieved together through the Vancouver Community College Foundation, and 2023 was nothing short of exceptional. The VCC Foundation team, comprising the Board of Directors and staff, continues to prioritize students' experiences, education, and well-being through partnerships with industry leaders and generous donors like you.

As a member of our incredible giving community, you keep the door to education open. Your investment in awards, bursaries, and scholarships helps students prepare for their futures and creates long-term success for our communities. From attendance at VCC events like Flourish, which this year raised a record-breaking amount to fund new virtual reality technology, to professional chefs leading some of the best culinary teams in the region, we see the positive outcomes of your gifts on students across all 140 VCC programs.

Higher education is a worthy path. Whether a student is pursuing a new career or fulfilling a desire to gain further knowledge, learning is always a net positive. This is why your support remains invaluable.

As we look to the year ahead, we anticipate even further success and an exciting new chapter for the College, backed by the Foundation and our community of donors. We look forward to seeing where the coming year takes us.

Thank you for all that you do for our students and community.

Ken Cretney

*Board Chair, VCC Foundation*



# Letter from Moira Gookstetter

It is impossible to focus on what we accomplished last year without thinking about what is to come. While planning and delivering our many events that support and recognize VCC students and alumni, we spent much of 2023 preparing to launch the Foundation's largest ever comprehensive campaign in support of the Centre for Clean Energy and Automotive Innovation. This marks the first stage of VCC's new Campus Plan and an exciting time for the Foundation.

I commend the hard work of our staff, VCC students, and you, our passionate donors, who provide financial support in the name of higher education. VCC Foundation donors are both role models and inspirations – you will see in this report the impact you make in students' lives. At VCC Foundation, we are working to strengthen partnerships that connect students with more opportunities that will help them thrive. This includes the College's visionary plans, and preparing learners for success as new sectors emerge and require skilled, job-ready graduates to enter the workforce. We will be ready.

VCC's student body is unique – the average student is 34 years old and 35% of VCC students financially support family members. Awards, scholarships, and bursaries help ease the financial burden and allow more time to be directed toward learning and wellbeing. Thanks to you, we have also increased our support for students living with food insecurity and have a growing list of awards and bursaries for students to access as they strive for success.

I'm thrilled to recognize our shared success and to embark on this new chapter together.

Moira Gookstetter

*Executive Director, VCC Foundation*



# 2023 by the Numbers

Endowment Balance  
**\$12,631,721**

Endowment Donations  
**\$72,564**

Annual & Other Donations  
**\$3,578,902**

Number Of Donors  
**398**

Total Raised  
**\$3,664,819**

## With the support of donors like you, we:

Distributed awards and bursaries to  
**903 Students**  
86 more than last year

Distributed  
**\$761,674**  
in scholarships and bursaries,  
\$168,873 more than last year

Distributed  
**54 Entrance Awards**  
easing the financial burden on students as they embark on their educational journeys

Created  
**14 New Awards**  
for students

VCC has one of the lowest per credit tuition rates in the province to help keep education accessible, but many students require financial support to pursue their goals. Awards, scholarships, and bursaries help students improve financial stability, while providing them with important recognition for their hard work and dedication.

## A special thank you to the following donors who created new awards this year:

Monica Vitale-Tan  
Urban Systems  
Good Noise Vancouver Gospel Choir  
Flywire  
Telio  
The Nunoda Family  
Korean Scholarship Foundation

Dr. Daniel M.C. Wong  
Carmen Kimoto  
PS&Co Group  
Still Interpreting Services INC.  
Weissach Foundation  
India Mahlia Association  
Ujjal and Raminder Dosanjh

Funds from Flourish 2023, VCC Foundation's annual gala, were used to create awards for students in the following programs: Auto Service Technician, Auto Collision and Refinishing, CAM and BIM, Digital Media and Design, Hair Design & Skin Body Therapy, Jewelry, Health Sciences, Science, and Fashion.

# Coast Capital Savings Supports Red Seal Trades Training at VCC

With a generous and continued commitment of \$90,000, Coast Capital Savings elevates opportunities and excellence within the skilled trades sector. This funding helps reduce financial barriers to students through scholarships and bursaries, allowing them to gain valuable skills training for the workforce.

VCC's six Red Seal trades programs are:  
**Heavy Mechanical Trades (Foundation);  
Auto Service Technician; Auto Collision/ Refinishing;  
Hairstylist; Baking and Pastry Arts; Culinary Arts**

## The 2023 recipients:

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Drake Dickart          | Livia Hsi            |
| Georgia Ball           | Mahto Boneshirt      |
| Janette Jazmine Mabolo | Rebecka Hill         |
| Hongyu Ni              | Tejdeep Singh        |
| Kison Raveendran       | Tyson Pasquier-Alaba |
| Leah Moon              | Wing Yin Sit         |



## Watch the Coast Capital Trades VCC Fall Awards 2023 Video

# Outstanding Alumni Awards

VCC's Outstanding Alumni Awards event celebrates the careers and achievements of graduates and supporters and helps reconnect VCC alumni back to the College community. Since 2005, we have recognized 454 VCC alumni, including eight honorary alumni, and two lifetime achievement awards.

## The 2023 Outstanding Alumni Awards recipients:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Community Contribution</b><br>Ashley Bitz, <i>Community Licensed Practical Nurse, Little Shuswap Band</i> | <b>One to Watch</b><br>Vicente Teng, <i>Freelance Graphic Designer &amp; Videographer</i>                                    |
| <b>Career Success</b><br>Tim Ellison, <i>General Manager Vancouver Club</i>                                  | <b>Career Success</b><br>Anja Lanz, <i>Design Engineer Haakon Industries &amp; Founder and CEO Global Women in Stem Inc.</i> |
| <b>Changemaker</b><br>Erin Vickers, <i>Department Assistant Culinary Arts VCC</i>                            |  |



# VCC Seiffert Market + Bakeshop

In June 2023, VCC officially opened the doors to the upgraded VCC Seiffert Market + Bakeshop. The Seiffert family and Snow Cap Enterprises maintained their strong support of VCC through a legacy gift of \$1M to continue the naming of the Seiffert Market + Bakeshop.

The VCC Seiffert Market + Bakeshop has been a community institution serving student-made pastries and baked goods for decades at the Downtown campus. The Seiffert family's donation has in part enabled the College to modernize the bakeshop with new equipment and move to a street level location accessible to community members.

The new bakeshop offers market items, local coffee, prepared food, and freshly baked goods created in VCC's Baking & Pastry Arts and Culinary Arts programs.



# Student Spotlight

*“My passion in cooking made me decide to take culinary classes. I want to be an inspiration to everyone at my age, that it’s never too late to follow your dreams.”*

*It is my great honor to receive the Santiago Cuyugan Award of Excellence. I am most grateful for your belief and support, and I would like to thank you for choosing me. To the Vancouver Community College Culinary Department staff and the awarding committee, my sincerest thanks and gratitude for helping me chase my dreams.”*

**Loida Alejandro, Culinary Arts Certificate Program School of Hospitality, Food Studies & Business receiving the Santiago Cuyugan Award of Excellence.**



# Honouring Dr. Peter Nunoda

In 2023, we were saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Peter Nunoda, who served as VCC President and CEO from 2014 to 2019.

With over 30 years of academic leadership experience, some of the initiatives Dr. Nunoda was most proud of while at VCC were the College's 50th Anniversary campaign, We Built This City, and the implementation of the Gladue writing program. The first of its kind in Canada, VCC's Gladue Writing Certificate program prepares students to organize, write, and present Gladue Reports to assist the Canadian Judicial System in making well informed sentencing decisions with the goal of addressing over-incarceration of First Nations, Metis, Inuit, and Non-Status Peoples.

In honor of Dr. Nunoda's legacy, The Dr. Peter Nunoda Memorial Scholarship fund has been established in his name thanks to the generosity of his family, friends, and colleagues.



# Student Spotlight

Coming from the Philippines, Tracey is driven by a passion for creating beautiful smiles.

*“Studying at VCC gives me the opportunity to advance my skills and experience an international standard in the dental field. I am thankful to the school faculty for teaching us and sharing their skills. Thank you again for your generosity and support as I continue to learn and enhance my skills in my field. I hope one day I will also be able to help students in achieving their goals, just as you have supported me.”*

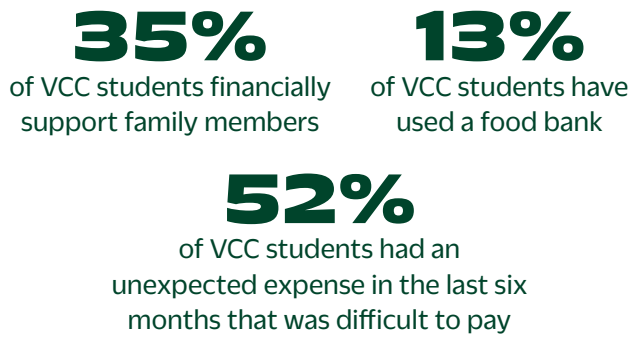
**Tracey Camille Bentulan, Denturist/ Dental Technology Sciences Program, receiving the BC College of Oral Health Award.**





# Giving Tuesday

Without access to nutritious food, a student's academic performance may be impacted, along with their mental and physical health and wellbeing. Many VCC students, who are supporting themselves and their families, struggle to make ends meet in an increasingly expensive region. From a 2023 survey, we found that:



Through our Giving Tuesday campaign, which included a silent auction, VCC Foundation raised close to \$40,000 to provide holiday hampers for students, food pantries in selected departments, and food security education for students.



**Watch the VCC Giving Tuesday Campaign 2023 Video**



# Flourish Gala

**Flourish presented by RBC is Vancouver Community College Foundation's annual gala.**

The memorable “green tie” evening featured culinary creations by VCC alumni and some of Vancouver’s leading chefs. Current VCC Culinary Arts students supported 15 food tasting stations and nine wine stations generously supported by Naramata Bench Wineries Association. Other sponsors included PCI Developments, Onni Group, Lowtide Properties, Dilawri Vancouver, Sodexo Live, BTY Group, Craftsman Collison and Color Compass Corp., and media partners BC Business and Drishti Magazine.

The gala was an impressive showcase of College programs and students. VCC alumni performed music and VCC Jewellery, VCC Digital Media Design, and VCC Fashion students presented merchandise and artisan jewellery. Virtual reality equipment and fully electric mechanical gear were on display courtesy of VCC Auto Collision and VCC Culinary Arts, while VCC’s School of Health and Sciences highlighted fauna and flora native to the China Creek area, where our Broadway campus is located. Complimentary hand massages were given by VCC Esthetics students.

**Flourish presented by RBC raised a record-breaking \$200,000 towards purchasing new virtual reality equipment, including haptic gloves, to increase opportunities for VCC students to practice hands-on training.**

**Watch the  
VCC 2024  
Flourish Video**



# CCEAI

**On display at Flourish was a model for the new Centre for Clean Energy and Automotive Innovation (CCEAI). The CCEAI building design draws upon the significance of a traditional Coast Salish canoe, the craft of canoe-making, and its relationship to land and water.**

The CCEAI is also a catalyst project for VCC's **Campus Plan**; it will revitalize VCC's Broadway campus and act as the gateway to the neighbourhood's Cultural Ribbon located along Great Northern Way.

The CCEAI is the first step toward VCC's future. It will:

- Contribute 772 new full-time equivalent student spaces annually to meet the demand for 24,000+ jobs through to 2031
- House the new VCC School of Trades, Technology, and Design
- Provide students with HyFlex lab spaces and state-of-the-art classrooms with expanded virtual reality, lab resources, and simulation equipment
- Create a new automotive innovations space where students will learn electric vehicle service and maintenance
- Offer five existing and seven new programs, covering clean energy, automotive innovation, technology, and design
- Ready the next generation of students to excel in clean energy and tech economies

Funds raised at Flourish will advance innovative technology in CCEAI classrooms, including virtual reality, laboratory resources, and simulation equipment.



# VCC Foundation Mission

Vancouver Community College Foundation stimulates financial support for students and programs at Vancouver Community College. Our board and staff ensure the prudent management of funds received and encourage the community's goodwill toward the College.

VCC Foundation is a registered charity and works together with individual donors and industry partners to build rewarding relationships.

## Board Of Directors

**Ken Cretney**, *Chair*

**Peter Van Dyke**, *Treasurer*

**Mark Andrew**, *Secretary*

Geoff Bowman

Zoran Kovacevic

Alister R. Mathieson

Barb Steele

Kay Wong-Alafriz

## VCC Representatives

**Moira Gookstetter**

**Ajay Patel**

**Jeffrey Yu**

*"The cycle of giving back is a fundamental principle that lies at the heart of VCC.*

*We believe that success is not solely measured by personal accomplishments, but by the impact we make on others.*

*Success becomes truly meaningful when you inspire and uplift others along the way."*

**Ajay Patel**, *VCC President and CEO*  
Spring 2023 Awards Ceremony



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This document was visually designed by Yvonne Olivotto, VCC graduate of the Graphic Design program.