



DEAN'S CIRCLE

EDWARDS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS



2023-2024 Annual Report



Dean's Remarks

Dean's Circle members, it is my pleasure to share with you the tremendous impact your contributions have had over the past year. Your continued support has played a crucial role in advancing our mission and supporting students who make our community thrive.

I would like to acknowledge the recent planned gift and Walter Murray Scholarship from current Dean's Circle member, Jack Neumann. This generous contribution reflects a lasting commitment to giving back, ensuring that our initiatives continue to thrive and support students for generations to come. Additionally, we are grateful for the gift from past Dean's Circle member, Wayne Brownlee, which led to establishment and support for the upcoming Prairie Business Summit in May 2025. These gifts are a testament to the ongoing commitment of our community, and we are incredibly thankful for their lasting impact.

This spirit of generosity plays a crucial role in funding initiatives that enhance the student experience and empower the next generation of leaders. Your contributions were particularly impactful in providing co-curricular funding for undergraduate students. This support enabled the Edwards Business Student Society to attend key conferences, including the Ted Rogers Management Conference in Toronto, the National Business School Conference in Winnipeg, and the Canadian Association of Business Schools Roundtable in Vancouver. Additionally, 14 Enactus students participated in the Enactus Canada Regionals Expositions in Calgary this March.

Your contributions as Dean's Circle members continue to play a vital role in advancing Indigenous engagement at Edwards. By supporting awards for students from rural, urban, and local Indigenous communities, we are able to bridge gaps and provide opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students who might otherwise face barriers to higher education.

We recognize the essential role of peer mentor learning communities in fostering collaboration and leadership

skills. Through your support, Edwards introduced its first Learning Communities in the 2023-24 academic year, with five peer mentors guiding 38 new students. Your impact has been profound, as these programs have proven invaluable in creating supportive networks where upper-year students help mentor their peers.

New initiatives include a focus on student food security, student emergency funding and MBA awards. Recognizing that students may face unexpected financial hardships, the food and emergency initiatives ensures those in crisis can receive support to cover their immediate needs. Students work closely with advisors to identify and address the challenges they encounter. The student emergency funding provides assistance to students who encounter emergency situations. With the support of this fund, students can access help quickly while navigating through difficult circumstances. The new funding stream for MBA awards provides financial assistance to graduate students, ensuring that talented individuals can continue their education without the burden of financial stress.

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for your continued support, which directly impacts the lives of many students. Your contributions to scholarships and bursaries have made it possible for students to focus on their studies by reducing the added stress of financial concerns. Together, we are creating opportunities, overcoming barriers, and shaping the future of our academic community.

Thank you again for your generosity, your vision, and your commitment to making a difference.

Marjorie Delbaere, Ph.D.
Acting Dean and Professor of Marketing

Donors

\$50,000

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Melvin C. Berg
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Ryan Townend
Wayne Ulrich
Basil & Cheryl Walsen
Cliff Wiegiers
Colton Wiegiers
Keith Willoughby
Greg Yuel

Student and Experiential Impact



My future goal is to graduate with a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting and work towards becoming a Chartered Professional Accountant.

This scholarship will allow me to be more involved in activities, such as officiating hockey and participating in Edwards events through the EBSS, as it provides me with greater financial flexibility. With less financial pressure, I will have more time to focus on my studies instead of balancing a part-time job. I was born and raised on a family farm in Weyburn, and sports like

hockey, soccer, and curling have always been a big part of my life. Music, particularly playing the piano, has also been something I deeply enjoy. In addition to that, I love animals, traveling, and spending time with my extended family.

Donors make a huge difference by supporting academic goals and easing some of the financial burdens that can come with higher education. By alleviating these concerns, I have more time to study and focus on gaining knowledge. I am sincerely honored to be selected as a recipient of the Edwards Dean's Circle Enhance and Innovate scholarship. As I continue my education at the University of Saskatchewan, I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities this scholarship provides.

This scholarship has not only supported my academic journey but also allowed me to grow in ways beyond just my studies. With less financial stress, I have been able to engage in more activities, meet new people, and build meaningful connections with both my peers and professors. These experiences have enriched my university life, providing me with valuable opportunities to learn from others that I would not have had if I were focused solely on working to make ends meet. The chance to network with industry professionals and participate in various events has opened doors and given me a clearer sense of where my future in accounting could take me. Thanks to this scholarship, my university experience has become much more fulfilling, and I am deeply grateful for the chance to connect, learn, and grow.

Kate Goranson

Recipient of the Edwards Dean's Circle Enhance & Innovate Award



Your generosity will impact my university pursuits and personal life. I am currently a second-year student at the Edwards School of Business, with an undeclared major. I am particularly enjoying my marketing and finance classes, which I find both engaging and challenging. This has allowed me to explore my academic interests.

In addition to my studies, I also work with the University of Saskatchewan Huskies athletics hockey program, where I work at the hockey games within the ticket and merchandise department. I enjoy the

opportunity to contribute to the school community and gain valuable experience behind the scenes of the USask hockey games organization and in addition the ability to use my customer service skills. In addition to this, I also work part-time at the Sutherland Curling rink concession to help relieve financial expenses.

I am actively involved in a few campus activities; I am excited that in February 2025 I will be representing the University of Saskatchewan at the upcoming Ethics Challenge in Winnipeg. One of my other favourites is the university's recreational curling program.

This scholarship means so much to me, as it helps reduce financial stress and allows me to focus more on my studies. It motivates me to continue working hard and strive for success in everything I do. This scholarship serves as a reminder of the support I have from very generous individuals, which helps make my education and personal growth possible so that one day I can also help support future students in this way.

The impact of your giving extends far beyond just me – it helps ensure that students at Edwards have the opportunity to pursue their dreams, succeed academically, and grow as individuals. Your generosity allows students like me to focus on what truly matters: learning, developing skills and making meaningful contributions to the university community. Thank you for your incredible support - it truly makes a difference in my life and in the lives of so many other students.

Sydney Lussier

Recipient of the Edwards Dean's Circle Indigenous Undergraduate Student Award

Financials

	Actual	Actual
Commitments	2022-2023	2023-2024
Student Awards, Prizes & Bursaries	\$ 224,500	\$231,749
Student Experiential Learning & Professional Development	\$ 84,226	\$ 107,777
Competition Support	\$ 4,260	\$ 2,021
Rapid Response Fund	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ 312,986	\$ 341,547

Approved Spending for 2024-2025

Student Awards, Prizes & Bursaries	\$ 250,000
Student Experiential Learning & Professional Development	\$ 117,000
Competition Support	\$ 8,000
New Initiatives	\$ 42,000
Rapid Response Fund	\$ -
Total 2024-2025 expenditures	\$ 417,000

** If you want more financial information than what is showcased above, please reach out to Steph Bodnar - bodnar@edwards.usask.ca*

Thank you to the Dean's Circle Approval Committee:



Shelley Brown

Partner (Retired),
Deloitte LLP



R. Scott McCreath

Senior Investment Advisor,
BMO Nesbitt Burns
Edwards Executive in Residence



Steve Flynn

Senior Investment Advisor,
BMO Nesbitt Burns

Dean's Circle Funding



In March of my final year at the Edwards School of Business, I had the extraordinary privilege of being chosen as a recipient for the Dean's Circle Co-Curricular Funding, which enabled me to attend an international conference in the Netherlands. This opportunity was transformative, opening doors to experiences and insights that reshaped my academic and professional outlook.

Without the generous support of the Dean's Circle support Co-Curricular funding, attending this conference would not have

been impossible due to financial constraints. Receiving these funds holds great significance for me as it has enabled me to broaden my educational horizons beyond the confines of the classroom. The experience of being in the Netherlands was truly incredible.

The conference pushed me out of my comfort zone, taking me to new cities and introducing me to a diverse group of individuals from around the world. What amazed me most was discovering how much I had in common with students from entirely different cultures and backgrounds. Through workshops, panel discussions, and networking sessions, I gained invaluable tools like negotiation strategies, personal branding techniques, and leadership insights.

More than anything, the experience taught me resilience and adaptability. I learned that success is not linear and that challenges are inevitable, but it's the ability to learn and grow from them that defines true progress. This mindset, along with the practical skills I gained, continues to guide me as I step into the next chapter of my career.

This conference not only enriched my knowledge but also reinforced my commitment to personal and professional growth. I owe this transformative journey to the Dean's Circle members that contribute to funding the student experience, which empowered me to broaden my horizons and connect with a global network of inspiring individuals.

Abdulrazik Benguzzi

Recipient of funding for the Edwards Dean's Circle Co-Curricular Funding

For more information, please contact:



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TOGETHER



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