Board of Directors Bios for 2021-2022

CAMERON ACKERBLADE

Cameron Ackerblade is currently serving his second term and is Past President of the Board of Directors. He graduated from Durham College with an Accounting diploma in 2005. Cameron has been in the workplace supply business for most of his working career, the past five years as an Account Manager with Grand & Toy growing their brand in the Eastern GTA and Durham Region.  Having lived and worked in Durham throughout most of his life, he has built many strong relationships within the community. Cameron actively participates in several committees of the Durham Region Lakeshore Chambers of Commerce/Boards of Trade, and volunteers with the Oshawa Seniors Community Centres.  He has been a member of the board of the Oshawa Kicks Soccer Club, serving as Vice President and has participated in many community initiatives.

CARRIE-ANNE ATKINS

Carrie-Anne Atkins is currently serving her second term and is Vice president 1.  Carrie-Anne graduated from the Public Relations program in 1998 and is continuing her education at Athabasca University where she is working on a Bachelor of Professional Arts as a Communications Major. At present, Carrie-Anne is Senior Communications Advisor for Ontario Power Generation – Darlington Nuclear Stakeholder Relations. She is involved in the community as a Vice-chair and Board Trustee for the Durham Community Foundation as well as a member of the Oshawa Chamber Commerce Government Relations Committee. In the past, Carrie-Anne served on the Whitby Chamber of Commerce Advocacy Committee and the Ajax Pickering Board of Trade Communications and Marketing Committee, as well as acting as a Board Trustee for both Victims Services of Durham Region and the Ajax-Pickering-Uxbridge United Way.

RYAN CULLEN\*

Ryan Cullen is currently completing his first term and standing for re-election for a second term. He graduated from Durham College in 2017 from the Horticulture, Food and Farming program. While a student, Ryan worked at Bistro ’67 and served on the Board of Governors as the student representative. Upon graduation Ryan was hired full time and has spent the last 4 years as the Field Supervisor at W. Galen Weston Centre for Food, Whitby campus.  He managed the greenhouse, gardens, arboretum and market garden with a team of horticulture work-study students.  This past year, Ryan has taken on a new role as the Farm Manager for the Barrett Centre of Innovation for Sustainable Urban Agriculture.  In this role, Ryan will work with DC colleagues to realize The Barrett Centre’s vision to become an internationally recognized hub of excellence in urban agricultural practices, research, education and training. In addition, to address some of society’s biggest challenges including food insecurity, access to safe and stable supplies of fresh food, and economic stability and regeneration of land for local food production. This includes building a dynamic new urban farm that will be developed as a community-based living lab in the coming years, replicating and scaling the successful farming operations already established at the college’s Whitby campus as a model for other urban farms.

GABRIELLA DE SOUSA

Gabriella De Sousa is currently serving her second term and is Vice president 2. Gabriella first graduated from the Electrical Engineering Technician program in 2015 then successfully completed all levels of the Durham College Advanced Elevating Device Mechanic program in 2017. She is in the process of completing the Teaching & Training Adults Certificate through the Centre for Professional and Part-time Learning. She was one of 15 women to participate in the inaugural all-women Elevating Device Mechanic pre-apprenticeship program that launched in the School of Skilled Trades, Apprenticeship & Renewable Technology in February of 2016. Gabriella gave a presentation about her experiences at DC in November 2018 at the Taste of the Trades event and was a guest speaker for DC Talks: Alumni Series in February 2019. Gabriella has also appeared in two separate articles in the February 2017 and 2021 edition of Elevator World magazine. She is currently working at Delta Elevator Co. Ltd. where she works as an Elevator Maintenance Mechanic.

Cassie-Jean Dillon\*

Cassie-Jean Dillon is standing for election to serve her first term. Cassie-Jean is no stranger to the college as she has been a lifelong learner with Durham College since the 1980s. In 2018, she graduated from the Fitness and Health program with Honours and she is currently enrolled at Trent University with a dual major in Sociology and Indigenous Studies graduating in April 2022. Currently, Cassie-Jean works for Employment and Social Development Canada as an Indigenous Learning Strategies Advisor where she shares her knowledge with Canadians to advance reconciliation efforts. During her time at Durham College, Cassie-Jean volunteered as a mentor for Indigenous students and was a Culture/Activities Assistant at Suswaaning Endaajig.

LORRAINE FULLER

Lorraine Fuller is currently serving her second term. Lorraine graduated from the Business Administration Accounting program in 1990. Lorraine received her Certified Management Accountant designation – now called the Certified Professional Account, in 1995. Lorraine went on to obtain a Master’s Certificate in Public Sector Management from Ontario Tech University. Employed by the City of Oshawa, Lorraine is Manager, Financial Reporting and Planning and her responsibilities include ensuring the integrity of the City’s budgeting, planning, and financial reporting processes. Lorraine is a member of the City’s Diversity and Inclusion Staff Committee. She volunteered as a Community Food Advisor with the Region of Durham Health Department and has served on the Oshawa’s United Way Committee.

JONATHAN HURTER

Jonathan Hurter is currently serving his second term. He graduated from the School of Justice and Emergency Services Paralegal Diploma program with a Certificate in ADR in 2004 and was among the first paralegals licensed by the Law Society of Ontario. He went on to York University, completing a Specialized B.A. in Philosophy, Certificate in Practical Ethics, and an Advanced Certificate in ADR. After working as a paralegal, Jonathan completed a Specialized Juris Doctorate from Osgoode Hall Law School. He then articled with the Ministry of the Attorney General, and currently practices as a provincial prosecutor at the Real Estate Council of Ontario. Jonathan’s community service includes having worked for various legal aid programs, including Arch Disability Law Center, the sport dispute resolution center, as well as having served as the President of the Association for ADR at Osgoode.

BRENT LESSARD\*

Brent Lessard is currently completing his first term and standing for re-election for a second term. Brent graduated from the Mechanical Engineering Technology program in 2013. He is the co-founder of rLoop, a decentralized organization focused on accelerating technological solutions to global problems. He has won multiple international awards including from the Dubai Future Foundation, IndieGoGo, and SpaceX. Brent competed in Elon Musk’s SpaceX Hyperloop competition where, as Project Lead, his rLoop team became one of 27 teams chosen to build their prototype and went on to win the Pod Innovation Award. Their prototype achieved many firsts for a Hyperloop vehicle and remains one of the most advanced vehicles in existence. He is also the Director of Programs and Operations at Venture Development Institute, a startup incubator supporting aspiring entrepreneurs by providing access to education, mentorship, and capital. Brent is a 2017 Alumnus of Distinction award recipient and a 2017 Premier’s Award winner.

AMANDA MACDONALD

Amanda MacDonald is currently serving her first term.  Amanda received both a Business Fundamentals Certificate in 2016 and a Business Marketing Diploma in 2017. She went on to obtain a Bachelor of Recreation and Leisure Studies from Brock University and Masters of Management from Trent University. Amanda MacDonald is Executive Director of the Niagara Falls Downtown Business Improvement Area, with past Executive Director experience for both Downtown Welland and Oshawa, Ontario. Amanda is also a Teaching Assistant and guest speaker for Brock University’s Recreation and Leisure Studies program and places community development as a core value and the reason for her success. She has her own firm NicMac Consulting Group specializing in areas such as grants, sponsorship, marketing and municipal governance. Her volunteer experience includes work with Recreation and Culture for the City of Niagara Falls, member of Brock Recreation and Leisure Studies Alumni Committee, Event Director for Enactus, Golden Key International Honour Society, and Board Director for the Rosalind Blauer Centre for Child Care. In addition, she is currently designated as a Youth Action Leader by the Federal Government of Canada under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

AMANDA MORARI

Amanda Morari is currently serving her second term.  She graduated from the Digital Photography program in 2013 with honours. She is currently employed with IKEA as a Business Navigator and has had the opportunity to work in several different roles throughout her career. Some of which include photographing food items for use on menu boards country wide and capturing IKEA events across the GTA. Amanda also had the opportunity to travel abroad to help open the very first IKEA store in India. Also, a freelance photographer, Amanda captures weddings, engagements, families as well as commercial work in and around the Toronto area. Amanda has given back to DC by acting as a part-time professor for the school of Media, Art, & Design in the Photography and Videography programs. She currently teaches Fundamentals of Lighting. Amanda strives to cultivate a positive, fun, hands-on learning environment that accommodates student’s diverse cultural and educational backgrounds.

Ann Marie MorrisoN\*

Ann Marie Morrison is standing for election to serve her first term. Ann Marie graduated from Durham College (DC) in the Spring of 2021 from the Human Resources Management program with Honours and has a Bachelor of Science in Social Work from the University of the West Indies. Currently, she is a Program Manager for the Ontario Trillium Foundation and her past employment includes working as the Diversity Assistant in the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at DC and Job Skills Specialist with YMCA Durham and Community Services. While living in Jamaica, she served on the board and as a member of the Oversight Committee for Kingston Technical High School and St. Michaels Elementary School. In 2021, Ann Marie was awarded the Doris and Gordon Willey Founders Cup of Excellence by Durham College.

PETER WIEBE

Peter Wiebe is currently serving his second term.  Peter graduated from the Mechanical Engineering Technology program in 2012. During his years at DC, Peter showed his commitment to the school by working as an academic tutor. After Durham College, Peter went on to gain a Bachelor of Business Administration from Athabasca University. Currently, Peter is working in the Aerospace industry and holds the position of Manager of Quality and Continuous Improvement at Héroux-Devtek. He is an entrepreneurial individual and has a passion for working with creative teams, such as the DCAA board. Peter is the designated Board representative for the Enactus DC team partnership.

\*Standing for Election