**DCAA Board of Directors Bio Summaries**

**2022-2023**

CAMERON ACKERBLADE

Cameron Ackerblade is currently serving his second term and is a 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 six 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 President of the Board of Directors.  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 manager of Corporate Relations for Ontario Power Generation-Pickering Nuclear Stakeholder Relations. She is currently involved in the community serving as Chair and Board Trustee for the Durham Community Foundation as well as Board Director for the Oshawa Chamber of Commerce. In the past, Carrie-Anne served on the Whitby Chamber of Commerce Advocacy Committee, the Ajax Pickering Board of Trade Communications and Marketing Committee, and was acting Board Trustee for both Victims Services of Durham Region and the Ajax-Pickering-Uxbridge United Way.

GABRIELLA DE SOUSA

Gabriella De Sousa is currently serving her second term and is Vice president 1. 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 currently serving 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, in April 2022, she graduated from Trent University with a dual major in Sociology and Indigenous Studies. 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.

Kyle Douglas\*

Kyle Douglas is standing for election to serve his first term. Kyle graduated from the Business Administration Human Resources program in 2011 and is co-owner of CRCS DKI, a second-generation family owned and operated company that specializes in disaster restoration. Since 1979, CRCS DKI’s team of professionals have specialized in state-of-the-art remediation and restoration of buildings and contents damaged by fire, smoke, water, wind, oil spills, sewer contamination, and break-ins/vandalism. Kyle not only supports his community through the family business but he has committed his entire career to serving his community. He has been involved in community organizations such as the Oshawa Chamber of Commerce (past president and Board Director since 2011); community fundraisers for Lakeridge Health Foundation; Epilepsy Durham; and Police Appreciation Dinner & Awards Committee. Kyle is an avid cyclist and was the Canadian National Champion in 2006.

LORRAINE FULLER

Lorraine Fuller is currently serving her second term. Lorraine graduated from the Business Administration Accounting program in 1990. She received her Certified Management Accountant designation – now called the Chartered Professional Accountant, 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.

ikra ijaz\*

Ikra Ijaz is standing for election to serve her first term. Ikra graduated as an International student, highest ranking, from the Hospitality Management- Hotels and Restaurants Operations Management program in 2018. She is currently studying at Yorkville University with a goal of completing a Bachelor of Business Administration in 2023. Ikra made the life-changing decision to leave her home and family in Dubai, United Arab Emirates where she worked in the hotel industry to study at Durham College. She immersed herself in college activities including volunteering at events such as the Harvest Dinner and working at Bistro ’67 in various roles from server, hostess to bartender. Ikra is keen to give back especially with a focus of helping other International students and establishing an International Alumni network. Ikra is currently Contracting Manager for Hotelbeds Group.

BRENT LESSARD

Brent Lessard is currently serving his 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.

jennifer mccool-closs\*

Jennifer McCool-Closs is standing for election to serve her first term. Jennifer describes herself as a life-long learner as she first earned a Bachelor of Science, Biomedical Science from the University of Guelph in 2005 and went on to obtain her Primary Care Paramedic Diploma in 2007 from Durham College (DC). She continued with DC and was the highest-ranking graduate when she received her Advanced Care Paramedic Graduate Certificate in 2011. In 2020, she obtained a Master of Science, Healthcare Quality from Queen’s University. She continues to take courses to expand her knowledge and is currently studying Indigenous history. She has been involved with the Paramedic program at DC for nine years holding various roles including teaching courses, clinical and practical capacities and contributing to the program’s success by reviewing KPIs and aligning delivery. Jennifer received the Alumna of Distinction award in 2014 and is currently an Advanced Care Paramedic for The Regional Municipality of Durham.

Ann Marie MorrisoN

Ann Marie Morrison is currently serving 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.

ezinne obayagbona\*

Ezinne Obayagbona is standing for election to serve her first term. Ezinne graduated as an International student from the Human Resources Management program at Durham College in 2016. Her diverse education includes a Bachelor of Laws (L.L.B.) from the University of Lagos and Master of Business Administration from Boston University. Ezinne left her family and home in Nigeria to study at Durham College and through a career-defining journey has transitioned to the software industry where she is currently working as a Customer Success Manager for Klue Inc. Ezinne recently moved back to Durham Region and since becoming a Canadian citizen, looks forward to the opportunity to give back to her community as well as support International students and help establish an International Alumni network.

drew samuels\*

Drew Samuels is standing for election to serve his first term. Drew graduated from the Paralegal program in 2011 building on his education from Carleton University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) degree in Criminology, Concentration in Law in 2010. He returned to Carleton University to earn a second Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology, Minor in Law in 2012. Drew has been a part-time professor in the Paralegal program at Durham College since January 2016 and enjoys educating students as well as equipping them with the skills to use in their career after graduation. In particular, he has had the opportunity to directly supervise field placement students assisting them in fulfilling their requirements with the Law Society of Ontario and has hired numerous graduates from Durham College. His volunteer work includes Ottawa Crisis Centre, Mental Health Crisis Line and most recently, he was elected Chair of the Durham Community Legal Clinic Board of Directors. Drew is currently a Senior Litigation Advisor for DMA-DuCharme, McMillen & Associates, Inc.

\*Standing for Election