

Durham College Alumni Association Annual General Meeting

Date: September 10, 2025
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: CIR 102, Oshawa Campus

Board Members	Drew Samuels, Jesara Holla, Cassie-Jean Dillon, Paul Fritzs, Prachi Verma, Christy Stone-Curry, Talia Lane, Heather Brown, Student Representative- Liam Croft
Regrets:	Kyle Douglas, Gaia Ninzatti, Pat Lyver, Jennifer McCool-Closs
In Attendance:	191 people registered for attendance-see list on file with Office of Advancement and Alumni Relations (AAR); Approx 90 people in attendance
AAR Staff:	Ariel Sully, Sally Hillis, Mary Weller, Heather Bulman, Abbi Longo, Adriana Hadjari, Peter Garrett

1.0 Welcome

At 6:35 p.m., DCAA Board President, Drew Samuels, welcomed all in attendance and called on Board Director, Paul Fritzs to give the Land Acknowledgement.

2.0 Land Acknowledgement

Since time immemorial, Durham College has been situated on the Treaty and Traditional Territory of the Mississauga Nation and the 1923 Williams Treaties. Durham College is home away from home to students of many Indigenous nations from across Turtle Island. We pledge to promote awareness of Indigenous knowledge and histories in the work that we do. We are grateful to engage in our work in this special place.

Drew thanked Paul and officially opened the DCAA 2025 AGM, welcoming Dr. Elaine Popp, Board Governor Chair, Lisa Allen, Board Directors, alumni, staff, and guests. He noted that, in accordance with the DCAA Constitution, notice of the AGM was sent 30 days in advance and all relevant documents—including the 2024-25 Annual Report, 2021-24 Strategic Plan, agenda, previous minutes, and 2025-26 Board slate with bios—were available online and at registration. He also confirmed that only alumni members have voting privileges.

3.0 College Update

Drew introduced Dr. Elaine Popp, DC President, who provided a college update and shared the new five-year Strategic Vision, developed with input from over 2,200 community stakeholders. She reported domestic enrolment targets were met (5,542 new and 4,302 returning students) while international targets fell short (404 new and 1,174 returning). Dr. Popp thanked attendees and the DCAA Board for their leadership in fostering alumni engagement and supporting students.

4.0 Alumni Relations Remarks

Drew thanked Elaine and introduced Ariel Sully, AVP, Advancement and Alumni Relations, who provided an update on alumni engagement initiatives. Key work includes the Alumni Engagement Campaign, guided by storytelling, strategy, and data-driven

insight, supported by the Alumni Engagement Data Management Guide. The Board engaged a branding agency to refresh the DCAA brand and develop a communications strategy. Phase One, informed by the 2023 Alumni Engagement Survey, is underway; Phase Two will create a communications plan, with Phase Three launching the full campaign in 2026. These initiatives aim to strengthen the alumni community. Ariel thanked the Board for its guidance and expressed anticipation for continued growth in engagement.

5.0 Adoption of Previous Minutes dated September 11, 2024

Drew thanked Ariel and reviewed highlights from last year's AGM, including alumni activities and events for 2023-2024, recognition of 16 Leaders of the Future and 2 outstanding CICE graduates, and reports received from the President, Finance, and Nominating Committee.

There were no questions.

Motion to accept the DCAA Minutes dated September 11, 2024.

Moved by S Smale/CJ Dillon Motion Carried

6.0 President's Report

Drew highlighted key achievements from the 2024-2025 Annual Report, the final year of the 2021-2024 Strategic Plan. Alumni engagement included 128 guest speakers and an expanded Mentorship Program. The Board introduced a new Outstanding Indigenous Graduate award, increased campaign matching funds to \$30,000, and sponsored 16 events. Alumni and student-focused initiatives included DC Talks, Hockey Night, Countdown to Grad, career and financial workshops, and Apprenticeship Celebrations recognizing 289 graduates. 2025 Alumni of Distinction award recipients were recognized, and Premier's Award nominees were announced.

There were no questions.

Motion to accept the President's report. Moved by H Brown/J Holla

Motion Carried

7.0 Finance Report

Drew called on Sally Hillis to present the Finance Report. Sally noted an anticipated surplus of \$15,000 for the 2024-25 fiscal year (Sept 1–Aug 31), with detailed figures in the Annual Report (p.26). Key points: total revenue exceeded budget by 14%, expenses by 8%; \$15,000 disbursed in scholarships; \$50,000 OPG CSTT pledge in year four of five; \$30,000 in matching funds supported the Food Access Bursary and Student Experience Fund; projected bank balance of \$372,200, including three GICs.

DCAA Bursary Endowment Fund

Opening balance: \$399,572

Bursaries awarded: \$6,000 (3 × \$2,000)

Closing balance: \$430,235

Joint Endowment with OACETT (2012): \$2,000 awarded (2 × \$1,000 bursaries)

In response to a concern expressed about additional support required to help students and returning alumni to meet their academic goals, it was recognized that this concern will be shared with our academic and support staff. It was noted that the college has a

department (SALS- Student Academic Learning Services) specifically designed to provide this type of support for students.

Motion to accept the Finance report. Moved by P Fritzsich/S Smale Motion Carried

8.0 Nominating Committee Report

Drew thanked Sally and called on Jesara Holla, Chair of the Nominating Committee, who presented the report on Board recruitment. There were four three-year term openings; a Call for Nominations was issued on June 10 with a 30-day deadline, and interviews were held in July. The candidates for the openings—Jennifer McCool-Closs (second term), Drew Samuels (second term), and Liam Croft (first term)—along with the proposed 2025-2026 Board slate, were presented for approval. The search will continue for a Faculty of Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship representative. Bios were available on the alumni website and included in the AGM final notice sent on August 11. There were no questions.

Motion to accept the Nominating Committee report.

Moved by: C Stone-Curry/M Paul

Motion Carried

Motion to accept the 2025-2026 Slate of DCAA Board of Directors.

Moved by H Brown/M McDonald

Motion Carried

9.0 DCAA Leadership Awards

Drew called on Prachi Verma to announce the award recipients. Prachi gave a brief description of how this award was established and criteria for the selection committee. 20 graduating students were recognized this past year for the DCAA Leaders of the Future Award, 2 recipients for the DCAA Outstanding CICE Graduate award and a new award was established by the Board for DCAA Outstanding Indigenous Graduate. The recipients were called forward to receive a framed certificate and award money of \$250.

10.0 Closing Remarks

DCAA 2025-2030 Strategic Plan

Drew presented and discussed the 2025-2030 DCAA Strategic Plan, available in print and online, which will guide the Board and Advancement & Alumni Relations team over the next five years. Informed by alumni and stakeholder feedback, the plan aligns with Durham College's 2030 Strategic Vision and focuses on three goals: strengthening alumni belonging and identity, supporting alumni growth, and mobilizing alumni to create community impact. He emphasized that alumni engagement is an ongoing continuation of the student-college relationship.

Drew recognized retiring Directors Kyle Douglas and Gaia Ninzatti and Jesara presented a gift to Drew in appreciation of his leadership as Board President. The AGM concluded with a door prize draw and the social/networking portion of the evening, with attendees encouraged to provide feedback, network, and take photos.

11.0 Adjournment

Motion to adjourn Moved by M Bent/S Mingram

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm