

# DEAN'S CIRCLE

EDWARDS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS



2022-2023 Annual Report



# Dean's Remarks

Friends, supporters, and champions. Thank you! Thank you for your enormous contributions of time, talent, and resources. Thank you for providing a compelling and consistent series of opportunities for Edwards School of Business students. Thank you for helping to transition **today's students into today's leaders**. Previously, I perceived that your generosity enabled the shaping of tomorrow's leaders. Now, I see the landscape differently. Your individual and sustained support offers a platform for fostering students who are leaders **right now**. They lead in the classroom. They lead in the community. They lead in their aspiring professional experiences. Your Dean's Circle support is truly consequential and inspirational.

22-23 offered outstanding opportunities for student experience. Your contributions were especially important in hosting the JDC West event, western Canada's largest business case competition. This marked the first time in three years that the event was held exclusively in-person. Over 500 student delegates from several Western Canadian business schools competed in academic case presentations, sports events, and debates. I was delighted to see Dean's Circle members providing their time and expertise as academic judges and cheering on the students at the gala event.

Dean's Circle members continue to provide impressive support for Indigenous engagement initiatives at Edwards. During the recent academic year, Edwards participated in the University's ohpahaton ("let's fly up together") Fall symposium. An Edwards group presented to a campus-wide audience on our college's commitment to truth and reconciliation. We discussed student recruitment, space provisions, and Indigenous aspects in our curriculum. Your ongoing support helps us to do so very much in these important initiatives.

Another highlight in 22-23 involved the Dembroski Student Managed Portfolio Trust (SMPT). A student team garnered second place in the Global Assets Management Education Forum in New York City! As the

world's largest student-run financial conference, this Forum brings together over 1,300 students and 140 institutions. This result provides further evidence that Edwards students are successful on the world stage!

Your generosity enables co-curricular funding for undergraduate students, such as those participating in academic disciplinary case or financial portfolio competitions. Your Dean's Circle recruitment awards provide considerable support for students enrolled in our Master's programs. We are able to recruit and retain international students through your dedicated entrance scholarships. Overall, your philanthropy recognizes students for both academic achievements and demonstrated financial needs.

New allocations for Dean's Circle funds in this most recent academic year include Co-op Program Employer Nominated Student Achievement Awards. These awards enable our college to recognize and reward students enrolled in the business co-operative program, a stellar feature that couples classroom curriculum with professional learning experiences. You are also providing indispensable support for student groups enabling leadership experience for Edwards students.

Let me finish with how I started - Thank you! Your support is visionary and valuable. Your generosity is providing a lasting legacy in our college.

I am honoured to be considered your friend and fellow Dean's Circle member!

"Nikanitan Manacihitowinihk" ("let us lead with respect").

Keith A. Willoughby, Ph.D.

Dean and Dean's Circle Member

# Donors

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# Student and Experiential Impact



After completing my undergrad this year, I intend to partake in the Masters of Professional Accounting program at Edwards School of Business in order to obtain my CPA.

This award enables me to have more time to spend on school and my other endeavours - including JDC West, EBSS, campus sports, acting as a teaching assistant, and more.

I've really enjoyed getting to know my peers through extracurriculars. One of my favourite memories was participating in JDC West 2022 on the business strategy team. Comm

201 remains one of my favourite courses, as it sparked my interest in accounting. The professor, Michael Hernik, did an amazing job at highlighting the different ventures within the profession - something that has been continuously built on in my other courses.

Donors relieve some of the financial burden off of students and enable them to be more active students. It gives increased opportunity for students to spend time partaking in extracurriculars such as student leadership and business competitions, while continuing to focus on their studies.

Thank you so much for your generous contribution! I really appreciate the support, as it enables me to have more time to focus on my classes, as well as to get involved in student leadership and to begin to connect with a variety of business professionals. Again, thank you so much, and I hope to one day give back, just as you have!

**Marlyse Steckler**

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



My aspiration is to succeed in the financial industry by fusing my analytical abilities with a comprehensive knowledge of international markets. I aim to contribute to the development of innovative investing ideas that promote economic growth and offer long-term financial solutions. In the end, I hope to play a significant part in promoting financial stability and equipping people and businesses to make wise financial decisions.

As a new student at Edwards, my favorite experience would be my Introduction to Business class assignment where myself, and

other students had to start our own business. It encouraged collaboration, problem-solving, creativity, and communication among the team members.

As a newcomer to this city and country, I am learning about the different cultures and communities and how they all co-exist together in this beautiful city. I have started to explore more of the rivers and bridges.

The Dean's Circle scholarship I received will cover a portion of my tuition expenses, significantly reducing the financial burden of my education on my family back home. Because of you, I'll be in a better position to pursue a successful career in finance.

The Dean's Circle donors play a vital role in making a positive impact on various aspects of student's education. I have spoken to other students who've received Dean's Circle support, and the support you provide improves the lives of students by bridging gaps, opening doors, and igniting positive change.

I want to offer my sincere thanks for your generous contribution. Your belief in our goals and aspirations has given us the resources and opportunities to thrive. Your willingness to invest in our dreams motivates us to work harder, strive for excellence, and give back to our community in meaningful ways. With your support, we are one step closer to achieving our goals and making a positive impact. Once again, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your unwavering support.

**Aaron Thomas Chacko**

Recipient of the Edwards Dean's Circle International Student Awards

# Financials

	Actual	Actual
Commitments	2021-2022	2022-2023
Student Awards, Prizes & Bursaries	\$ 195,500	\$ 224,500
Student Experiential Learning & Professional Development	\$ 65,254	\$ 84,226
Competition Support	\$ 6,038	\$ 4,260
Rapid Response Fund	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ 266,792	\$ 312,986

Approved Spending for 2023-2024		
Student Awards, Prizes & Bursaries	\$ 206,500	
Student Experiential Learning & Professional Development	\$ 92,500	
Competition Support	\$ 8,000	
New Initiatives	\$ 95,000	
Rapid Response Fund	\$ -	
Total 2022-2023 expenditures	\$ 402,000	

*\* 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 last year, I was one of a few lucky students who were given the opportunity to attend the annual Network of Empowered Women (NEW) Conference, hosted by U of A students at Lake Louise in Alberta. This conference would turn out to be one of the most transformative experiences of my university career and I will always be grateful for the wealth of knowledge, skills, and connections I was able to gain from this experience. Throughout the conference, I attended various workshops, panel discussions, and networking sessions that covered everything from leadership

development to career advancement, to simple advice on navigating common situations and experiences in the business world. I gained exposure to so many diverse perspectives from incredible women who I otherwise might never encounter. They taught me strategies for navigating challenges. They taught me that there is no single path to success, that you don't have to know everything right now, and that sometimes it takes time to find what is right for you. They taught me that change is hard but it's necessary. Overall, I left the conference feeling so inspired and in awe of everything around me, from both speakers and attendees.

One of the key takeaways I took home was the importance of fostering a mindset of continuous learning and resilience. Obstacles are expected and challenges in your professional career will be everywhere, but what matters is that you're able to come back from them. Beyond that, we were also given practical tools like negotiation skills, effective communication, and learning how to build a personal brand, all of which I continue to use as I come up on graduating this year. None of this would have been possible without funding from the Dean's Circle. I can say confidently that had I not received funding, I would not have been able to attend this incredibly enriching conference. I owe friendships, connections, and career experiences to this conference and ultimately to the funding I am grateful to have received from the Dean's Circle.

**Isra Banigesh**

Recipient of funding for the Network of Empowered Women Conference

**For more information, please contact:**



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**TOGETHER**



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