

Impact Report 2021



Breaking Down Barriers

In November 2021, 127 students were recognized for their academic achievements and personal accomplishments at a virtual Student Awards Ceremony held in lieu of an in-person gathering due to the ongoing pandemic. Four scholars shared messages of gratitude in the Ceremony video, which is online at www.kings.uwo.ca/alumni/events-and-chapters/student-awards-ceremony/.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, five new awards were given out this year, including the **Indigenous Student Award**. In March 2021, King's committed to raising funds for an award that celebrates the achievements of deserving Indigenous students and provides financial assistance for tuition and living expenses. Forty-nine donors contributed to this award and, with a matching donation from King's, the fund was established with \$56,835.

The award is granted annually to a First Nations, Inuit, or Métis student based on academic achievement, community contribution, and financial need. The first recipient of the Indigenous Student Award is **Caitlin Morris**. Catlin is a fourth-year student in the Sociology program. She works three jobs to support her family and finance her education. After graduating, she hopes to earn her Master of Social Work and work with the Children's Aid Society. Support from this award has alleviated her financial stress and has allowed her to focus more on her son and her studies.

"Even if it is just the removal of one barrier - tuition fees, the cost of books, living expenses - this financial support can be the difference between a student dropping out or continuing their education."

Kim Malcolm
King's Manager of Development



Briane Gilkes, 3rd Year, Bachelor of Social Work
First recipient of the Dr. Linda Spano Student Award

Briane is a mature student who aspires to open a Social Work/Child and Youth facility. Receiving this award has allowed her to follow her passion for helping children, youth, families, and communities overcome adversities and challenges.

Hear more from Briane: <https://youtu.be/ljTGWv-ZvAA>.



Charles Skeete, 2nd Year, Master of Social Work
First recipient of the MSW Class of 2021 Black Student Award

Charles is a volunteer chaplain at London hospitals and works as clergy to assist families who have lost a loved one due to COVID-19 in Africa. He hopes to earn his PhD and provide counselling services to black families. This award has provided significant financial relief and helped reduce his debt.

Hear more from Charles: <https://youtu.be/t1wAUVnBiNU>

You are giving the gift of opportunity!



Reflection Circle on the King's Green

Situated on the land located at Waterloo and Huron Streets, the Reflection Circle is an inclusive space for students, faculty, staff, community members, and people of all faiths and backgrounds. It also supports the needs of the Indigenous community at King's by providing an outdoor location for sacred gatherings and Indigenous ceremonies.

A ceremony to dedicate the Reflection Circle and to recognize the generous support of Joanne and Peter Kenny was held in October. Led by Knowledge Keepers and Elders Dan and Mary Lou Smoke, the ceremony included songs, prayer, smudging, and the hanging of flags of sacred colours. King's student Russell Green was the ceremony's firekeeper, responsible for maintaining the sacred fire.

"In the past, King's has not had a suitable place for Indigenous ceremonies, creating a disconnect between Indigenous students and the college and community. I hope that with the development of the Reflection Circle, Indigenous students will feel welcome to celebrate their culture on campus and that all students can use this space as a place of peace and healing."

Holly Clarke,

President, King's University College Students' Council



Well-being and Mental Health Enhancements

The health and well-being of the King's community has remained a priority throughout the pandemic. Thanks to generous funding from the Miggie Lawson Fund through the Lawson Foundation, London Community Foundation/Community Foundations of Canada, Bell Let's Talk Funding, and other donors, King's has added resources, improved access, and helped those experiencing anxiety, stress, and other mental health challenges.

More information about mental health and wellness supports: kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/mental-health-and-wellness-at-king-s/



Student Emergency Fund

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact the financial stability of many students, we are grateful for the ongoing support from the King's community to the Student Emergency Fund. This fund provides students with financial assistance for unforeseen expenses due to the pandemic.