

SPARKING GREAT FUTURES

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2023/24 THROUGH 2024/25



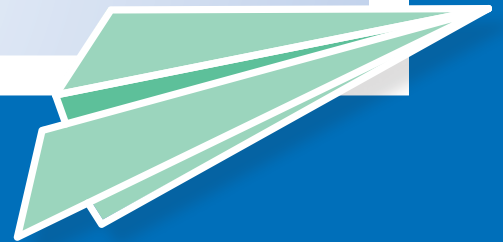
CPA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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Edmonton, AB T5J 2Z1
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About the Foundation

The CPA Education Foundation is the charitable arm of the CPA profession in Alberta. The Foundation seeks to inspire and develop the next generation of CPAs by providing access to accounting education opportunities.

The Foundation works with post-secondary and external stakeholders to strengthen the future of the accounting profession in Alberta through partnerships, support for business education and students, and the incubation of innovative ideas.



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Land Acknowledgement

In the spirit of reconciliation, the CPA Education Foundation acknowledges its offices are situated on the traditional Amiskwaciwâskahikan and Moh'kins'tis territories. The Foundation recognizes that it resides on the traditional and ancestral territories of many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. Their histories and culture influence our community to this day. The CPA Education Foundation is committed to helping build a province where Indigenous people and their voices and experiences are heard, valued, respected, and celebrated.

The Foundation's goal is to ensure Indigenous students feel represented and connected to the accounting profession in Alberta. Through scholarships for high school and post-secondary students, the development of partnerships with key Indigenous groups, and connecting the CPA profession with Indigenous communities in the province, the Foundation hopes to show Indigenous students that the CPA profession is inclusive and rewarding.



Rachel Miller FCPA, FCA

“

...our Foundation strives to be a positive force on behalf of the Alberta CPAs whose contributions make possible everything we do.

”

Message from Executive Director

Over the years that I've had the privilege of serving as Executive Director of the CPA Education Foundation, the work of the Foundation has always been focused on the future. That's why the theme of "Sparking Great Futures" is an appropriate lens through which to view and assess the Foundation's recent achievements. While the theme has been drawn from "Sparking Great Careers," the name of a particular Foundation project, it also underpins many of our other initiatives.

Successful futures are at the heart of the work you can read about in this Report to the Community. Whether it's the futures of students working to achieve their dreams of becoming CPAs, the future of post-secondary accounting education in Alberta, or the future of the CPA profession itself, our Foundation strives to be a positive force on behalf of the Alberta CPAs whose contributions make possible everything we do.

From scholarships to podcasts, from webinars to conferences, and from grants to case competitions (all of which you will read about in these pages), Foundation activities are endeavours of which all Alberta CPAs can be proud. I want to express my deepest thanks to Alberta's CPAs for their continuing support of, and belief in, the CPA Education Foundation. To our donors, thank you for your incredible commitment to our profession. Your generosity has helped shape many, many great futures and the impact of your gifts has been immeasurable.

I also want to acknowledge the important and wide-ranging contributions of the CPA Education Foundation Board of Governors. Our Board members—all Alberta CPAs—bring commitment, enthusiasm and thoughtfulness to their Board work, and all of us on the Foundation team are grateful for the expertise and wisdom they lend to our organization.

I hope that as readers review this Report to the Community, they will feel a spark of the inspiration that all of us at the Foundation feel each day as we go about the work of fulfilling the Foundation's mission. We're proud of our achievements, for sure. But we're prouder of the people whose futures we've had a small part in shaping, and of the CPAs who are helping make those futures a reality.

RACHEL MILLER FCPA, FCA

Message from the Board Chair

I have had the honour of serving on the CPA Education Foundation Board for many years and am excited to now be stepping into the role as Chair. The Foundation has a strong history of supporting the CPA profession. Building connections is at the heart of that work and I look forward to continuing to uphold and strengthen that legacy.

Through growing support of diverse scholarships, expanded support for educators, and innovative programs that introduce the CPA profession to future leaders, the Foundation continues to move forward, finding new ways to connect with and engage our partners.

And of course, none of these achievements would be possible without the contributions and leadership of this Board of Governors and the talent and dedication of the Foundation management and staff who work hard to realize our mission.

The future of the CPA profession in Alberta is in good hands..

CURTIS PALICHUK FCPA, FCA

BOARD CHAIR, 2025



Curtis Palichuk FCPA, FCA



Through growing support of diverse scholarships, expanded support for educators, and innovative programs that introduce the CPA profession to future leaders, the Foundation continues to move forward, finding new ways to connect with and engage our partners.





Michael Burnyeat FCPA, FCA

Message from the Past Chair

After more than a decade of being involved with the CPA Education Foundation, serving as its chair for the past two fiscal years was an honour and a privilege

From the unification of the profession to surviving—and thriving—a global pandemic, I've seen a lot during my time with the Foundation. And I'm incredibly proud of all that was accomplished and how we never deviated from our mandate to strengthen the future of the accounting profession.

I am glad to leave as my legacy, the Sparking Great Careers scholarship and internship programs. Giving back to the profession that has given me so much is very important to me, and I hope that I've made an impact that helped spark opportunities for the next generation of accounting professionals.

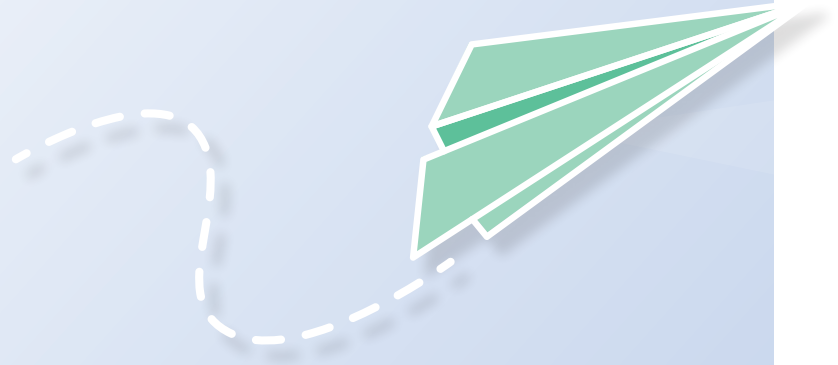
MICHAEL BURNYEAT FCPA, FCA

BOARD CHAIR, 2023-2025

“

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”



Board of Governors

(April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2025)



Michael Burnyeat FCPA, FCA
Chair (2023-2025)



Curtis Palichuk FCPA, FCA
Vice Chair (2023-2025)



Leonard Samletzki FCPA, FCMA
Secretary/Treasurer (2023-2025)



David Amona CPA, CMA
Board Member (2023-2024)



Robyn Eeson FCPA, FCA
Board Member (2023-2025)



Jennifer Freitas CPA, CA, CIA
Board Member (2024-2025)



Ryan Gubic CPA, CGA
Board Member (2023-2025)



Joshua Letendre CPA, MPAcc
Board Member (2023-2025)



Janine Rogan CPA
Board Member (2023-2024)



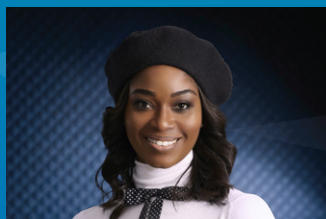
Sophia Shaikh CPA
Board Member (2023-2025)



Syed Shan Tariq CPA, MAcc
Board Member (2023-2025)



Jenna Truong CPA
Board Member (2024-2025)



Chioma Ufodike FCPA, FCMA
Board Member (2023-2024)



Lorraine Walker CPA, CA
Board Member (2024-2025)



Supporting Student Success

The CPA Education Foundation is passionate about connecting with young Albertans and sharing the unique opportunities the CPA profession offers.

The Foundation also recognizes that education is a significant financial investment and seeks to improve access to accounting education opportunities and remove barriers through scholarships and awards.



100+

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED
ANNUALLY ACROSS ALBERTA*

.....

THE CPA EDUCATION FOUNDATION FUNDED OVER

\$184,000

STUDENT AWARDS IN 2023/24*

.....

THE CPA EDUCATION FOUNDATION FUNDED OVER

\$200,000

STUDENT AWARDS IN 2024/25*

*includes scholarships administered and awarded by the CPA Education Foundation and individual post-secondary institutions.

NEW AWARD:

Foundation Forensic Accounting Scholarship for Undergraduate Students

The Foundation added a new CPA Education Foundation Forensic Accounting Scholarship for Undergraduate Students to its slate of awards. Funded by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous, this award, valued at \$10,000, is available for post-secondary students interested in pursuing a career in forensic accounting, specifically those interested in pursuing both a CPA and Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) designation.

Award value: \$10,000

Application Deadline: January 31

BIPOC SUPPORT

\$26,500

EVERY YEAR, SPECIFICALLY FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS WHO IDENTIFY AS BLACK, INDIGENOUS, OR A PERSON OF COLOUR.

Double award recipient Ocean Grenier has chosen a career path rooted in her core values



Ocean Grenier, recipient of the *Alex Tutschek FCPA, FCA Award for Indigenous Student Post-Secondary Achievement* and the *Foundation Forensic Accounting Scholarship for Undergraduate Students*

Accounting or law? That was the question facing Ocean Grenier when she was deciding on her career direction. To resolve the dilemma, Ocean has chosen a path that combines aspects of both those fields. And in 2025, she reached two milestones that mark her progress toward that career goal.

In April 2025, Ocean completed her business degree at Northwestern Polytechnic. In the same year, she was the recipient of two CPA Education Foundation awards: the Alex Tutschek FCPA, FCA Award for Indigenous Student Post-Secondary Achievement and the Foundation Forensic Accounting Scholarship. Taken together, these achievements are major steps toward her reaching her career goal of becoming a CPA specializing in forensic accounting.

“While I seriously considered becoming a lawyer, I decided to pursue accounting as my career choice, and forensic accounting is a field that interests me because it has some aspects of law involved in it as well,” says Ocean. “Even more importantly, perhaps, forensic accounting draws together my two core values, which are integrity and the value of continuous learning. So, it seems to be a career path that is a perfect fit for my interests.”

For Ocean, there’s also a family history that makes the appeal of accounting feel natural for her. Her grandmother was a professional accountant and her mother was a tax preparer in Fort Smith, NWT, where Ocean was born and raised. At just 15 years old, Ocean had already begun to get a taste of the accounting world by working with her mother in her tax business. And she also spent some time as a teen living with her grandmother in Quesnel, B.C., soaking up the accounting stories and influences passed on to her by her grandmother.

“From a very young age, I knew I liked working with numbers. I think I was 12 when I learned how to create spreadsheets, so the influence of my mom and grandmother were pretty obvious,” Ocean recalls.

But numbers and spreadsheets don’t completely define the young Ocean Grenier. As a Métis woman whose heritage is part Danish, Ocean had the opportunity to explore that part of her background with a visit to Denmark when she was 15. On that trip, she connected with many family members and experienced the joy of learning more about her family history. “That month in Europe as a teen meant so much to me. I saw not only Denmark, but also Paris and Amsterdam. It was an amazing time and I learned so much,” Ocean says of her trip.

Ocean’s interest in accounting continued upon her return from Europe and into her adulthood. Whether because of natural aptitude or hard work, or both, Ocean’s commitment to her accounting education led to her receiving two of the Foundation’s most prestigious awards. “I was ecstatic when I heard the news that I was the recipient of these two awards,” says Ocean. “I didn’t expect to receive two awards, but being a double recipient affirmed for me that I am on the right path and made the right choice.”

The awards have also had a more-tangible impact on Ocean’s life. “The awards relieved a lot of financial pressure on me as a single mother of two children. They helped me put food on the table and focus on my studies, and I will always be grateful for that,” she says.

What’s next for Ocean? She’s preparing to enter the CPA profession’s post-graduate program, the Professional Education Program, while working full-time in accounting at Wapiti Gravel

Suppliers in Grande Prairie. “I’m excited about the next step toward earning my CPA designation and beginning a career in forensic accounting,” she says. “That wouldn’t be possible without the support I’ve received from the CPA Education Foundation and its generous, thoughtful donors. Thank you to them from the bottom of my heart!”

“

The awards relieved a lot of financial pressure on me as a single mother of two children. They helped me put food on the table and focus on my studies, and I will always be grateful for that.

”

***Ocean Grenier,
double award recipient***



SPARKING GREAT CAREERS

Since its inception over four decades ago, the CPA Education Foundation has supported innovation in business and accounting education and has provided—and continues to provide—opportunities that spark an interest in the accounting profession among young Albertans.

The Sparking Great Careers initiative was created to help remove barriers for marginalized youth and create opportunities for students to learn about the CPA profession—especially those who don't have any ties to the profession.

What is Sparking Great Careers?

An initiative that aims to introduce young Albertans to the CPA profession through:

- Internships for high school and post-secondary students.
- Legacy scholarships, bursaries and support programs.

With the help of Alberta CPAs, the Foundation also works to help students develop the business soft skills they need to succeed through a variety of learning opportunities.



Sparking Great Careers one intern at a time.



Post-secondary student, **Jann Thai**, shares her experience as the first recipient of a *Sparking Great Careers Internship*. (Excerpted from an article originally published in the Summer 2023 edition of CPA Alberta's Dividends Magazine.)

When the CPA Education Foundation launched the Sparking Great Careers fundraising project, the idea behind it was to help remove barriers for disadvantaged youth and create opportunities for students to learn about the CPA profession—especially those who don't have any ties to anyone who works as a CPA.

Since its first year, Sparking Great Careers has funded six new scholarships—four for high school students and two for post-secondary students—and several summer internship positions.

While scholarships were well within the Foundation's comfort zone, internships sparked new territory for the board and management team. For Joe Gagliardi *FCPA, FCMA*, Sparking Great Careers was an exciting initiative on multiple fronts—both from a Foundation/non-profit mandate perspective (as former Foundation Board Chair) and as a business owner who could potentially benefit from the internship program.

The internship program was developed to “put the accounting path on the radar for all students,” including those who don't have any specific ties to the CPA profession.

That's exactly what the Sparking Great Careers Internship program is all about, and Joe is again leading by example.

Joe is a Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Recruitment Partners, a professional recruitment firm with offices in Edmonton and Calgary. He was also the first business owner to sign up for an intern and help spark a new career.

“It was an easy decision,” he recalls. “We are always in the market for summer students and when the CPA Education Foundation initiated the Sparking Great Careers Internship program, we put our hand up immediately!”

Enter Sparking Great Careers' first summer intern student, Jann Thai. Jann began working with Recruitment Partners in early May and by mid-June had already gained valuable

on-the-job experience in a professional accounting setting. “It's been great working with Recruitment Partners!” she says. “The atmosphere is very friendly, and everyone made me feel very welcomed as an intern.”

Joe echoes that, saying, “Since Jann came on board, we have been utilizing her in many different aspects of our business. Overall, she's been a positive addition to our team in day-to-day tasks.”

When asked if he'd recommend hiring a Sparking Great Careers intern, Joe replies with an enthusiastic “Yes! We always have day-to-day tasks coupled with projects that are perfect for a summer student, and have found the internship program allowed us to spread our workload out more evenly while providing a budding accountant with a view of the business world.”

Sparking Great Careers Internships

CPAs are the best ambassadors to showcase just how far the designation can take you. That's the principal behind the Sparking Great Careers Internship program. By exposing students to the business world through the eyes of an accountant, they will hopefully add accounting to their future career paths.

What was your favourite part about participating in the program?

Post-secondary internship participant:
Getting to meet wonderful people who were kind and welcoming and willing to help me where they could!

High school internship participant:
My favourite part of participating in this internship was the hands-on experience I got while also gaining valuable knowledge in the field I want to go into.

How did it feel to learn you had been selected?

Post-secondary internship participant:
Extremely excited, as it was going to be a completely new experience into the working world!

High school internship participant:
I felt extremely excited, while also being incredibly nervous.

What is one key take away from this experience?

Post-secondary internship participant:
Company culture is an important part of your work life, and really sets the tone as to how your experience at the company will be.

Post-secondary internship participant:
Taking things one step at a time and asking for/accepting help when needed, even if it seems slow at times.

High school internship participant:
The definitive knowledge that the path to the accounting field is the path I want to follow.

What employers have said:

“My favourite part about hosting an intern was being part of a great project, a true win-win. I'm passionate about the future leaders of our profession.”

“This is a great opportunity to expose the future generation to the accounting profession. They can bring new and interesting ways to do things we do as accountants.”

Sparking Great Careers Scholarships

The Foundation already has a number of scholarships available for students who have decided on a career in business or accounting. Through Sparking Great Careers, the Foundation has established six additional scholarships—four for high school students and two for post-secondary students—to provide support for students who demonstrate financial need, one of the major barriers to pursuing post-secondary education.

The goal is to raise awareness of the CPA profession and hopefully encourage those students who are finishing high school or just beginning their post-secondary education to consider careers in accounting.



Michael Burnyeat FCPA, FCA

Photo credit: HarderLee Photography

Inspiring Future Leaders

Sparking Great Careers would not be possible if not for the generosity of CPAs and business leaders across the province.

Through his generous donation of \$50,000, Michael Burnyeat FCPA, FCA and Chair of the CPA Education Foundation Board not only helped fund six new scholarships for high school and post-secondary students, but also sparked the beginning of the internship programs.

He encourages his fellow CPAs and business leaders to follow his lead and help develop future leaders. “I think it’s important to support students, but if you don’t want to donate money, then you can consider offering an internship position.”

Every Alberta CPA has the potential to spark a great career. If you or your organization are interested in getting involved with the Sparking Great Careers program either by offering an internship position, funding a scholarship, or supporting the CPA Education Foundation in other ways, email cpaef@cpaalberta.ca, or visit cpaalberta.ca/foundation to donate.



“

To be recognized for my efforts, sacrifices, and long hours means so much to me. Becoming a CPA is my goal, and I look forward to when I can give back to others when I have successfully completed my designation.

Emma Faith,
2025 recipient of the Michael Burnyeat FCPA, FCA
Sparkling Great Careers High School Award

”

“

As a fourth-year accounting student and a new parent, this recognition means more to me than I can express as it eases the financial burden of pursuing my CPA designation.

Lingling Zhang,
2025 recipient of the Michael Burnyeat FCPA, FCA
Sparkling Great Careers Post-Secondary Award

”



“

I am deeply honoured and grateful to be receiving this award. Having the support of Alberta CPAs is highly appreciated, and I look forward to joining this career path with you.

Hana Mohamed
2025 recipient of the Michael Burnyeat FCPA, FCA
Sparkling Great Careers Post-Secondary Award

”

“

Your investment in education has a huge impact on my future. It inspires me to work harder to pursue academic and professional excellence. This award lightened my financial burden and strengthened my confidence in my journey.

Karen Ying,
2025 recipient of the Michael Burnyeat FCPA, FCA
Sparkling Great Careers Post-Secondary Award

”

Over the past four decades, the Foundation has offered a variety of awards to help ease the financial barriers of higher education for students at all stages of their educational careers, from high school to post-secondary and through to the CPA Professional Education Program (CPA PEP).

Here are a few award recipients from the last two years:

High School

\$26,500

**16 HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS
AVAILABLE ANNUALLY**



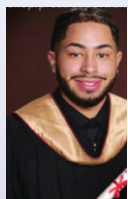
“As I move into my university life, this award will be both a reminder of the fruits of my efforts in high school, and a financial aid to help me focus on studying.”

Claire Baek,
recipient of the 2025 David Bentley FCPA, FCA
and Janet Bentley High School Excellence Award



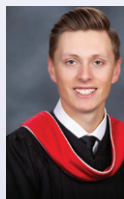
“At first, I had not believed I was “empowering” enough, but being selected for this award helped me realize that no action is too small to make a positive difference in someone’s life.”

Amelia Dobransky,
recipient of the 2025 Empowered Young Woman’s Award



“As an Indigenous student, I feel proud to represent my community and show that it is possible to succeed in multiple areas of life. And as someone who has benefited from this support, I see it as a responsibility to pay it forward.”

Antwone Edwards,
recipient of the 2025 Alex Tutschek FCPA, FCA
Award for Indigenous High School Achievement



“It is extremely important that groups such as the CPA Education Foundation can support education in our province. It is amazing to hear how much help the Foundation has been to students over the last 40 years.”

Evan Gorr,
recipient of the 2024 CPA Alberta Young Emerging
Professional Award (High School)



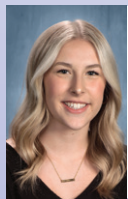
“I see this as an opportunity to learn more about the economic and finance sector as I explore a career that will enhance Indigenous business, finance, and economic growth in First Nation communities.”

Naiden Healy,
recipient of the 2025 Alex Tutschek FCPA, FCA
Award for Indigenous High School Achievement



“Thank you [donors] for believing in the next generation. Your generosity makes it possible for students like me to chase our goals with less stress and more motivation. It truly makes a difference.”

Shinnie Peligro,
recipient of the 2025 Paula Weiss CPA, CA
and Spencer Weiss CPA, CA Rural Learners Award



“As my dad is a CPA himself, I have been surrounded by the CPA community my whole life, so winning this award is incredibly meaningful to me.”

Mya Prehn,
recipient of the 2025 Stepping Up Entrepreneurial Spirit Award



“I had never thought that taking business in university could mean that I still had the opportunity to be myself, but this award tells me it’s okay to be unabashedly myself.”

Savanna Wang,
recipient of the 2025 2SLGBTQIA+ Success Award

Post-Secondary

\$77,000

29 POST-SECONDARY AWARDS AVAILABLE ANNUALLY



“ **Knowing that Alberta CPAs and other contributors believe in students like me is incredibly motivating and reinforces my commitment to excelling in my studies and giving back to the profession.** ”

Oluwanifemi Abayomi,
recipient of the 2025 TELUS Award for Black Post-Secondary Success



“ **Receiving this award allows me more freedom to focus on my academic pursuits and continue to achieve my dream to be the woman my mother always knew I could be.** ”

Evelyn Anderson,
recipient of the 2024 Vic Dzurko Generations of Excellence Award



“ **Receiving an award from a profession I dream of joining means a lot. I was actually in a financial accounting class when I received the email and it made me feel even more excited!** ”

Keaton Cartwright,
recipient of the 2025 Alex Tutschek FCPA FCA Award for Mature Indigenous Students and the Crowe MacKay LLP No Limits Award



“ **The CPA profession and the CPA Education Foundation has my highest respects because of its support for Indigenous students, which in turn helps with reconciliation.** ”

Kelsey Crane,
recipient of the 2025 Indigenous Student Business Award



“ **As a single mom who has faced and overcome many challenges, this recognition feels like a powerful validation of the hard work, dedication, and perseverance I've poured into my educational journey.** ”

Ocean Grenier,
recipient of the 2025 Alex Tutschek FCPA, FCA Award for Indigenous Student Post-Secondary Achievement and CPA Education Foundation Forensic Accounting Scholarship



“ **The CPA Education Foundation's commitment to business and accounting education is significant, as it fosters talent, promotes excellence, and encourages innovation. The Foundation promotes accessibility and inclusivity, ensuring diverse backgrounds can contribute to the profession.** ”

Kritika Gupta,
recipient of the 2024 New Canadian Achievement Award



“ **Becoming a CPA is not just about career advancement but rather about developing the skills to create positive change and value for the public.** ”

Ethan Hunt,
recipient of the 2025 Don Wilson CA Memorial Scholarship and 2024 David Bentley FCPA, FCA and Janet Bentley Post-secondary Excellence Award



“ **Thank you to the Alberta CPAs and contributors who give their support to the CPA Education Foundation. Your contributions are not just financial; they light up our dreams and hopes as students.** ”

Ryder Jong,
recipient of the 2024 Kenneth Biggs FCPA, FCA, and Leona Biggs Scholarship



“ **Receiving these awards reminds me that I'm working to be a part of a profession that values the development of its future leaders and understands the importance of investing in people's potential.** ”

Nimrat Kohli,
recipient of the 2025 CPA Alberta Young Emerging Professionals Award and the J Lorne Baxter FCPA, FCA Memorial Scholarship



“ **Choosing a CPA career reflects my passion for precision, problem solving, and financial integrity. Ultimately, becoming a CPA isn't just a career choice; it is a commitment to upholding excellence and accountability.** ”

Kristen Landry,
recipient of a 2024 Joe Gagliardi FCPA, FCA Scholarship in Accounting



“ **Receiving this award further drives my ambition to be a leader in my community and in my field. The funds that I have been awarded will be instrumental in my success. I am extremely grateful.** ”

Paige Levasseur,
recipient of the 2025 CPA Education Foundation Forensic Accounting Scholarship for Undergraduate Students

Post-Secondary (continued)



“ As a third-year accounting student, I was aware of the CPA designation but didn’t fully grasp its benefits. After becoming a CPA Ambassador, expanding my network, and learning more, I knew I had chosen the right path. ”

Vivian Mai,
recipient of the 2025 Robert (Bob) Young FCPA, FCA Memorial Award and the Kenneth Biggs FCPA, FCA & Leona Biggs Scholarship



“ As an international student pursuing my studies in Canada, I know how transformative access to quality education and professional support can be. Receiving this award motivates me to keep growing. ”

Mai Ngan Nguyen,
recipient of the 2025 CPA Alberta Young Emerging Professionals Award



“ I sort of stumbled upon the profession in my final year of high school. As I continued my studies in accounting, I have only further grown my excitement to one day become an Alberta CPA. ”

Camille Norton,
recipient of the 2025 David Bentley FCPA, FCA & Janet Bentley Post-Secondary Excellence Award



“ I chose CPA as a career path because of the boundless opportunities the profession grants and, of course, because of my family. As I become a third generation CPA, I am inspired to continue their legacy. ”

Anthony Pearce,
recipient of the 2025 Victor Dzurko Generations of Excellence Award



“ The CPA designation has been my goal since grade eleven. Ever since I discovered what the profession was about, I’ve been focused on reaching that milestone. ”

Kianna Rauscher,
recipient of the 2025 Peter Kruczko CPA, CA Award in Memory of Gordon Woodman FCA



“ As an Indigenous student, pursuing my degree is something I am truly proud of, and receiving these awards motivates me to continue working hard and represent my community with pride. ”

Gwendolynn Robe-From,
recipient of the 2025 Alex Tutschek FCPA, FCA Award for Indigenous Student Post-Secondary Achievement and TELUS Award for Indigenous Post-Secondary Success



“ Receiving this scholarship not only provides essential financial support but also reinforces my passion for accounting and strengthens my resolve to make meaningful contributions to the profession. ”

Tejas Sharma,
recipient of a 2024 Joe Gagliardi FCPA, FCMA Scholarship in Accounting



“ When I read the word “Congratulations” in the email, I had tears of joy and gratitude running down my face because it meant I could follow my dream career in accounting. ”

Katlyn Sutton-Fabish,
recipient of the 2024 Douglas R. Hagerman FCA Entrance Scholarship and a 2024 Michael Burnyeat FCPA, FCA Sparking Great Careers Post-Secondary Award

Post-Secondary (continued)



“ *The CPA Education Foundation's support of business and accounting education across the province shows a deep, long-term commitment to growing the profession and investing in future leaders.* **”**

*Stephanie Tan,
recipient of the 2025 Calgary CPA Small Practitioners Forum Award*



“ *Accounting has always just clicked for me—it's something I'm genuinely passionate about and eager to continue pursuing, and receiving this award has reaffirmed to me that hard work truly pays off.* **”**

*Sebastian Vargas,
recipient of the 2025 Joe Gagliardi FCPA, FCMA
Scholarship in Accounting*



“ *I am humbled and honoured to be a recipient of this award as it is a testimony to show that immigrants have the same opportunities to succeed if they work hard and believe in themselves.* **”**

*Olivia Wamuya,
recipient of the 2024 TELUS Award
for Black Post-Secondary Success*



“ *As I approach the end of my undergraduate degree, this award helps to ease the transition from university into the CPA program and motivates me to continue striving for excellence.* **”**

*Sarah Webb,
recipient of the 2025 Calgary CPA
Small Practitioners' Forum Award*



“ *Thank you for continuously supporting students across the province. These awards are recognition of the hard work and dedication which we, as students, put into our academics.* **”**

*Sophia Weston,
recipient of the 2024 Crowe MacKay LLP No Limits Award*



“ *The CPA designation provides great skills that can be transferable into all different types of careers. The versatility of the designation is a major reason why I want to pursue it.* **”**

*Tyra Wickenheiser,
recipient of the 2024 CPA Alberta
Young Emerging Professional Award*



CPA Professional Education Program (CPA PEP)

THE CPA EDUCATION FOUNDATION OFFERS 10 AWARDS TOTALING

\$21,000

EVERY YEAR, SPECIFICALLY FOR CPA PEP CANDIDATES AND SUCCESSFUL CFE WRITERS



“As someone who has faced financial and personal challenges while building a new life in Canada, the support from the CPA Education Foundation and its donors affirmed that I'm not alone on this journey.”

Bruna Antunes,
recipient of the 2025 Claire Dallaire CPA, CGA
CPA PEP Encouragement Award



“I have chosen the CPA as a career path out of a desire to grow and develop enabling skills that allow me to pursue a career in finance within the public sector.”

Funmilayo Balogun,
recipient of the 2024 Sahar Saeidi Memorial New Canadian Award



“This award means the recognition of being truly Canadian—persevering through hardship but being rewarded for your efforts in the end.”

Juliana Grossi Falarz,
recipient of the 2025 Sahar Saeidi Memorial New Canadian Award



“As a skilled immigrant, the journey hasn't always been easy, but this award is a powerful reminder that I'm not walking it alone—that there are people who understand the value of giving someone a chance.”

Stella Sata,
recipient of the 2025 David Bentley FCPA, FCA
& Janet Bentley CPA PEP Excellence Award



“The support of the CPA Education Foundation represents a strong CPA community that believes in nurturing talent and giving back, which is incredibly inspiring and reassuring. Thank you for your belief in students like me.”

Alevtyna Stavyska,
recipient of the 2025 Sahar Saeidi Memorial New Canadian Award



Common Final Examination (CFE)



“ *I would not have chosen this career path had I not worked with the inspiring CPAs I met as a summer student many years ago. Now, as a CPA, although it can be challenging, it is so rewarding to do meaningful work and feel like what I do makes a difference.*

Kaylie Davies-Brown,
recipient of the 2024 CPA Education Foundation Perseverance Award



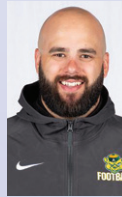
“ *I am inspired by the CPA Education Foundation’s commitment to support business and accounting education. To me, this means that those pursuing their CPA are not alone on their journey.*

Zineb Filali,
recipient of the 2025 CPA Education Foundation Perseverance Award



“ *Receiving these awards represents more than just recognition—it symbolizes resilience, determination, and the unwavering support of my family, mentors, and community. I hope my story inspires others facing adversity to keep pushing forward.*

John Marcelo
recipient of the 2025 CPA Education Foundation Perseverance and Jazzit CPA Candidate Recognition Awards



“ *Receiving this award means a lot. Coaching football has been one of the most rewarding things for me and to be recognized for doing so is very humbling...I look forward to being able to pass it forward.*

Dylan Niedermaier,
recipient of the 2024 Michael Lissey CA Memorial Award



“ *Becoming a CPA has always been my goal...it enables me to blend my analytical skills with my passion for helping others, making it the perfect career path for me.*

Andriy Peknyi
recipient of a 2024 Jazzit CPA Candidate Recognition Award



“ *I’m grateful for the reputation that the “CPA” letters carry and for the time, effort and resources that go into growing and maintaining that reputation.*

Bailey Wasdal,
recipient of the 2025 Jazzit CPA Candidate Recognition Award



Student Events



2024 Business Challenge participants



2025 Business Challenge participants



2024 Business Challenge judges



2025 Business Challenge judges

Business Challenge

For the past 17 years, teams of business students from across Alberta come together to compete in the CPA Education Foundation's Business Challenge case competition. The Business Challenge provides a unique opportunity for students to use what they're learning in the classroom to come up with creative and innovative solutions to real-world business problems.

The past two years provided unique challenges as the teams were tasked with solving issues that go beyond the balance sheet, and were encouraged to consider the broader implications of corporate culture, AI and ethical decision-making, as well as the opportunity to analyze the operations of an organization in the not-for-profit sector.

Our case partners, Wilde and Company (2024) and AdaptAbilities (2025) were represented on our judges panel and both organizations were amazed by the solutions presented by each team.

Prizes for the top teams were presented as follows:

2024

- First place: University of Alberta
- Second place: Athabasca University
- Third place: University of Calgary

2025

- First place: University of Alberta
- Second place: MacEwan University
- Third place: University of Calgary



Sponsored Events

The Foundation extended its reach by participating in a number of community events that provided opportunities to engage with students to introduce them to the CPA profession. Events are supported both through financial means and via connections to CPA volunteers and speakers.

- In partnership with the Hesje CPA Knowledge Centre, **4-H Alberta** hosted the Trailblazers program. Sessions included different speakers on a variety of business topics including business planning, finances, marketing and sales. Ongoing support and work with 4-H Alberta will play a key role in the early work related to the Foundation's Secondary School Initiative.
- The Foundation continues to support **Junior Achievement** in order to connect with and inspire high school students across the province.
- Held in Jasper, Alberta, the **2025 Rocky Mountain Business Seminar** is a conference and case competition for post-secondary business students. Foundation director, Erin Schwartz CPA, MPAcc served as a judge for the competition.
- The annual **Alberta Deans of Business Case Competition** hosted by Keyano College in Fort McMurray in 2025 and Northwestern Polytechnic in Grande Prairie in 2024. Gord Beal FCPA, FCA, M.Ed. represented the Foundation as a competition judge at the 2024 event.
- **The Aboriginal Financial Officers Association (AFOA) of Canada's Annual National Conference** was held in Halifax in February 2025. Through the Next Generation Indigenous Youth Professional Development Scholarship, the Foundation sponsored six Indigenous youth from Alberta to attend the conference. The youth were identified as ones who were interested in careers in business, accounting, and leadership. Foundation Board member Joshua Letendre CPA, MPAcc also attended in a mentorship capacity.





Our Donors

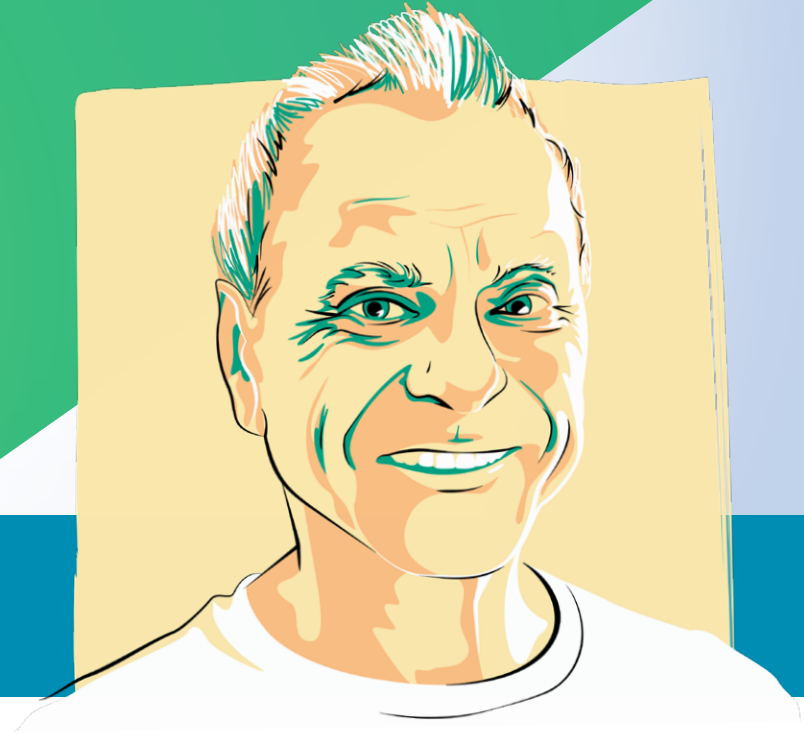
Partners in Student Success

Donors are at the heart of every project the Foundation undertakes. Through their generosity, the Foundation can positively impact accounting education and the future of the profession. We thank donors for their commitment to the students who are taking their next steps in becoming CPAs. The Foundation can only implement important programming and financial support to well-deserving students and organizations throughout the province because of the support of charitable donors.

Recognizing two significant milestones.

Edmonton CPA, Peter Kruczko, celebrates by giving back.

Excerpted from an article originally published in the Winter 2024 edition of CPA Alberta's Capitalize Magazine.



The CPA Education Foundation knows the road to the future is often paved with significant financial barriers and strives to remove these barriers for disadvantaged youth.

Our donors are like-minded. Many of them want to give back to the profession and help a future CPA by giving them a chance at success.

For some, like Peter Kruczko CPA, CA, they just want to pay it forward and help someone in the same way they had once been helped themselves. Peter has been a designated accountant for 50 years, and he says that wouldn't have been possible if it weren't for the help of one person: his mentor, Gordon Woodman FCA. "He was very kind and very generous with his time," Peter recalls fondly. "He helped me a lot and gave me the opportunity to become a CA."

That's why he contacted the CPA Education Foundation nearly a decade ago to create [an annual] scholarship in his memory. And now that [he reached] his 50th year as an accountant—and also celebrated his 80th birthday—he's adding to that legacy.

For the 2023/24 academic year, Peter gifted the Foundation with \$10,000 to offer a one-time scholarship: the Peter Kruczko CPA, CA Golden Jubilee Award in Memory of Gordon Woodman FCA.

"I know what it was like when I was a student, and I wanted to be able to help someone in a way that could possibly be life-changing," Peter says.

“

I know what it was like when I was a student, and I wanted to be able to help someone in a way that could possibly be life-changing.

”

Peter Kruczko CPA, CA

THANK YOU, DONORS!

The Foundation would like to thank
our donors from fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

Dotun Ayodele-Bamisiaye

Steve Allan

Gordon Beal

Stephen Bergstrom

Faheem Bhanji

Beverley and John Brennan

Valerie Burrell

Gregory Carey

Garry Cook

Shelley Creaghan

Claire Dallaire

M. Sandra Dorosz

James Ian Douglas

Linda Wood Edwards

Entrepreneurial CPAs
of Calgary Society

Eresha Fernando

Arnold Follinglo

Shauna Frederick

The Finance Cafe

Kayla Gaffney

Alan Gibson

Steven Glover

Debbie Gorsline

Richard Houle

Wesley Hubscher

Stephen Hynes

David Inhaber

Jean Jeffrey

Zul Jiwan

Nicholas Kirton

David Kissinger

Robert Koizumi

Kabirdin Lalani

Simon Leung

Gerard Luijckx

David Mallory

Clarence Mazereeuw

Lori Ann McGurran

Rachel Miller

Maureen Moneta

Naomi Paisley

Gord Parker

John Partridge

Robert Prasow

William Neil Probert

Walter Reimer

Cindy Rogers

Darcie Sabados

Todd Scaletta

Shauna Scott

Renee Senko

Tony Shen

Howard Shikaze

Karen Stix

David Todd

Winthrop Todd

Jenna Truong

Sonya von Heyking

Erin Wallish

Shirley Y. Wong

Damian and Christie Zapisocky

The Foundation also acknowledges those donors who wish to remain anonymous for their charitable gifts.

Every effort has been made to ensure this list of donors is complete and accurate at the time of publication. If your name is missing or you see other errors, please contact the CPA Education Foundation at cpaef@cpaalberta.ca. This list includes donors for the period of April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2025.

Scholarships and Awards

Foundation-Funded Awards Administered by Post-Secondary Institutions

ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY

- CPA Education Foundation Scholarship in Accounting

MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

- CPA Education Foundation Accounting Scholarships

MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY

- CPA Education Foundation Accounting Scholarship
- Harry G. Schaefer FCA Scholarship

NAIT

- CPA Education Foundation Accounting Scholarship

SAIT

- CPA Education Foundation Scholarship

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

- Angela Nicoli-Griffiths Memorial Scholarship
- CPA Alberta Outstanding Achievement in Management Accounting
- CPA Education Foundation Rick Cormier Memorial Award
- CPA Education Foundation Scholarship in Accounting
- CPA Graduating Scholarship in Accounting
- CPA Scholarship in Business
- CPA Transfer Scholarship
- David Sharpe Memorial Bursaries
- Dr. Michael Gibbins International Study Award
- Elvin Christenson FCA Memorial Scholarship in Accounting
- Harry Schaefer FCA Award in Accounting
- John Alvin Tupper Bursary
- Ken Kouri FCA and Jennifer Kouri Award in Accounting
- Ken Lemke Memorial Scholarship
- KPMG Jim Walker Memorial Scholarship in Accounting
- Lane Daley FCA Scholarship in Business
- Larry Swonek CPA Education Foundation Award
- Morgan Award in Accounting
- Peter Kule FCA Scholarship in Business
- Richard Haskayne FCA Graduate Scholarship
- Walter Nobbs FCA Scholarship in Business

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

- Alton Bruce Ross CA Memorial Bursary
- Chartered Professional Accountants Scholarship
- CPA Alberta Accounting Awards
- CPA Alberta Co-op Accounting Awards
- CPA Alberta Undergraduate Scholarships
- CPA Education Foundation Management Accounting Scholarships
- CPA Education Foundation Scholarship in Financial Accounting
- Dr. Richard Haskayne FCA Award
- Eric Connelly FCA Memorial Prizes
- Larry Swonek CPA Education Foundation Award
- Peter Valentine FCA Graduate Scholarship
- Robert E Waller FCA Bursary in Accounting

Foundation-Funded Awards Administered by Post-Secondary Institutions (continued)

UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE

- CPA Education Foundation Academic and Community Scholarship
- CPA Education Foundation Graduating with Excellence Accounting Scholarship Residents
- Flair Foundation Bursary
- Mike Shaikh FCPA, FCA and Linda Shaikh Bursary

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

- Harold Milavsky FCA Graduating Award in Accounting
- Ken Kouri FCA and Jennifer Kouri Award in Accounting

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

- CPA Education Foundation Accounting Scholarship

LAKELAND COLLEGE

- CPA Education Foundation Scholarship in Accounting

LETHBRIDGE COLLEGE

- CPA Education Foundation Accounting Scholarship

MEDICINE HAT COLLEGE

- CPA Education Foundation Accounting Scholarship

RED DEER COLLEGE

- CPA Education Foundation Accounting Scholarship

Foundation-Administered Awards

POST-SECONDARY

- Alex Tutschek FCPA, FCA Award for Indigenous Student Post-Secondary Achievement
- Alex Tutschek FCPA, FCA Award for Mature Indigenous Students
- Calgary CPA Small Practitioners Forum Award
- CPA Alberta Young Emerging Professionals Awards
- CPA NWT/NU Post-Secondary Scholarship
- CPA NWT/NU Distinction Scholarship
- CPA Education Foundation Forensic Accounting Scholarship for Undergraduate Students (NEW! 2025)
- Crowe MacKay LLP No Limits Award
- David Bentley FCPA, FCA and Janet Bentley Post-Secondary Excellence Awards
- Don Wilson CA Memorial Scholarship
- Douglas R. Hagerman FCA Entrance Scholarship
- Indigenous Business Student Award
- J Lorne Baxter FCPA, FCA Memorial Scholarship
- Joe Gagliardi FCPA, FCMA Scholarship in Accounting
- Kenneth Biggs FCPA, FCA and Leona Biggs Scholarship
- Michael Burnyeat FCPA, FCA Sparking Great Careers Post-Secondary Award
- New Canadian Achievement Award
- Peter Kruczko CPA, CA Award in Memory of Gordon Woodman FCA
- Peter Kruczko CPA, CA Golden Jubilee Award in Memory of Gordon Woodman FCA (one-time award, 2024 only)
- Robert (Bob) Young FCPA, FCA Memorial Award
- TELUS Award for Black Post-Secondary Success
- TELUS Award for Indigenous Post-Secondary Success
- Vic Dzurko Generations of Excellence Award

CPA PEP / CFE Writers / Candidates

- Claire Dallaire CPA, CGA CPA PEP Encouragement Award
- CPA Education Foundation Perseverance Award
- CPA NWT/NU PEP Scholarship
- David Bentley FCPA, FCA and Janet Bentley CPA PEP Excellence Award
- Gordon V Rasmussen CA Memorial Award
- Jazzit CPA Candidate Recognition Award
- Michael Lissey CA Memorial Award
- Sahar Saeidi Memorial New Canadian Award
- Winspear Medal of Achievement for National Honour Roll Candidates in Alberta

HIGH SCHOOL

- 2SLGBTQIA+ Success Award
- Alex Tutschek FCPA, FCA Award for Indigenous Student High School Achievement
- CPA Alberta Young Emerging Professional Awards
- Dale Parry CA Memorial Scholarship
- David Bentley FCPA, FCA and Janet Bentley High School Excellence Award
- Donald Easton Fund supporting Junior Achievement
- Empowered Young Woman Award
- Kelly & Creaghan Stepping Up in the Community Award
- Michael Burnyeat FCPA, FCA Sparking Great Careers High School Award
- Paula Weiss CPA, CA and Spencer Weiss CPA, CA Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) Success Award
- Paula Weiss CPA, CA and Spencer Weiss CPA, CA Rural Learners Award
- Stepping Up Entrepreneurial Spirit Award

OTHER

- Foundation MPAcc Teaching Excellence Awards
- Foundation Teaching Awards
- David Inhaber Distinguished Facilitator Award
- KBH Distinguished Facilitator Awards
- KBH Exemplary New Professional Award
- Lee-Anne Tomkins Community Service Award

Supporting Excellence in Post-Secondary Education

The Foundation's support of Alberta's universities, colleges, and polytechnics is unique in its focus on accounting. Our priority is focused on enhancing experiences for students, supporting accounting innovation, and introducing students to the possibilities unlocked by the profession while they are still in high school. The CPA profession continues to face substantial change with the accelerating impact of technology and increasingly relevant issue of sustainability; education is the key to successfully navigating these changes and preparing for the future.

“

The Foundation's support helps us bring young CPAs into our classes and gives our students a personal connection with young CPAs.


”

*Dr. Karim Jamal, FCPA, FCA
Chair of the Department of Accounting
and Business Analytics, Alberta School of Business*

Sparking the Dream

The CPA Education Foundation's Post-Secondary Grant Programs

Originally published in the Fall 2025 edition of CPA Alberta's Dividends Magazine.



Dr. Gina Grandy M.B.
Dean, Haskayne School of Business,
University of Calgary

For many Chartered Professional Accountants, the dream of earning the CPA designation began when they were post-secondary students. The dream might be sparked by an inspirational accounting professor, a fascinating course, or the experience of participating in a case competition.

And often, that moment of decision about a career choice was made possible by a grant from the CPA Education Foundation.

Since its founding in the 1980s, one of the Foundation's core goals has been to provide degree-granting post-secondary institutions with grants and other funding that help open doorways for students as they pursue the goal of becoming Chartered Professional Accountants. This goal is so integral to the Foundation that it is explicitly outlined in the Foundation's values statement, which in part reads: "The Foundation promotes the advancement of current and future accounting education and supports those who seek and deliver that education."

The Foundation's commitment to accounting education has proven to be much more than words on paper. The Foundation currently provides more than \$1 million per year in support of accounting education at various Alberta post-secondary institutions. This support is delivered through four granting programs: the Innovations in Accounting Education Fund, the Faculty Recruitment and Retention Fund, the Post-Secondary Research Grant Program, and the Alberta College Grant Program.

While the goals and criteria for those four programs vary, they share a common underlying purpose: to support and advance accounting education, create opportunities for student success, and help build the CPA profession in Alberta.

"Supporting accounting education at the post-secondary level is an integral

part of the CPA Education Foundation," notes Foundation Executive Director Rachel Miller FCPA, FCA. "Over the years, we've expanded the scope and types of our support in response to growth in the number of degree-granting institutions, rapidly-evolving accounting education programming, new financial pressures on post-secondary institutions, and other factors. Thanks to the support of Alberta CPAs, the Foundation's granting programs have kept pace with the tremendous growth and changing nature of accounting education."

Keeping pace has meant that the Foundation continues to have significant impacts on the success of accounting students as they work toward becoming CPAs. "The Foundation's annual grants enable us to engage our accounting students in a range of student-focused learning opportunities, including case competitions, industry professionals' lecture series, student peer-learning, professional networking and dialogue, research assistantships, and student project showcases," says Dr. Reza Chowdhury, Chair of the Department of Accounting and Finance at Mount Royal University's Faculty of Business, Communications Studies and Aviation. "These activities strengthen students' skills and their understanding of current real-world accounting issues and practices, and foster greater interest in the accounting profession."

Dr. Gina Grandy, Dean of the Haskayne School of Business at the University of Calgary, has also observed the impact of Foundation grants on accounting education. "These grants help ensure that we remain at the forefront of accounting education and research, furthering our mission to provide transformative educational experiences, foster inclusivity, and contribute to the continuous advancement of the accounting profession," Dr. Grandy notes.

To maximize the impact of its grant programs, the Foundation listens to post-secondary accounting faculty leaders to better understand how the grants can best address emerging trends and pressures in accounting education, and best support the students who will become tomorrow's CPAs and business leaders.

"The world of accounting is becoming more complex every year because of new technologies, evolving business environments, the demand for more accountability from businesses in areas such as sustainability, and other factors," says Rachel Miller. "We at the Foundation strive to ensure our granting criteria and programming remain relevant and responsive to these trends. We want to provide resources that help students acquire the knowledge they will need to succeed in this dynamic professional environment."

The granting programs have been successful in that endeavour, according to Dr. Vikas Mehrotra, Dean of the Alberta School of Business at the University of Alberta. "The Foundation's crucial funding has empowered us to enhance our curriculum with practical, future-focused learning experiences, such as the integration of data analytics, that align directly with [the CPA profession's] competency framework that emphasizes these critical skills," says Dr. Mehrotra.

Future-focused. Relevant. Critical. These are the features of the Foundation's grant programs that keep the programs timely and impactful at post-secondary institutions across Alberta. And most importantly, each year these grants help spark the career goals and dreams of enthusiastic students who will become the next generation of Alberta CPAs.

Post-Secondary Funding



The Foundation and Alberta's post-secondary institutions have a shared goal of ensuring students receive the highest quality of accounting and business education. This is why the Foundation supports initiatives that help to innovate or improve accounting education and advance accounting research.

Each year, the Foundation administers four major grant programs at Alberta post-secondary institutions to advance, enhance, enrich, and increase access to accounting and business education. The grants provided are:

The Academic Research Grant;

The Alberta College Grant;

The Innovations in Accounting Education Fund; and

The Faculty Recruitment & Retention Fund

Business schools that received funding in 2023/24 and 2024/25 through the Foundation's major grant programs—*Innovations in Accounting Education* and *Faculty Recruitment and Retention*—are:

- The Faculty of Business, Athabasca University
- The School of Business, MacEwan University
- The Bissett School of Business, Mount Royal University
- The JR Shaw School of Business, NAIT
- The School of Business, SAIT
- The Alberta School of Business, University of Alberta
- The Haskayne School of Business, University of Calgary
- The Dhillon School of Business, University of Lethbridge

Academic Research Grant

Each year, the CPA Education Foundation awards up to \$40,000 for accounting research at Alberta post-secondary institutions. The following institutions received funding:

2024 Research Grant Recipients

- U of A: Long Term Career Prospects for CPAs (Research led by Dr. Karim Jamal FCPA, FCA and Kieran Taylor-Neu)
- U of C: Advancing Sustainability Education for Accountants (Research led by Dr. Irene M. Herremans CPA, CMA)

2025 Research Grant Recipients

- U of C: Validating the Integration of Generative AI in Post-Secondary Accounting Courses (Research led by Dr. Michael Wright FCPA, FCGA and Dr. Nadia Delanoy)
- U of L: The Effect of Mindfulness, Moral Attentiveness and a Rationalization Intervention on Auditors' Ethical Decisions (Research led by Dr. Stuart Thomas).



Alberta College Grant

Many of Alberta's post-secondary colleges offer programs that help students in smaller communities earn bachelor's degrees without having to leave their home communities.

The CPA Education Foundation believes that supporting these colleges will not only greatly benefit students, but will also honour the legacy of the Hesje CPA Knowledge Centre's founder and namesake, the late Brian Hesje FCPA, FCA. Brian had a passion for supporting students in small towns and farming communities who seldom had the same opportunities as students in big cities.

The Alberta College Grant was introduced to provide financial support to Alberta colleges offering direct transfer pathways to degree-granting institutions approved for entry into the CPA Professional Education Program (CPA PEP).

2024 Alberta College Grant Recipients:

- Keyano College: Laptop Computers

2025 Alberta College Grant Recipients:

- NorQuest College: Accounting hub and community learner connection pilot
- Medicine Hat College: Agri-Accounting Case Challenge
- Keyano College: Case Competitions and Stock Ticker
- Bow Valley College: Enhancement of Accounting CPA Preparatory Courses and Accounting Case Competition

CPA Education Foundation Teaching Award 2024

Abidemi Akinloye CPA, CGA, MBA, CTPD,
SAIT

Amani Edwards MBA,
Keyano College

Jeff Herzog CPA, MAcc,
University of Alberta

Wayne Irvine FCPA, FCA,
University of Calgary

Andreas Lambrinoudis CPA, CGA, MBA,
Bow Valley College

Joanne Loh CPA, CGA, MBA,
MacEwan University

Carolyn Main CPA, CA, MPAcc,
Medicine Hat College

Dr. Mark Morpurgo FCPA, FCMA,
Athabasca University

Wayne Pelletier CPA, CGE, CMA, MBA,
Portage College

James Reimer CPA, CMA, MBA,
Lethbridge College

Dr. Perri Skelton CPA, CA,
NorQuest College

Jason Tang CPA, CMA,
Mount Royal University

Nadim Valiani CPA, CMA,
NAIT

Sonya von Heyking CPA, CA, CIA, ICD.D,
University of Lethbridge



Abidemi Akinloye CPA, CGA, MBA, CTPD and Michael Burnyeat FCPA, FCA

Every year, the Foundation recognizes accounting and business educators across Alberta who have made significant contributions to the quality of education received by post-secondary accounting students. Our profession depends on accounting educators that are committed to inspiring, challenging, and encouraging students in the classroom. Part of what makes this award so special is that selections are based on student input as well as peer recognition.



Recipients of the 2025 Teaching Awards, from left:

Denver Ma CPA, CGA, MBA, CIA, Natalia Khinkanina PhD, CPA, Dr. Akram Abubaha CPA, CGA, CCP, DBA, Lindsey Marofke CPA, CA, MPAcc, Erin Marshall PhD, CPA, Susan Hurley CPA, CA, MBA, Naomi Paisley CPA, CA, MBA, Hussein Warsame PhD, FCPA, FCGA, and Marli Pieterse CPA, MCom

2025

Dr. Akram Abubaha CPA, CGA, CCP, DBA,
NorQuest College

Susan Hurley CPA, CA, MBA,
NAIT

Natalia Khinkanina PhD, CPA,
MacEwan University

Vikrant Lalit Jain PhD,
Keyano College

Denver Ma CPA, CGA, MBA, CIA,
Athabasca University

Lindsey Marofke CPA, CA, MPAcc,
Bow Valley College

Erin Marshall PhD, CPA,
University of Alberta

Naomi Paisley CPA, CA, MBA,
SAIT

Marli Pieterse CPA, MCom,
Mount Royal University

Heather Stahl CPA, CGA, MBA,
Medicine Hat College

Kelsey Stimson CPA, CA,
University of Lethbridge

Hussein Warsame PhD, FCPA, FCGA,
University of Calgary

Events



Academic Symposium

The CPA Education Foundation is proud to partner with accounting educators who are helping to shape tomorrow's CPAs. The Academic Symposium was created as a webinar-style platform for accounting educators to share some of the incredible work that they have accomplished at their post-secondary institutions through Foundation-funded grants.

Recent presentations included:



- Naomi Paisley CPA, CA – Academic Integrity and Artificial Intelligence | Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)
- Kieran Taylor-Neu – Long Term Career Prospects for CPAs | University of Alberta
- Sonya von Heyking CPA, CA, CIA, ICD.D – Insight Series micro-course seminars | University of Lethbridge
- Natasha Hemraj CPA, CA, MFM and Rhonda Heningr CPA, CMA, MBA – SAIT's Second Year in Presenting the Accounting Gala | Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)
- Tashfeen Hussain PhD – Test of financial inclusivity of peer-to-peer lending platforms during crisis: The case of COVID-19 | Mount Royal University
- Recordings of previous symposiums can be found on the Foundation website: cpaalberta.ca/foundation.



Conference for Accounting Educators

The Conference for Accounting Educators is a favourite annual event among our post-secondary partners, who truly appreciate the opportunity to connect in person and to bring back new ideas to their work in preparing the next generation of accounting professionals. Following the events, feedback is often overwhelmingly positive, with anecdotal comments citing the lineups from these past two years as among the best in its 15-year history.

Sessions included a mix of presentations and panel discussions on a variety of topics, including AI and accounting jobs of the future; the new CPA certification program; the challenges of sustainability reporting; the evolving audit and assurance landscape; incorporating diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in the classroom; and leadership in an era of moral polarization.



Janice Anderson CPA, CA, Senior Director, Technical Accounting & ESG Compliance, Nutrien Amalia Spensieri CPA, CA, Principal, Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.



Audience member asks a question at the Conference for Accounting Educators.





Supporting the Profession

Strengthening the future of the accounting profession is the heart of the CPA Education Foundation's mandate. We do that by supporting students on their academic journey through scholarships and educational experiences, and by supporting accounting educators through funding opportunities that support innovation. We also know that CPAs are the best ambassadors for the profession, so we continually look for ways to connect students with CPAs to learn more about the CPA career path, and to provide opportunities for CPAs to share their knowledge and expertise with Albertans.

Realizing Brian Hesje's Vision, Seven Years On



The Hesje CPA Knowledge Centre

When distinguished CPA Brian Hesje FCPA, FCA wrote a cheque to the CPA Education Foundation for \$1 million in 2018, he might not have realized that his profound generosity would still be making impacts seven years later.

But then again, he probably did realize it. That's because Brian was a big-picture thinker who could visualize the long-range potential of any idea.

Brian's vision and generosity resulted in the CPA Education Foundation establishing the Hesje CPA Knowledge Centre in 2018. Though the world lost Brian in 2021, the Centre remains dedicated to honouring his commitment to Alberta. In 2024 and 2025, the Hesje CPA Knowledge Centre continued to focus on Brian's goal of making the Centre a place for Alberta CPAs to share their knowledge and expertise with Albertans.

"Brian's original vision for the Knowledge Centre as a virtual hub of resources for all Albertans has proven to be a durable model that gives us an abundance of opportunities to showcase Alberta CPAs and what they can offer to Albertans in so many walks of life," says Foundation Executive Director Rachel Miller FCPA, FCA. "Over the last year, we continued to direct Knowledge Centre resources to activities that allow Alberta CPAs to share their knowledge and experiences, and I'm proud of how we were able to do that in engaging ways."

The Knowledge Centre's "Uncommon Sense" podcast has been one of those activities. Topics covered since the launch of the weekly podcast in September 2024 have ranged from financial literacy to artificial intelligence to biotechnology, to name a few. And, it's been Alberta CPAs who have provided the expertise and knowledge heard on all episodes.

"It's the CPAs who step forward to share their insights with such openness and authenticity that make Uncommon Sense a unique podcast," Rachel says. "Each guest on the podcast contributes to the reputation of CPAs as dedicated professionals with a lot to offer Albertans."

In its first season, the podcast had almost 10,000 total listens, and the audience has been growing steadily as word spreads among CPAs and the general public. (To listen and subscribe to the podcast, visit: cpaalberta.ca/UncommonSense.)

The Centre's On-Demand Webinar Series was another successful endeavour in 2024-25, highlighted by a series of episodes focused on DEI approaches for the workplace, hosted by Shafana Mitha CPA, CMA, a certified professional in diversity, equity and inclusion. Future webinar series will include subjects like financial literacy for non-profit organizations and their volunteer board members.

Also in 2024-25, the Knowledge Centre unveiled an initiative to support Alberta CPAs looking to self-publish. The Self-Publishing Grant Program, offered in partnership with the Canadian publishing company FriesenPress, provides \$5,000 in publishing services. If you're an Alberta CPA with a story to tell in book form, visit the CPA Education Foundation's website to find out more about the grant program and how to apply.

"Like all Knowledge Centre initiatives, the webinar series and self-publishing grant program are aimed at providing Albertans with insights and advice on issues they care about," Rachel notes. "And of course, these projects provide new venues for CPAs to demonstrate what they bring to the province."

So, that's seven years and counting for the Hesje CPA Knowledge Centre, with more to come. "We're working on some ideas that I know will further honour Brian and his vision," says Rachel. "In moving forward with those ideas over the next few years, I know more and more Albertans will benefit from the continuing realization of Brian Hesje's goals for his generous gift."

Uncommon Sense Podcast

Finding “uncommon sense” among friends and colleagues with Uncommon Sense, a weekly podcast featuring CPAs sharing their insights with Albertans. Hear from these experts on topics ranging from financial literacy to leadership, from women and finances to how you can land that dream job.

Tune in at cpaalberta.ca/UncommonSense or wherever you listen to podcasts.

Uncommon Sense Season 1

12,000+

PLAYS

47

EPISODES

38

GUESTS



un
common
sense

CPAS SHARING
THEIR KNOWLEDGE



On-Demand Webinar Series

The Hesje On-Demand Webinar Series features CPAs discussing a range of topics of interest to CPAs as well as wider audiences. Over the past couple of years, the focus of the webinars has been a set of episodes highlighting the value of inclusivity and diversity in the workplace.

Self-Publishing Grant Program

The Knowledge Centre is pleased to announce the launch of a Self-Publishing Grant program in partnership with Canadian publishing company FriesenPress. Through this program, Alberta CPAs can apply for a grant to help fund the self-publishing of books they have written. Launched in June 2025, \$5,000 grants in the form of self-publishing services from FriesenPress, will be awarded annually.

Learn more at <https://www.cpaalberta.ca/Foundation/Hesje-CPA-Knowledge-Centre>



CPA Education Foundation Impact Award

An absolute commitment to the value of education. Dedication to fostering the next generation of accounting and business professionals. Integral to the success of the Foundation.

Awarded annually and presented by the CPA Education Foundation, the Impact Award honours an individual for their contributions to the work and goals of the Foundation. The award is presented at CPA Alberta's annual Elevate Awards Gala.

Dave Bodnarchuk FCPA, FCA 2024 Impact Award Recipient

Dave Bodnarchuk FCPA, FCA joined the CPA Education Foundation's Board of Governors in 2012, culminating in the role of Chair until his departure from the Board in 2021. In Dave's two years as Chair, he steered the Foundation through unprecedented times. With the onset of the global pandemic, some charities were unfortunately forced to close their doors. Meanwhile, the CPA Education Foundation continued to support students, educators, and educational institutions with enthusiasm and integrity. Under his leadership, the 2020/21 fiscal year was one of innovation and creativity for the Foundation.

Dave's passion for what CPAs have the potential to contribute can be summed up in two words: Stepping Up. He stepped up himself, funding scholarships for high school students, and putting forth a personal challenge to all members to get involved with the Foundation, either through a donation of their time or hard-earned dollars.

Dave is also passionate about involvement in the Alberta community. In addition to previously chairing the CPA Education Foundation Board, he has sat on many non-profit boards, including the Rural Alberta Development Fund, Caritas Hospitals Foundation, and Crime Stoppers. He currently is the Vice-chair of the Board of CPA Insurance Plans West and is the President of ElectionBuddy Inc., a cloud-based voting platform.



Yvonne Barthel FCPA, FCA

2025 Impact Award Recipient

Yvonne Barthel FCPA, FCA joined the CPA Education Foundation's Board of Governors in 2016. She played a crucial role in advancing the strategic goals of the CPA Education Foundation, advocating for Indigenous student support through the No Limits campaign and overseeing the creation of the Hesje CPA Knowledge Centre. Yvonne leveraged her CPA expertise to ensure the Foundation was accountable to donors and stakeholders through her involvement on the audit committee.

Yvonne's contributions extended beyond the Foundation and have had an impact throughout her community and the profession. Among other roles, she served the Society for Christian Education in Southern Alberta, where she

found innovative solutions to make specialized education accessible to low-income families.

As a champion for women in the CPA profession, Yvonne mentored aspiring female leaders and established the KPMG Women's Interchange Network in Lethbridge. After a 40-year career, Yvonne is retiring from KPMG. Her longstanding commitment to the accounting community reflects the significant impact she has had as an Alberta CPA.





In the **Community**

- The Foundation is always excited to celebrate the success of the newest group of CPAs by hosting our much-loved photo booth at both **Calgary and Edmonton Convocation Gala** events. Hundreds of students lined up to commemorate their big night and Foundation staff were thrilled to be able to connect with and celebrate with them. Ticket sales were in support of the Sparking Great Careers program.
- Participating in events such as **CPA Alberta's Partners in Post-Secondary** and **Meet Your Employer** events in Calgary, Edmonton and Lethbridge, enables the Foundation to update post-secondary representatives and students on Foundation activities and priorities, as well as to connect with key stakeholders.
- Hosted by Athabasca University's Faculty of Business, the **2023 Advancements in Sustainability Conference** brought leading experts in academia, accounting, and industry to Edmonton to address the changes and advancements around sustainability efforts in business. The Foundation sponsored the event and Executive Director, Rachel Miller FCPA, FCA, provided welcoming remarks.



- The Foundation was a Leader-level sponsor for the **2025 Workforce Forward Conference** in Calgary. The event brings together a diverse group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous thought leaders to discuss what steps we all can take to become even greater allies to Indigenous workers and facilitate lasting change in the Canadian workforce. In addition to the professional development opportunities, meaningful connections were made with some potential students, community partners, changemakers, and leaders.
- In addition to presenting the Impact Award at CPA Alberta's **Elevate** annual events, the Foundation sought to enhance its presence in an effort to raise awareness and show support for the profession. In 2024, the Conference for Accounting Educators was planned as part of the celebration week, and in 2025, the Foundation produced a special "Streeter" episode of the Uncommon Sense podcast during the Chair's **Long Service Awards** in Edmonton. The Foundation sponsored **Elevate Your Mind** and hosted an exhibitor booth, sparking great conversations, and increasing awareness of our mission; and also sponsored the photo booth at the **Elevate Awards Gala**—a huge hit with attendees! The booth created a fun, memorable experience and generated fantastic buzz.

Community Investment and Impact

The Foundation remains committed to improving the communities it serves through funding that supports Alberta high school and post-secondary students, post-secondary institutions, and non-profit organizations. Its investment in the community is driven by a passion for education and supporting the next generation of CPAs in Alberta.



2024 - \$1,596,390

- \$1,120,200 - Post-Secondary Grants
- \$228,430 - Student & Teaching Awards
- \$121,586 - Foundation-Funded Events
- \$126,174 - Foundation-Administered Events

2025 - \$1,615,458

- \$1,058,700 - Post-Secondary Grants
- \$213,119 - Student & Teaching Awards
- \$224,283 - Foundation-Funded Events
- \$119,356 - Foundation-Administered Events





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