

## CCSAI 2022/2023 Annual Report

2022/2023 was the long-anticipated return to campus. After two years of uncertainty, we are back, and we started the year off excited to open our doors to students and the Centennial community again.

We continue to deliver on our mission to empower students by meeting their needs and enriching their college experience through events, services, advocacy, and engagement. Our TRANSFORM project has concluded, and we are now implementing and monitoring the changes to our operations as a result of the project. Our organization continues evolving to meet the changing needs of Centennial College students. With ongoing optimized feedback systems, refocused strategic plans, and hybrid operations, we are ensuring our connection with the student population and our agility and effectiveness in supporting them.

We move forward into 2023/2024 more inclusive, responsive to student needs, and more representative of our student's voices. We are revisiting our organization-wide communications and working to ensure the face and voice of CCSAI is more equipped to engage with Centennial students. In addition, we have developed a new big-picture strategy; our STAR Plan sets strategic objectives for the CCSAI around our defined priorities, equitable access to education, skill development opportunities, and promoting holistic wellness.

This year CCSAI services & supports continue to be in high demand. We continue to grow our services to help meet the food security needs of students, with essential services like our Food Bank seeing increased demand. This year we gave out over 27,888+ food hampers. With food security needs continuing to grow, we are working to increase our Food Bank to offer pick-up options at all five campuses. We also recently launched a Grab & Go Breakfast program at all five campuses to help support our students' food security needs.

In addition to the food bank, our extended services, such as the Athletic & Wellness Centre, Domestic Student Health Plan, Legal Aid and other services, are seeing consistent use and growing demand. This year we launched the Learning Essential Cost Reimbursement Program, a service designed to help increase the affordability of attending Centennial College. Students can apply for a chance to be reimbursed up to \$100 for required program materials beyond tuition and textbooks.

This year was a great year for student advocacy at CCSAI. In response to feedback on students' challenges and barriers to accessing education, we participated in campaigns like the provincial Need or Greed campaign. This International Student Equity



campaign engaged hundreds of students on campus and thousands through traditional and social media. We also participated in municipal advocacy campaigns, working with local TTC Advocacy groups advocating for safer and more affordable transit for students throughout the GTA. Our student advocacy program is growing as we help students navigate the college's processes in pursuit of academic success.

CCSAI continues to be the single largest donor of scholarships to Centennial. We donated over \$428,690 in scholarships and bursaries this year. We are also proud that this year we were able to offer scholarships & bursaries of equal value to both international and domestic students. This year, we also introduced a new bursary called the Bridging the Gap Bursary. This bursary is open to all students in any ministry-approved program, making scholarships more accessible to students in one-year programs.

Our engagement portfolio at the CCSAI is setting new benchmarks for hybrid engagement in the post-pandemic environment. We now offer both in-person and online programs and service modalities. This allows us to serve more students from any location and makes our services more accessible to students. We offered fun social events like our Retro Bash and bingo nights, opportunities for new students to explore the extended community on trips to Wonderland and Niagara Falls, and opportunities to build professional skills and connections through our Networking Nights series.

It has been a fun year for the CCSAI. All we do is made possible through the hard work of our many student leaders and staff at the CCSAI. We are excited to have hired over 300 students across the organization. We have developed a culture at CCSAI where students serve students, and our services and offerings are peer-delivered. With the support of our full-time staff members, we provide our student staff with essential employment opportunities and practical skill development, on top of a consistent paycheque and flexible work schedules while they study.

Support for the students at Centennial College continues to evolve, and so do we. We look forward to continuing to support Centennial College students and helping them advance their academic and personal goals.

*Penny Kirlik, Executive Director on behalf of the Centennial College Student Association Inc.*