

OUTSIDE LOOKING IN



ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022





Outside Looking In (OLI) is an Indigenous-led organization with a demonstrated track record of supporting and empowering Indigenous youth from high school to their career path of choice. By offering opportunities to be actively engaged in the arts, OLI provides youth with an outlet to be creative and find a safe space where they can perform, learn, connect, be heard, and feel connected within their community. Through the transformative power of dance, youth are inspired to pursue education, engage in self-expression, and celebrate empowerment. We provide a full life cycle of programs that assist and support youth from the Intermediate grades through high school to post-secondary education and career readiness.

The high school graduation rate for Indigenous youth currently hovers around 40 percent nationally, compared to mainstream Canada, which is closer to 75 percent. Most Indigenous families affected by the traumatic past of residential schools can lose the benefits of education from parents to children, and arts education is not always accessible in Indigenous communities.

Our programs inspire Indigenous youth to continue and complete their education. Teachings about long-term commitment, accountability and responsibility, and financial literacy motivate OLI youth to persevere through challenges and develop a positive vision for their future. Outside Looking In provides youth with tangible learning experiences, increases their access to the power of arts education, and affords opportunities to celebrate and showcase their accomplishments on a national platform. Our program focuses on experiential learning, combining classroom time with regular dance rehearsals with instruction from a professional choreographer.

Message from the Founder



It is with immense pride and gratitude that I look back on this past year. We had no idea if we would be able to produce our annual show in May. With all of the stopping and starting of lockdowns, community partner schools not fully being back in class, and the increasing challenges of having to produce a significant event during COVID, I know that we made the right decision to proceed with the show. I am in awe of our OLI Team, the OLI Board of Directors and everyone who worked together to produce this show in 3 short months, a process that typically takes us at least nine months to execute. We were met with such excitement from audiences, including a sold-out matinee!

Most importantly, we knew that this was what our students needed. We prioritized the mental health of our youth, knowing that this show would give them the enthusiasm and motivation they needed to end their academic year strong and showcase all of their hard work and dedication! This year, we created a new scholarship program and gave scholarships to 3 incredible OLI Alumni. In addition, we started an endowment fund for the organization's continued success.

In 2023 we are focused on continued growth. We're already hard at work planning this year's program with returning and new communities. As of today, we already have 13 communities signed on to participate in our Dance program. We have an exciting year in store for all of our OLI youth. I can't wait to see you at our show next May!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracee Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Tracee Smith

Missanabie Cree First Nation
CEO + Founder, Outside Looking In



Scan or click the QR codes to watch a video



Canada's Largest Indigenous Youth Performance is OLI's Annual Showcase and is the year's capstone for all of OLI's RBC Future Leader, OLI Dance, OLI Work/Study and OLI Alumni participants. It is an opportunity for our youth to showcase the hard work they have put in all year long in front of an audience at one of Toronto's most distinguished theatres.

Annual Showcase



This year marked the 15th year of our Annual Showcase, celebrating the achievements of our participants throughout the year. To mark the 15-year milestone, we added a few special elements to this year's show that included having OLI Alumni from each of the organization's 15 years return to the stage in Toronto to act as hosts of the show. These Alumni spoke about how OLI programming empowered them when they participated and how that has carried through to their present-day achievements. Our hosts introduced each participating community with first-hand experience of what it is like to be in their shoes, dancing on stage in front of a packed house at Meridian Hall.





THE OLI BROTHERHOOD



LAC LA CROIX FIRST NATION



MATAWA EDUCATION AND CARE CENTRE



OLI INDIGENOUS RISING STARS



PIKANGIKUM FIRST NATION



RBC FUTURE LEADERS





WASAGAMACK FIRST NATION - JUNIORS

We saw performances from ten dance groups representing six Indigenous communities across the country, including Big Island Lake Cree Nation, Lac La Croix First Nation, Matawa Education and Care Centre in Thunder Bay, Pikangikum First Nation, Six Nations STEAM Academy, and Wasagamack First Nation. We also saw powerful performances from participants in OLI's RBC Future Leaders program and our group of OLI Rising Stars. The Rising Stars group was created through a call-out for submissions to all Indigenous youth dancers across the country in communities where OLI was not currently active. We reviewed over 50 submissions, selected the top 30 dancers, and invited them to perform at our Showcase.



SIX NATIONS STEAM ACADEMY

Additionally, our participants had the opportunity to perform alongside two acclaimed Indigenous artists, Juno award winner DJ Shub and Juno nominated Snotty Nose Rez Kids. These artists are shining examples of the heights our youth can

achieve. They helped teach the OLI youth about live production, live events, and proper professional conduct through their behaviour backstage leading up to the event.



Another milestone moment of the show was when we announced our new scholarship initiative. We awarded three OLI Alumni, each with \$10,000 to use towards post-secondary education, titled the Tracee Smith Founders Scholarship. We will now award this scholarship annually to help OLI Alumni achieve higher education.

Our show ended with a dance number that included all 120+ OLI youth on stage, which our Indigenous guest artists then accompanied for a well-deserved standing ovation from the crowd.



OLI Retreat + Meet Your Mentor Day

Our OLI Retreat is an in-person event that brought OLI's RBC Future Leader and OLI Work/Study participants together in Toronto for a week of dance, leadership development, and mentorship. All in preparation for Canada's Largest Indigenous Performance – our annual showcase on May 12, 2022, at Meridian Hall!

During the OLI Retreat, OLI's RBC Future Leaders had the opportunity to meet their mentors in person for the first time! They worked on SMART goal-setting activities and resumé and cover letter writing assignments and practiced basic interview skills with each other.

The mentor and mentee pairs also had the opportunity to spend a day in Toronto together, sightseeing and bonding throughout the day.



OLI Camp

Leading up to our Annual Showcase, our youth participants leave their communities with their chaperone(s) and head to Southern Ontario for the Outside Looking In camp experience that lasts approximately 12 days.

This year, we held camp at Campfire Circle in Southwestern Ontario, and our participants enjoyed a jam-packed 12 days full of new experiences.

For our participants, the adventure starts with the journey from their home communities to Toronto. For many, this means multiple modes of transportation, including boat, car, train, and





dance routines with the other groups.

The time at camp is also when the youth are taught the closing dance number for the Annual Showcase. This year, our closing dance number included all 120+ youth participants and proved to be a very impactful finish to our show.

Camp does include much hard work, but we are sure to have plenty of time for fun and games! One of the highlights for many OLI youth was the day trip to Canada's Wonderland, where they visit the amusement park, enjoy the rides, and the junk food they are forbidden to have at camp.

Other activities at camp include craft workshops, sports, and plenty of time for socializing and bonding.

The last few days of camp lead into our Annual Showcase at Meridian Hall and include a few days on-site at the theatre to go through tech runs and a full dress rehearsal at the venue. This time at the theatre allows the OLI youth to get comfortable on the new stage and to practice their routines in this space with stage lighting, full costume, hair and makeup.

The camp experience ends shortly after their big day at Canada's Largest Indigenous Youth Performance. Our youth head back to their home communities with new friendships, stories, experiences, and a sense of empowerment that will last a lifetime.



plane. Once arriving in Toronto, they are greeted by OLI staff and travel the trip's final leg to the camp location with them.

Once arriving at camp, they settle into their accommodations, and the fun begins! They are introduced to OLI and camp staff and have the opportunity to meet other

OLI youth participants from communities across the country.

The first few days at the camp consist of fun activities that allow the youth to get comfortable in the new space, group dining throughout the day, and group dance practices that allow each community to share their



**OLI
Dance**

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

OLI Dance is an intensive high school accredited program that empowers youth to pursue education, engage in self-expression, and experience personal growth through the transformative art of Dance. Youth in grades 7-12 work toward performing at our Annual Showcase in Toronto.

OLI Dance provides a creative method to support academic success. Guided by professional choreographers + supported by educators, youth learn choreography with opportunities to perform, both in their home communities and on one of Canada's most prominent stages in Toronto!

Students are required to uphold attendance in school, attain a strong academic average, practise positive behaviour and dedicate time and effort to hone performance skills.



YEAR OVERVIEW

In the fall of 2021, OLI was thrilled to be able to return to in-person OLI Dance delivery in communities. We welcomed the return of three remote communities – Pikangikum First Nation, Lac La Croix First Nation, and Wasagamack First Nation. We forged new relationships with the leaders and youth of Six Nations Polytechnic STEAM Academy in Brantford, Big Island Lake Cree Nation near Pierceland, Saskatchewan, and the Matawa Education and Care Centre in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

The school year was challenging with school closures, community shutdowns with mandatory isolation periods, tentative scheduling and cancellations. Still, we navigated through these challenges, always focusing on the positive headway youth made with their return to school and dancing. OLI brought students together in their rehearsal spaces to learn from their dedicated choreographers, socialize, practise, and celebrate the empowering effects of music and movement. It was so rewarding to see such a strong cohort of dancers emerge in each community and to watch these participants navigate the program from start to finish.

In March, OLI invited Indigenous youth dancers from across the country who were not members of one of the six participating communities to

submit a 30-second dance video. The challenge was to show us, through self-expression, why we should invite them to come and dance on stage in Canada's Largest Indigenous Youth Performance. We selected thirty applicants from those who answered the call. The Indigenous Rising Stars were born. They travelled to camp, where they learned their whole piece over a week of intense rehearsals with Tracee Smith. The inaugural group of Indigenous Rising Stars were rewarded for all their hard work by performing with guest artists DJ Shub and the Snotty Nose Rez Kids. Both afternoon and evening audiences responded to their strong performance with resounding cheers and applause.

Over 120 youths performed on stage at Meridian Hall at OLI's 15th annual showcase for the enjoyment of 6,000 patrons. Performers were delighted to be able to return to a sense of community, celebrating their achievements with Indigenous peers from across the country.

Through their shared experience in OLI, our youth developed and rekindled close friendships. They are already looking forward to reconnecting when their communities participate next year in a return to pre-Covid numbers of participating communities and OLI's largest group of dancers yet.



120+
youth participants



6 communities served

Big Island Lake Cree Nation (SK)
Pikangikum First Nation (ON)
Lac La Croix First Nation (ON)
Wasagamack First Nation (MB)

Matawa Education and Care
Centre (Thunder Bay, ON)
Six Nations Polytechnic STEAM
Academy (Brantford, ON)



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

OLI's RBC Future Leaders is a high school enrichment, leadership and mentorship program for Indigenous Youth in Grades 10, 11, and 12 looking to develop personal growth, essential leadership, and communication skills through dance.

Through the transformative power of dance, Future Leader youth develop self-knowledge, explore their creativity, build self-confidence, learn healthy personal management tools and techniques, and create connections with a larger community of Indigenous leaders across Canada.

The program also matches each Future Leader with a compatible Mentor to support their youth toward preparation for the next steps after graduation. Together, the mentors and youth develop a supportive and motivational relationship to encourage youth to see beyond their borders and explore possible opportunities and career paths.





Meet our future leaders!

YEAR OVERVIEW

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, we delivered our RBC Future Leaders program through in-person sessions when program managers travelled to participating communities or when the Future Leader participants visited Winnipeg and Toronto. Since travel was not an option in 2020, we had to adapt and develop a new online model for the RBC Future Leaders program. During the 2021-2022 year, as provinces and communities slowly lifted their travel bans, the RBC Future Leaders program evolved into a well-balanced and highly enriching hybrid of an online and in-person learning experience. All said and done; it was the best of both worlds.

Our Future Leaders met regularly throughout the year for workshops, homework power hour sessions, at our OLI Retreat, OLI Camp, and for Canada's Largest Indigenous Youth Performance – our Annual Showcase held at Meridian Hall in Toronto.

They all travelled to Toronto, where they met their peers from various Indigenous communities across the country. They rehearsed for 4 hours each day for five days straight to master the final dance they would perform on-stage at our Annual Showcase.

OLI's RBC Future Leaders are encouraged to DREAM BIG and are supported every step of the way on a powerful journey of self-discovery and growth.

 **18**
future leaders

 **24**
mentors

 **4 communities served**

Wasagamack First Nation, MB (6)
St. Theresa Point First Nation, MB (9)
Lac La Croix First Nation, ON (2)
Webequie First Nation, ON (1)



**OLI
Alumni**

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

OLI's Alumni program invites participants who want to stay connected with the OLI family to engage with our dynamic network and are encouraged to create and share personal and professional growth opportunities. OLI participants become Alumni once they have completed at least one OLI program (OLI Dance, RBC Future Leaders, OLI Work/Study, Storytellers, Entrepreneurship Bootcamp). At present, there are over 700 OLI alums.

Alums explore career advancement, seek enriching life experiences, start or continue a post-secondary learning journey or forge a new path. Learning occurs through skill development, coaching, mentorship, sharing, networking, and reflection.



9 communities served

Wikwemikong (ON)
Webequie (ON)
Hayward (WI, USA)

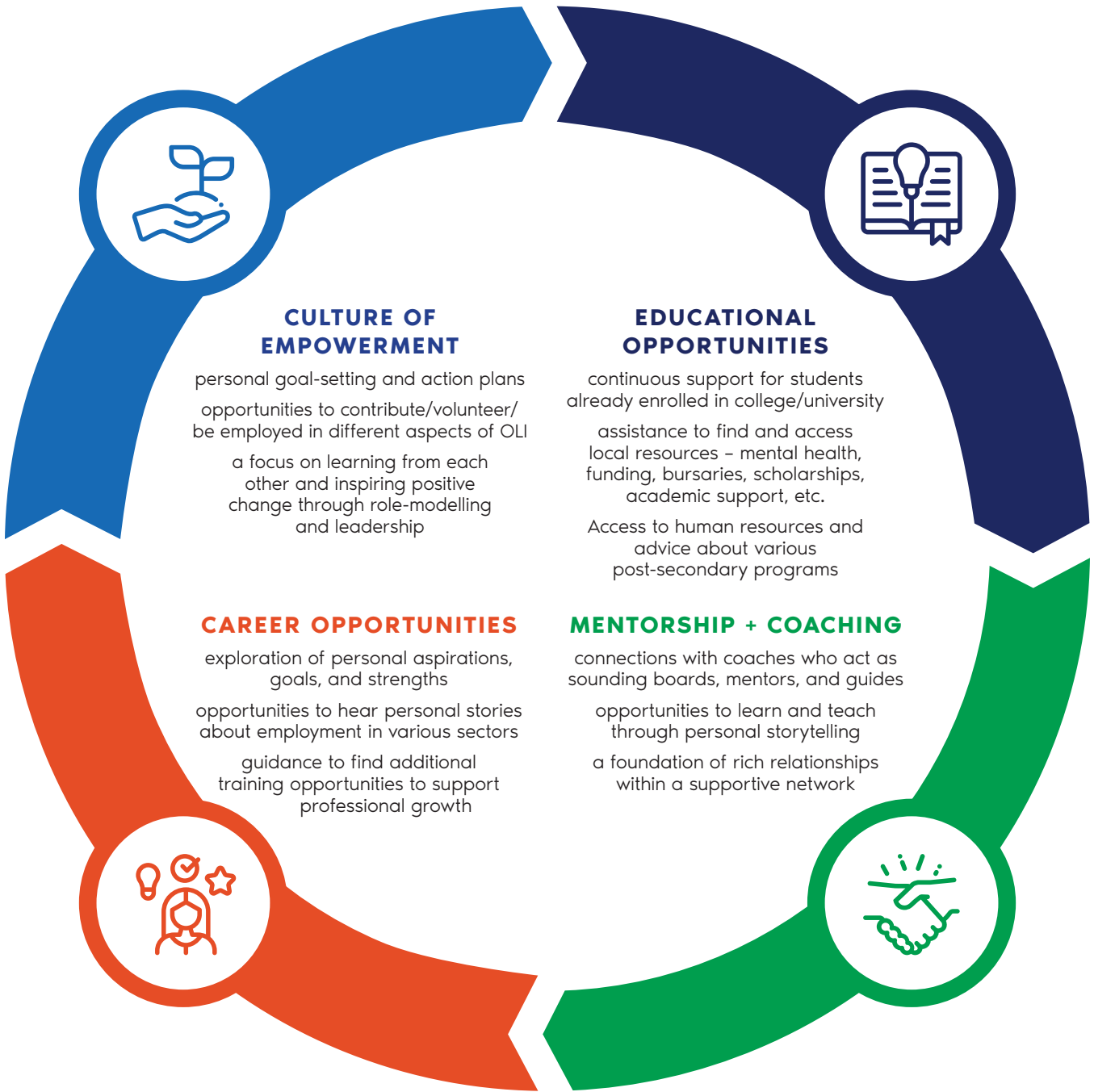
Oshawa (ON)
Calgary (AB)
Winnipeg (MB)

St. Theresa Point (MB)
Fonthill (ON)
Iqaluit (NU)



YEAR OVERVIEW

For its first year, we structured the Alumni program around four integral components:





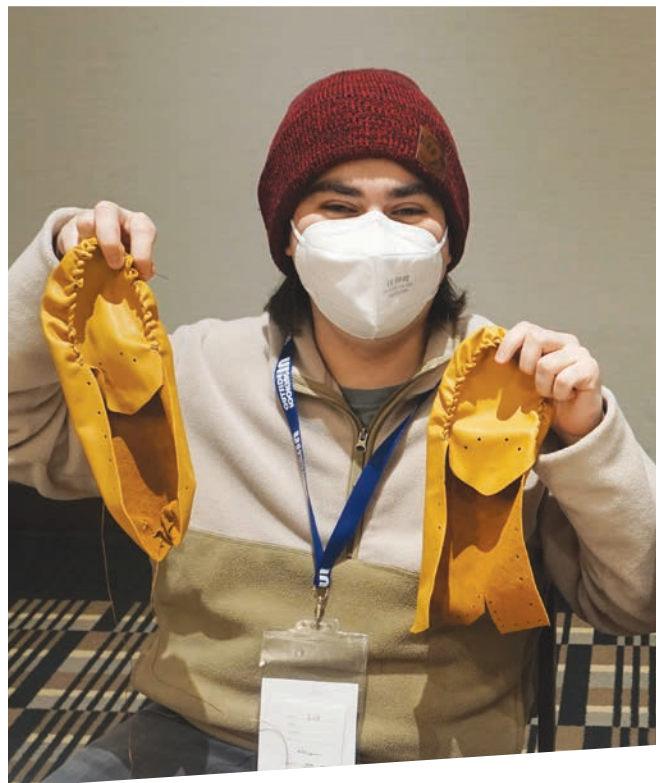
OLI Work/Study

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

OLI's Work/Study program is for recent high school graduates or young adults of Indigenous descent. It works to help them gain the education, confidence and skill set necessary to successfully enter or re-enter the workforce in a career discipline of their choosing.

The program allows participants to invest in their future by exploring education and work opportunities simultaneously.

Participants receive ongoing support and the tools and supplies needed to succeed. It is the perfect way to get a post-secondary education, work experience, and ongoing professional support while allowing the participants to stay in their home community.



YEAR OVERVIEW

OLI partnered with Fanshawe College for the second straight year through their Institute of Indigenous Learning and the Niisitaug FutureWork series of courses.

Participants enrolled in College 2 courses during the program titled, Design Your Life and Indigenous Writ.

Throughout the year, the program delivered a series of 5 talks and workshops. Participants attended a moccasin-making seminar and completed their projects in person at our OLI Retreat in April.

Participants in the OLI Work/Study program experienced the benefits of:

- working hard within a supportive framework to achieve a challenging goal
- learning, building, and applying new skills
- being a valued member of a collegial and vibrant team
- building confidence to encourage stepping out of one's comfort zone
- learning to seek opportunities, enroll, and acquire new skills and experiences



15 Indigenous individuals

engaged in a variety of academic, work, learning and networking activities.



5 participants

were supported to apply and register at post-secondary institutions for September 2022.



6 participants

engaged with OLI at the year end camp and show, taking opportunities to work at camp, apply for the Indigenous Rising Stars, and participate in the show as a host.



6 communities served

Lac La Croix First Nation (ON)
Membertou First Nation (NS)
Saint Theresa Point
First Nation (MB)

Wasagamack First
Nation (MB)
Burnaby – urban (BC)
Winnipeg – urban (MB)

Proudly supported by

OLI DANCE



RBC FUTURE LEADERS



OLI ENTREPRENEURSHIP

DONORS



IN-KIND DONORS



Thank you to our volunteers

COMMUNITY

LAC LA CROIX FIRST NATION

Lance Geyschick
Aaron Joo
Meg McGinley
Rob Mitchell
Victoria Ruby
Nolan Wurfel

PIKANGIKUM FIRST NATION

Vanessa Ip
Kee Seop Ahn

BIG ISLAND LAKE CREE NATION

Helen Ben
Tim Biggins
Jonah Kiseyinewakup
Bernice Ochuschayoo
Tanis Waskahat

WASAGAMACK FIRST NATION

Adria Day
Sylvia Harper
Nathan Knott
Rodney McDougall

WEBEQUIE FIRST NATION

Jessie Mekanak

MATAWA EDUCATION AND CARE CENTRE

Samantha Bachynski
Fabienne Spiess
Joseph Willis

SIX NATIONS POLYTECHNIC STEAM ACADEMY

Julie Hutton
Michelle Jilesen
Kaylin Parker
Sarah Turner

ANNUAL SHOWCASE

Jesse Ameyaw
Stephen Cabral
Tracy Cooper
Christine Davis
Charlene Faloon
James Faloon
Edward Haluk
Rene Jourdenais
Darcy Krahn
Danielle Lacka
Patricia Lacka
Carolyn Lacka

CAMP

Lean Ali
Gaby Doucette
Sebastian Harper
Marina Harper
Leevan Harper
Mark Keno
Leona Monias
Ethan Paul
Zane Whelan
Briana Wood

ALUMNI MENTORS

Tamara Christmas
Meryl Fernandes
Sydney Finnigan
Jennifer Funnell
Stephanie Grant
Lindy Kinoshemag
Lael Kronick
Tyler Pennock
Taylor Trudeau
Lorieann Whittaker

FUTURE LEADER MENTORS

Kim Bowers
James Bradley
Stephen Cabral
Shivani Chotalia
Maria Dela Cruz
Lindsay Dietrich
Robyn Gordon
Lora Kikuchi
Darcy Krahn
Carolyn Lacka
Phoebe Lee
Charles Lesaux
Sherry Marshall
Steven Marshall
Ryan McDonough
Meaghan McGill
Anne-Rose Normandeau
Malcolm Payne
Jessica Shute
Vithu Thambu-Kesevan
Lindsay Tremmel
Jennifer Winch

WORKSHOP SPEAKERS

Laura McKinnon
Marcus Singleton
Ari Holtzer
Natalie Valencia

SUMMER BOOTCAMP MENTORS

Kathryn Leslie
Lily Yan
Aaron Hohn
Katie McCurdy
Katherine Allen
Crista Albano
Betty Rose Commu
Siobhan Nardi
John Mazzawi
Max Kaumeyer

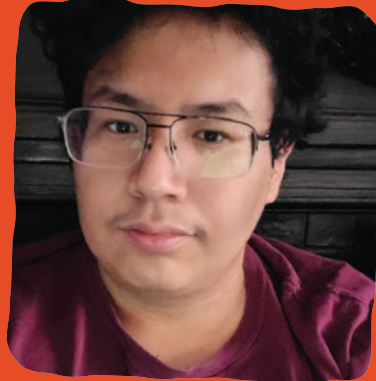
Alumni Spotlight



Jaynan

Pikangikum First Nation, Ontario

Jaynan teaches first grade as an Education assistant (EA) in her home community. She splits subjects with her co-teacher and is currently teaching Mathematics, Native Language, and Visual Arts courses. Jaynan enjoys teaching and helping to shape the youth of Pikangikum, "it has been great; my students are wonderful. I know it will be a fantastic year; they will push me to be a better teacher". Her present and future are bright, with goals of attending post-secondary to get her Early Childhood Education (ECE) degree.



Logan

St. Theresa Point First Nation, Manitoba

Logan is in his 3rd year at the University of Manitoba, working towards his Bachelor of Commerce. This year, his goal is to achieve academic excellence and set himself up to graduate next year. Ultimately, he would like to gain the title of Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and work to support his home community in Administration and Accounting.



Jaeli

Onion Lake Cree Nation, Saskatchewan

Jaeli danced as an OLI Rising Star dancer in our 2022 Annual Showcase on-stage with Juno Award winner DJ Shub and Juno Award nominees Snotty Nose Rez Kids. She has always wanted to dance professionally but never had the opportunity to until recently. Coming off her performance in the OLI Annual Showcase, Jaeli is currently working as a Junior Choreographer and is thrilled to be honing her craft and working towards finding her dance dreams.

Tracee Smith Founders Scholarship

VALUE

\$10 000

Established to honour OLI Alumna/Alumnus, we award the Founders Scholarship to recognize student dedication and passion for dance and education. This award is presented annually to one student/employee in each Alumni Program stream who demonstrates exemplary performance, leadership, and empowerment by fully engaging in achieving a challenging personal/professional goal and being active in the OLI community. Candidates from the 2022/23 Alumni program must apply for scholarship consideration. Applications open January 16, 2023.



CRITERIA

Candidates must:

- Be Indigenous (First Nation, Inuit, Metis)
- Be fully engaged in one of the 3 Alumni streams - Excelsior, Bridge, or Propellor, demonstrating a strong commitment to their learning through regular check-ins, Leadership Forums, professional development, and volunteer work
- Submit the completed application by the deadline of March 31, 2023
- Include 2 - 3 reference letters from people who attest to the candidate's persistence, passion, and determination to achieve
- Include records pertaining to academic progress or employment - i.e. GPA reflecting strong, consistent student achievement OR strong performance assessments based on employment
- Include an explanation of how the scholarship money will help with the candidate's next goal
- Speak about their goals, achievements, and next steps with Founder Tracee Smith in an interview
- Have a valid social insurance number
- Be available to attend the show on May 11, 2023 in Toronto

Deadline: completed applications must be submitted by March 31, with final marks to follow by the end of the postsecondary year if applicable

Statement of Operations

For the year ended June 30	2022	2021
Revenue		
Government grants	300	50,269
Community fees	260,000	119,500
In-kind contributions	425,110	-
Donations	674,703	499,411
Other income	192,108	372,577
Sponsorship	560,000	25,000
Merchandise	6,422	1,268
Ticket sales	13,742	-
Amortization of deferred contributions related to capital assets	4,650	1,228
	2,137,035	1,069,253
Program Expenses		
Advertising and promotion	62,914	49,947
Alumni program	120,093	13,037
Artists fees	57,203	1,749
Camps	184,259	-
Dance program	237,582	155,630
Entrepreneurship program	122,883	-
Future leaders	251,952	131,437
In-kind program costs	425,110	-
Office and general	33,236	7,152
Rent (recovery)	42,313	1,355
Rising stars program	57,923	-
Summer program	45,853	1,692
Travel	6,026	250
Venue and production costs	344,932	36,583
Work study program	150,937	176,841
	2,143,216	572,963
Administrative Expenses		
Advertising and promotion	22,280	22,612
Amortization	13,078	6,457
Bank charges and interest	3,610	2,821
Insurance	9,205	5,918
Meals and entertainment	1,900	82
Office and general	109,519	49,488
Professional development	3,872	2,088
Professional fees	42,741	50,435
Rent	18,758	13,556
Repairs and maintenance	-	425
Telephone and internet	819	1,861
Travel	20,498	1,577
Wages and benefits	285,602	259,904
	531,882	417,194
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(538,063)	79,096

Help us empower the lives of Indigenous youth across the country.



Your monthly gift has a long-lasting impact and effect on our Indigenous youth and their communities.

With your financial support, we can expand our reach and impact the lives of more youth across the country. Every dollar raised fuels our mission to empower Indigenous youth to graduate high school and pursue post-secondary education impacting their communities for generations to come.



Explore monthly donation programs.



Support indigenous empowerment now.



Message from the Board Chair

With the past year, the pandemic mostly in the rearview mirror, 'Outside Looking In' is happy to be back and looking forward to another banner year. The past two years have been trying on everyone, the staff, the communities and the kids in our programs. However, with this in the past, we are looking forward to re-igniting the programs and supporting the incredible youth talent in the communities we are fortunate enough to be invited into.

The commitment of the board of directors over the past two years has been commendable and meetings although held virtually, were purposeful and focused on supporting the continued operation of OLI. This of course could not have happened without the support of the staff and the leadership of Tracee and Zohair.

Outside Looking In is a unique program for the communities involved, offering something that the youth not only enjoy but provides a venue that supports expression that they may not otherwise experience. The leadership in the communities that support this program are to be congratulated for having the vision and encouragement for their youth to get involved. The program is not easy but it is fun. And when the kids get to show their

talent on the stage in Toronto, the smiles and enthusiasm speaks for itself.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we must say thank you to Kim Baird from the Tsawwassen First Nation on the West Coast and Darlene McCulloch from the Millbrook First Nation on the East Coast. Your counsel and wisdom will be missed as contributing board members.

With the help of the executive team at OLI, we will start this new year by developing a strategic plan that will establish goals for the upcoming years. The current members of the Board and the new members will be working to ensure that the upcoming years will see a resounding growth in the organization which can only be fueled by the participation and success of the communities and youth participants. We also offer a huge thank you to the sponsors who make this program possible. Without you, the dreams of so many of the youth participants may never have a chance to materialize.

So let's dance, let's shake off the confinement of the past two years and look forward to a great year and an incredible show.

NIA:WEN KOWA

Dr. Daniel Brant

The Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte
Chair and President, Outside Looking In



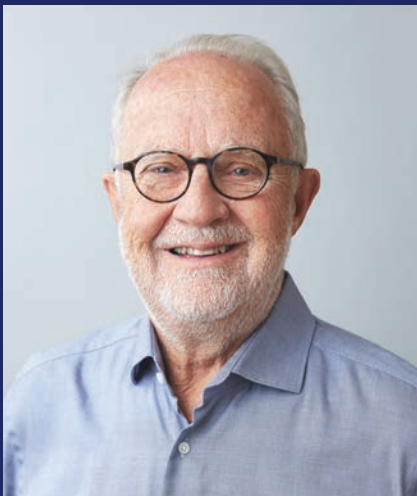
Kim Baird



Darlene McCulloch



Derek Sutherland



William Pashby



Tamara Podemski



Daniel J. Brant
Chairman of the Board



Darren Googoo

Board of Directors



Empowering Indigenous youth for over 15 years

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