



**THOMPSON  
RIVERS  
UNIVERSITY**

Foundation

A photograph of a graduate in a blue gown and black cap hugging another person. The graduate is smiling and holding a black diploma. The background is a blurred crowd of people.

# TRU **FOUNDATION**

ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19



# TRU FOUNDATION PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This past year, the TRU Foundation raised close to \$5 million, one of our best years yet. The student assistance endowment has grown to just short of \$25 million. This success would not be possible without the continued support of our generous donors and the work of our dedicated volunteers and staff.

Highlights of the year included a number of very generous donations from individuals: Hope Hyslop made a gift of \$100,000 to establish the Hope Hyslop Law Bursary; Gwyneth Lamperson contributed \$100,000 to establish the George & Gwyneth Lamperson Law Scholarship; Darlene Freding made a \$100,000 gift to establish the Bill Freding Memorial Award to support students in the Applied Sustainable Ranching Program at the Williams Lake campus; Duncan and Marie MacRae contributed \$50,000 in support of the new Industrial Trades and Technology Centre; and longtime donors Roland and Anne Neave continued their generous giving with over \$100,000 to support students and construct a research shelter at the Neave Family Wetlands, a property in Wells Gray they donated to TRU in 2014 for research purposes.

The Foundation breakfast celebrated longtime supporters of the Faculty of Science including the TB Vets Charitable Foundation, the BC Cattlemen's Association and the Real Estate Foundation of BC. The breakfast also kicked off our second annual TRU Day of Giving and we were successful in raising \$50,655 in 36 hours from alumni and donors to support students across all faculties.

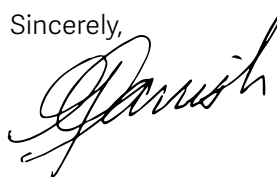
In November, \$716,552 was handed out at the Foundation's annual awards ceremony to 817 students, making it our most successful ceremony ever.

In February, Foundation volunteers worked hard to put on another amazing gala where guests enjoyed the theme of Adventure on the High Seas. Great entertainment and wonderful food combined with spirited bidding made for a successful evening that raised \$61,000 in support of the Foundation's efforts to help students.

Finally, the TRUly United campaign was a resounding success again, raising \$203,470 through payroll deductions and one-time donations from TRU employees. The payroll lottery contributed \$30,965 dollars for student scholarships, bursaries and awards.

Our success is possible only through the support of our loyal donors. In my first year as the President of the TRU Foundation, it has been an inspiration to meet all the supporters who believe in the gift of education and who continue to support Thompson Rivers University, a university that is educating students for the future, right here, right now.

Sincerely,



Greg Garrish  
*President, TRU Foundation*



**Brett Fairbairn**, President and Vice-Chancellor

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As president of Thompson Rivers University since December 2018, I have truly come to appreciate our special place among post-secondary institutions.

I have been struck by two features of TRU: we have a strong sense of community, and we have a creative and can-do attitude. We apply these strengths to our most notable commitments, which include making post-secondary education accessible to all students, and engaging our external community to ensure what we do has impact. As donors, you are part of our success.

I've had the opportunity to meet many of you in my first year whether at the annual Gala, donor appreciate events, or other meetings. I look forward to the opportunity to make further connections.

Through your support, student lives are changed. More than \$1 million in donor-funded awards are given to students each year. Your support helps us advance innovation and research, in and outside the classroom, which further enhances the quality of education and experience for our students. And your support helps build our campus. Renovations to classrooms, the raising of new buildings and upgrades to old infrastructures all improve the overall university environment.

Universities are dynamic institutions that strive to meet the educational needs of current and future students in a rapidly changing world. Government funding and tuition revenues support our operations but we do not rely on these alone. It is through the involvement of donors such as yourselves, who see the dream of future students and of a future TRU, that propel us further to do greater things.

Thank you for helping shape TRU to the special university it is today.

Sincerely,

Brett Fairbairn  
President and Vice-Chancellor

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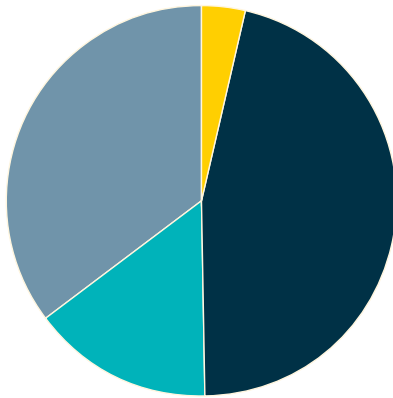
# 2018/19 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## TOTAL FUNDS RAISED

\$4,739,800

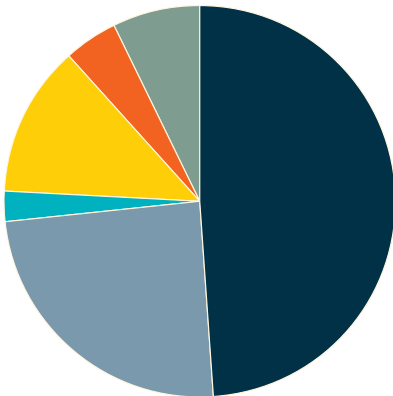
## OPERATING EXPENSES

\$376,015



### GIVING BY CATEGORY

● Alumni	\$170,721
● Corporations	\$2,173,637
● Foundations	\$723,453
● Individuals	\$1,671,989
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,739,800</b>



### DISBURSEMENTS

● Bursaries & Awards	\$1,718,978
● Buildings	\$852,989
● Research	\$95,416
● Department Initiatives	\$431,006
● Gifts In Kind	\$156,730
● Operating Transfer	\$251,666
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,506,785</b>

## IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

**1,030**  
students received  
donor-funded awards

**\$1.7 million**  
disbursed for bursaries  
and awards



“We thank all our donors for their generous philanthropy... These gifts truly change lives.”

—TRU, Foundation

Left to right: Campaign Director Alyssa Grace, Marie MacRae, Duncan MacRae and Dean of Trades and Technology Baldev Pooni.

## Generosity that is taking us to new heights

### GIVING HIGHLIGHTS

Duncan and Marie MacRae, long-time donors and friends of TRU, donated \$50,000 toward the new Industrial Training and Technology Centre that opened in September 2018. In recognition of their generous gift, TRU named a classroom on the third floor of the new building the Duncan and Marie MacRae Teaching Room, unveiled in a celebration held in January.

A significant gift of \$100,000 from Gwyneth Lamperson will support the creation of a new endowment, the George and Gwyneth Lamperson Law Scholarship, awarded annually to a law student who has completed their first year of study and demonstrated high overall academic achievement. A portion of the donation will also support the already established George Lamperson Memorial Law Bursary.

TRU Professor Emeritus David Williams and Lois Williams have generously donated \$41,528 to create the

Hewgill Family Arts Bursary endowment in support of Bachelor of Arts students majoring in geography and environmental studies. This is the second endowment created at TRU by the Williams family, the first being the Williams Family Science Bursary in 2014.

Darlene Freding’s impactful \$100,000 pledge will continue to support the Bill Freding Memorial Award, which goes to students in the applied sustainable ranching program at the Williams Lake campus.

Madam Justice Hope Hyslop this year donated \$100,849 to create the Hope Hyslop Law Bursary, to be awarded annually to a student enrolled in the Faculty of Law.

We thank all our donors for their generous philanthropy that will benefit TRU students for years to come. These gifts truly change lives.



## TRU Foundation Breakfast celebrates Faculty of Science

Provost and Vice-President Academic Christine Bovis Clossen and Dean of Science Tom Dickinson recognize the TB Vets Charitable Foundation, represented by executive director Kandys Merola, for 30 years of Giving.

The TRU Foundation kicked off its annual campaign at the donor breakfast on Nov. 1, 2018 celebrating great strides in the Faculty of Science.

Three long-time donors were recognized for their commitment to supporting science programs at TRU, while the Foundation celebrated its most successful fundraising year yet and launched the second annual Day of Giving.

Software engineering student Lorelei Guidos expressed gratitude to community members who have supported education.

"I know the feeling of receiving that scholarship letter, to know that people and businesses in this community were supporting my education and believing in me. It drove me and it inspired me," the second-year student said.

"Now I am in the inaugural software engineering class, a new program here that will let me stay in

this community and be part of the exciting things happening at TRU. It feels great to know that I can stay here."

Dean of Science Tom Dickinson recognized the TB Vets Charitable Foundation, B.C. Cattlemen's Association and the Real Estate Foundation of B.C. for their decades-long support for TRU.

The Foundation's annual campaign for student assistance includes scholarships and bursaries earmarked for software engineering students like Guidos.

Other initiatives include general program support that will allow for applied programming, project management and technical skills as part of the curriculum for both engineering transfer students and Bachelor of Engineering students, and funding for the Centre for Ecosystem Reclamation.

“I know the feeling of receiving that scholarship letter, to know that people and businesses in this community were supporting my education and believing in me.”

# Donors, students celebrate educational possibilities during Foundation Awards night

The jubilation and appreciation were immeasurable in November, when TRU students got the chance to meet and thank the people responsible for supporting their academic dreams.

The TRU Gymnasium was jam-packed with grins stretching ear to ear, as the TRU Foundation handed out more than \$700,000 during the annual awards ceremony—the most it has ever presented at the event—recognizing 622 students with scholarships and bursaries.

“Students, the donors standing beside you are looking at you and wondering how you will bring your education to the workplace, the community and the world around us.”

Fourth year business student Kennedy Aberdeen, an award recipient herself, said financial support truly motivates students to excel to the best of their abilities.

“It’s very gratifying to receive recognition for our efforts and achievements,” she said. “Knowing there are people who believe in our hard work and TRU as an institution further motivates us to excel.”

“To the donors, thank you again for your commitment to and belief in us as students and also in Thompson Rivers University.”

The awards totalled \$716,552, an increase of \$43,949 from last year, which meant that the total amount dispersed by the Foundation since April 1 to \$1,133,924, and the total number of students recognized this year to 817. The Foundation has also created 28 new annual awards and seven new endowments since last year.

“We are delighted today to award the largest amount ever to the students present at this ceremony,” said TRU Foundation board president Greg Garrish.

“Students, the donors standing beside you are looking at you and wondering how you will bring your education to the workplace, the community and the world around us. They are here to support you to be your very best.”

Below: Sharman Learie, adventure studies faculty member, with student recipients of the Learie/Sprott Awards.





Left to right: Brian Garland, owner and president of Cariboo Chevrolet Buick CMC Ltd. (left) presents bursary to Lauren Bedford (third from left), joined by Tom Dickinson, TRU Dean of Science, Cathy Poole, GMC used car manager, Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture, and Doug Peters, Cariboo GMC manager. Photo credit: Monica Lamb-Yorski, the Clearwater Times.

## Cariboo teen receives bursary to study applied sustainable ranching at TRU Williams Lake

Cariboo teenager Lauren Bedford was the latest recipient of the Cariboo GMC 4-H Bursary created by Brian Garland, owner and president of Cariboo Chevrolet Buick GMC. Garland and BC's Minister of Agriculture Lana Popham presented Bedford with the award of \$5,200 in February.

Enrolled in her first year of the ranching program, Bedford is the first person to pursue dual credits in the applied sustainable ranching program.

"My main focus will probably be on the cow side, but the whole course is well-rounded and educates you on every part of the industry," Bedford told the Clearwater Times. "I love ranching."

This is the third year the award has been presented. Garland was one of the original founders of TRU Grit, which raises funds for TRU's Williams Lake campus.

Students in Williams Lake have benefited greatly from the work of the TRU Grit, an active group of business people who, since 2012, have raised more than \$150,000 for students and projects at the Williams Lake campus.

## Bursary earmarked for Clearwater Secondary School students

Clearwater Secondary School grad Allyson Watson received the \$1,000 Charles and Jean Whittaker Memorial Bursary to pursue studies at TRU. Watson graduated from Clearwater Secondary in 2018 and enrolled at TRU in September studying heavy-duty mechanics.

Roland and Anne Neave created the bursary with a \$20,000 donation to TRU in 2017 in honour of Anne's parents who were both teachers in Nanaimo.

The Neaves added another \$20,000 to the endowment in fall of 2018 to increase the number of bursaries available from one to two.

With the shutdown of the Canfor mill in Vavenby, the Neaves again topped up the endowment to support students whose families have been affected by the mill closure. In 2019, there will be two entrance bursaries of \$3,000 each.

## Donors support research in Wells Gray Park with new facility

A newly constructed research shelter at the Neave Family Wetlands near Wells Gray Park is creating more opportunities for TRU students and researchers, thanks to a significant gift-in-kind donation from Roland and Anne Neave. Time and resources from the Neave family were dedicated to completing the facility this spring, with the shelter now open for the Faculty of Science to utilize.

The shelter is increasing research capacity by allowing students and instructors to remain in the field while studying the diverse and sensitive ecosystem. The Neave Family Wetlands is a 160-acre property that was donated by the Neaves in 2014 to become an exclusive living laboratory for TRU to carry out research and education.





## Adventure on the high seas in support of students

When the tides receded, \$61,000 had been raised for students during Adventure on the High Seas, the 2019 TRU Foundation Gala held in the Grand Hall on Feb. 9.

“The impacts of these donations don’t stop with financial assistance or an academic confidence boost”

More than 300 friends of TRU gathered to support higher education at the glamorous event co-sponsored by BMO Bank of Montreal and BDO Canada LLP. Donors bid on 51 auction items and entered to win raffle prizes at the sold-out Gala, opening their wallets to support student scholarships, bursaries and awards through the TRU Foundation.

“The impacts of these donations don’t stop with financial assistance or an academic confidence boost,” Bachelor of Science student Mathew Norman told the room of supporters.

“I truly believe they continue the cycle of philanthropy. Knowing what kind of impact these contributions had on my experience as a student allows me to look forward to a day where I hope I can have a similar impact on the future students of tomorrow.”

The event marked the 27th annual Gala for the TRU Foundation, which raises funds for student support, TRU programs and projects.



Rich Woods, co-host of the morning show on B100 (CKBZ-FM), brought the laughs as master of ceremonies and Dr. Brett Fairbairn addressed Gala attendees as TRU’s new president. An impressive set designed by technical director Greg Klohn of GK Sound staged performances from Project X, the Kamloops Thompson Children’s Choir, a cappella quartet Slow No Tempo and Lorená’s School of Highland Dance.

Aramark prepared a five-course meal enjoyed during the evening’s performances and Celtic duo Crossbow and violinists Going for Baroque entertained in the Rotunda during cocktail hour.

Next year’s Foundation Gala is slated for Feb. 8, 2020.



## Student scholarship rises from scones and shimmies



Mackenzie Byers

It took seven years of bake sales, dances and other fundraising efforts, but the Nursing Undergraduate Society (NUS) has raised enough money to do something that's a TRU first: a perpetual endowment created by a student group.

To celebrate this accomplishment, the group presented the TRU Foundation with an over-sized cheque, not for the minimum \$20,000

required to create a perpetual award, but for \$20,800.

The award details are still being worked out, but it will be open to Bachelor of Science in Nursing students in their second, third or fourth year who can demonstrate community engagement outside of their studies. Engagement can include involvement in sports, community events or professional initiatives like conferences and workshops.

About \$800 will be awarded each fall, with the first recipient to be recognized this year.

Nursing faculty member Steven Ross encouraged the society members along the way, providing suggestions and reinforcing their belief that they are making a difference.

The Nursing Undergraduate Society's mission is to enrich the lives of nursing students professionally, academically and socially through various activities, including volunteer opportunities and social and educational events within TRU and the broader community. Activities are intended to improve the social, and cultural wellness of nursing students and to enhance the development of their professional skills and education.

“It was the size of the campus that brought me here. I was told my faculty would care about me and care about my success in the program and I needed that.”

—Mackenzie Byers, Nursing Undergraduate Society

Above: Dean of the School of Nursing, Donna Murnaghan (in the red dress), is joined by NUS members Mackenzie Byers, Gabrielle Fisher, Ben Aubrey and Makenzie Vandertoolen.

# Scholarship winner combines service, science and music

Tyler Floen was one of two recent recipients of the \$30,000 Alvin and Lydia Grunert Entrance Scholarship.



The 2018 South Kamloops Secondary graduate is known for his exemplary leadership, community service, academics and music. When he isn't in class, working, or giving back to his community, you might find Floen writing music, jamming, recording, or performing at local venues with his band, rocking the drums and guitar.

## A HELPING HAND TO HIS COMMUNITY

Knowing that Floen likes to jam on stage, you might be surprised to hear he's quiet about his accomplishments, including his community service. Yet, Floen's volunteering was wide-ranging and significant. While in high school, he planned and participated in many school programs, including supporting grade eight students as they transitioned from elementary to high school life. Floen was involved in numerous clubs and projects that positively impacted both school and city communities, including making and delivering Christmas cards for pediatric patients at Royal Inland Hospital.

Outside of school, Floen has volunteered at a variety of events including officiating at track and field meets, serving at annual Kamloops Seniors' events and dinners, and utilizing his Taekwondo Black Belt credential as a junior martial arts instructor.

At TRU, he plans on getting a bachelor degree in science. His mathematical inclination is apparent, as his favourite class is calculus.

"I've always liked puzzles, and the way that I see math is like a puzzle, you just have to put the pieces together."

He used this love of math in high school to benefit others through peer tutoring, which he found to be both rewarding and fun as he has a passion for the subject.

"I really enjoy math, and volunteering as a peer tutor provided a great opportunity to help other students be successful and understand it as well."

One of his most memorable experiences was volunteering at the BC Special Olympics assisting with dental health triage, education, and referrals for athletes living with cognitive challenges. It was an amazing experience and he encourages others to search out similar opportunities that benefit people and communities.


## FIRM AMBITIONS BRIDGE TO SUCCESS

Floen's long-term goal is a career in medicine, specifically as a surgeon. He says his goal continues to motivate and maintain his commitment to excelling academically while giving back to his community.

"I've always wanted to be a physician, I hope one day to contribute to the health and wellbeing of others as a surgeon. My career goal is a big part of what motivates me to keep active within my community and do well in school," says Floen, "I know if I keep working hard it will pay off in the future."

Winning such a substantial scholarship makes focussing on studies easier for bright students like Floen, and he is excited for all that his future holds at TRU and beyond.

"I welcome the challenges and opportunities ahead of me. I am ready to continue my journeys of education, meeting new people, experiencing new things, and exploring all that life has to offer."



## Vancouver Island couple donates jade Chinese dragon boat

Students who enter the third-floor lobby of the International Building will now be welcomed by a replica Chinese dragon boat, handcrafted using solid jade from Manchuria. Standing five feet tall and stretching seven feet wide, the sculpture was donated to the university by Claire and Robert Murphy and unveiled at TRU World on Sept. 24.

On the sails of the jade boat are Chinese inscriptions that translate to “Smooth Sailing” and “Best Wishes”—messages the Murphys hope will inspire students throughout their educational experience.

More than 16 percent of the TRU student population is international. Of that group, Chinese students represent nearly one-third.

“In Chinese culture, these are the wishes that parents and teachers and friends send to their children on their journey toward success and goals, toward their growth,” said Baihua Chadwick, associate vice-president International and CEO of TRU World.

“This masterpiece will be shared and enjoyed by thousands of students—Canadian students and students from around the world—and I know it will inspire them as much as it has inspired us.”



The boat, believed to be at least 50 years old, was the inspiration behind an 800- square-foot mural recently painted in the three-floor stairwell of the International Building. The mural artist is Rayneil McKinney, a TRU Bachelor of Science student from the Bahamas.

“I cannot thank Claire and Robbie enough for, probably, one of the most important gifts this university has ever seen. All of our students should come and appreciate this and enjoy this, whether they’re from Westsyde, whether they’re from the West End, whether they’re from other parts of the world,” said Christine Bovis-Crossen, TRU’s interim president.

“We’re very happy that it’s in its restful place,” Claire Murphy said. “May you enjoy it.”

Above right: Chris Goss, Bonnie Goss, Robert Murphy, Claire Murphy and Associate Vice-President International Baihua Chadwick.



Left: Tonya Perry, Norman Daley and wife Caroline Bouchard attend the 2019 TRU Foundation Gala.

## Students + support = better community and business

For his parents' 55th wedding anniversary, Norman Daley's family endowed an award in their name at the hometown college that played a big role in the Alberta community where he grew up. Now the owner of Daley and Company LLP is doing the same at TRU, recognizing the role the institution plays in the city he has called home since age 25.

Daley and his family recently pledged \$35,000 toward the newly established Daley Family Accounting Excellence Award endowment, to annually support a third- or fourth-year accounting student with a \$1,400 award.

"Obviously, for me now, TRU is an important part of the community," Daley said. "I really liked what we accomplished doing that for my parents and I just wanted to start something for my family here, not just from the business side, but also from the personal side."

Daley understands the impact of such a gift, as he has long supported business students and TRU programs personally and through his accounting firm. His support for the TRU Foundation Gala dates back to 1997 and, over the years, there have been dollars pledged at athletic awards, golf tournaments and auctions—\$100 here, \$1,000 there—all adding up for the benefit of students. In addition, the Daley

and Company Accounting Scholarship has gone to School of Business and Economics students every year since 2010.

"One of the best things I've ever attended is the night when you hand out the scholarships," Daley said.

"When you're there and you see the emotion and the appreciation and the joy—and it's not just myself that's giving out scholarships but all the other individuals and firms that are also doing it—I don't know that you can have a better thing in your life than to experience that event."

A significant number of the 50-plus staff at Daley and Company are TRU alumni and Daley admitted the university plays a crucial role in the success of his business.

"We would not be successful without TRU. In order for our firm to be able to grow or to stay at a certain level, we obviously need students coming out of that institution," he said. "TRU is so important to the city of Kamloops and so important for the business community, so I really feel there's a huge need to give back to it."

To learn more about ways to support student awards on any scale, contact Diana Major, Director of Annual Giving, at [dmajor@tru.ca](mailto:dmajor@tru.ca) or 250-852-7139.

# 2018/19 DONORS

Thank you to these donors who have made contributions this past fiscal year (April 1, 2018–March 31, 2019).

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ChemoRV	Mr. Justice John Hunter	Colin & Mab Oloman	Lynne Totten
Cloverdale Paint	Insolvency Institute of Canada	Ken & Arlene Olynyk	Tourism Kamloops
John & Beverley Coburn	Interior Savings Credit Union	PCL Constructors Westcoast Inc.	Advantage Travelwise
Mr. Justice Francis W. Cole	Investors Group Financial Services	Tim Padmore	Triton Environmental Consultants Ltd.
Colliers Project Leaders Inc.	Karen & James Irving	Paradise Dock & Lift Inc.	Scott & Kathryn Tupper
Donna-Lee Conner	Joanne Jones	Donna Petri	BC Society of Gardens Club
Convocation Flowers Inc.	Kamloops Exploration Group Society	Bob & Eleatha Petrie	Victoria Foundation - The Patterson Family
Credit Union Central of BC	Kamloops Freemasons Lodge No. 10	Dennis & Amber Piva	VitalAire
Crescent Spur Helicopter Holidays Ltd.	Kamloops Medical Imaging Inc.	Baldev Pooni	Madam Justice Jeanne Watchuk
James & Cathy Cryder	Kamloops Paddlewheelers Lions Club	Tim & Susan Porter	Waterway Houseboats
Casey Cullen	Kamloops Snowmobile Club	Peter Mullins & Paula Presta	WestEdge Engineering Ltd.
Drs. Paul Dagg and Carol Ward	Kamloops This Week	Pronto Enterprises Ltd.	WestJet
Don Dalgleish	Kamloops West Rotary Club	Provincial Court Judges' Assoc. of BC	Westkey Graphics
Michael Dalziel	Kimco Controls Ltd.	RBC Dominion Securities Inc.	Curtis & Brandy Wilkinson
Ambo Dhaliwal	Kiwanis Club of Kamloops BC	Ginny Ratsoy	Williams Lake Lions Club
Drs. Tom Dickinson & Nancy Flood		Leni Reichor	Steve & Jing Wong
		Rescue Canada Inc.	Madame Justice Barbara Young
		Greg & Denise Riding	

All efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If an error or omission has occurred, please call the Foundation office at 250-828-5264.



## Industrial Training and Technology Centre officially open for learning

TRU's new \$32-million Industrial Training and Technology Centre (ITTC) was officially opened in September 2018. The new building will increase both the number of student spaces and programs available at TRU, and provides more opportunities to people seeking job-ready skills in the growing trades and technology industries.

"We are very pleased to see our new Industrial Training and Technology Centre finish construction and come to life as a strong continuing investment in our students," said Christine Bovis-Crossen, interim president and vice-chancellor of TRU. "By enabling us to offer more places and new programs, we're able to give a greater number of students the quality training they need for B.C.'s in-demand trades and technology jobs."

At 5,344 square metres, the new trades centre increases TRU's full-time equivalent student spaces to a potential 550. It houses the Instrumentation Mechanic, Construction & Industrial Electrician, and Industrial Mechanic (also called Millwright) programs, as well as three new programs: Power Engineering, Instrumentation Engineering Technology and Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Mechanic.

The project also includes the renovation of 455-square-metres of space in the existing School of Trades and Technology, which allows the architectural and engineering technology program to use dedicated teaching spaces.

"Knowing there are new spaces for students really gives peace of mind because it increases the chance of getting into courses and programs we're interested in. There's a big need for trades and tech professionals, and we appreciate being supported by more seats, more programs, and the ability to access modern, top-notch equipment and learning spaces," said Alyson Taylor, a student in the Industrial Instrumentation program.

The new facility was officially opened by Ronna-Rae Leonard, MLA for Courtenay-Comox on behalf of Melanie Mark, B.C.'s Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training.

Funding of \$13.25 million was provided through the Government of Canada's Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund and \$7.03 million was provided by the Province of British Columbia. The remaining \$11.72 million was provided by Thompson Rivers University and donors.

“By enabling us to offer more places and new programs, we're able to give a greater number of students the quality training they need for B.C.'s in-demand trades and technology jobs.





The Nursing and Population Health Building renderings.

## Building a healthier future

*This story first appeared in the spring 2019 edition of Bridges Magazine: The Sustainability Issue. Bridges is the official publication of TRU alumni and friends, and can be read online in its entirety at [tru.ca/bridges](http://tru.ca/bridges).*

With TRU's new Nursing and Population Health Building taking shape in Kamloops, supporters of the university see it as an opportunity to aid BC's overworked health-care providers.

That's one driver for donors who have pledged more than \$3.5 million toward the project, as well as those who have long-supported nursing and respiratory therapy programs at TRU.

A \$550,000 contribution from the Edmonton-based Stollery Charitable Foundation represents that organization's largest single philanthropic gift in Kamloops.

"We're familiar with the challenges of accessing health care in Kamloops," said Executive Director Jeff Bryson, whose grandparents founded the charity and whose parents live in Kamloops.

"Obviously part of that is a doctor shortage, but it's bigger than just doctors in terms of some of the systemic challenges and greater challenges anticipated with an aging population. These challenges are expected to grow."

Access to health care and to education are two pillars that guide Stollery's work—and TRU represents both. Locally-based directors Spencer and Janet Bryson spent a combined 70 years as educators and say it's crucial to them that hands-on learning happens.

"The university is doing so much for this town," Spencer Bryson said. "It's moving the town more and more to a knowledge-based economy and bringing talented people and good-paying jobs to the city."

“When we decide where the money's going to go, there's never been a question about giving to Thompson Rivers University. We're committed. It's really important to us that we continue to support the university in that way.”

With the expansion of the nursing program, TRU is directly answering the call for better, more sustainable health care in the province and in rural areas that face a shortage of qualified health-care providers.

The Nursing and Population Health Building, scheduled for completion in 2020, will be a hub for health-care teaching and learning with state-of-the-art patient simulation labs. It will support collaborative learning for interdisciplinary teams and bring together students in respiratory therapy and nursing.

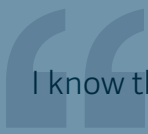
Unlike the Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Nursing programs, TRU's Respiratory Therapy program is the only one of its kind in British Columbia. The TB Vets Charitable Foundation has supported the program and its students with private funding since 1988.

"Respiratory therapists, they are the unsung heroes of the medical field," said TB Vets Executive Director Kandys Merola.

"When we decide where the money's going to go, there's never been a question about giving to Thompson Rivers University. We're committed. It's really important to us that we continue to support the university in that way."

Private contributions to the Nursing and Population Health Building include \$1.5 million from an anonymous donor and \$1.5 million from Dr. Sherman Jen for a high-fidelity simulation centre, which will use high-fidelity mannequins to engage students and faculty in innovative health teaching and research methods.

To learn about active capital projects, visit [tru.ca/capitalprojects](http://tru.ca/capitalprojects).



I know that I got support as well and it definitely helped. It can be pretty impactful.”

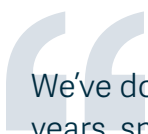
## Forging a legacy as a TRU volleyball alum

Cariboo College alumna Carolynn Boomer was back on the court with her 1984 varsity teammates at February’s WolfPack Retro Night, where TRU celebrated former championship volleyball players.

The Cariboo College women’s volleyball team won the BCAAC conference that year and went on to compete at the Canadian Collegiate Championship, placing fifth in the country. Boomer proudly donned her Cariboo College Gold Rush colours at Retro Night in the old TRU gym, where she also coached women’s volleyball for the University College of the Cariboo in the ‘90s before it became Thompson Rivers University in 2005.

“It was like a reunion, seeing some of the men’s volleyball team as well. It was very much an honour to be recognized. Even though it was a long time ago, it’s definitely still very near and dear in my heart,” Boomer said.

“What’s great—and I still think about it today as TRU—it’s a real community feel.”



We’ve done certain donations over the years, small ones. I don’t necessarily have big dollars right now to put toward that.

These days, Boomer is still paying it forward, mentoring young athletes at events like the Canada Winter Games; working with high-performance athletes and coaches as the executive director of PacificSport Interior based in Kamloops; and supporting varsity athletes as a TRU donor.

Boomer took the initiative this year to leave a planned gift, pledging \$5,000 as a scholarship for a WolfPack women’s volleyball athlete as part of her will. Planned giving is one way to leave a legacy through charitable giving. As a former varsity athlete, Boomer understands the importance of scholarships.



Carolynn Boomer

“I know that I got support as well and it definitely helped. It can be pretty impactful,” she said.

“We’ve done certain donations over the years, small ones. I don’t necessarily have big dollars right now to put toward that. But I encourage anybody to think further down the road. If they can, it’s something I would encourage anybody to consider.”

Championship programs need resources. WolfPack Athletics relies on scholarships to attract the top athletes from across the country to TRU and provide them with the tools they need to succeed in the classroom and on the court.

“This is a mantra we say at PacificSport: ‘It takes a community to build a champion,’” Boomer said.

To learn more about leaving a legacy in any faculty or program at TRU, contact Sarah Sandholm, Director of Planned Giving.



## TRUly United

TRU and the United Way Thompson Nicola Cariboo exceeded our \$200,000 TRUly United goal this year. The 18-day TRUly United campaign wrapped up Oct. 26 and raised \$203,470.47.

We received great participation across campus, with more than 50 percent involvement. Over 600 employees helped raise money with the TRU Foundation and the United Way to help people in our region that are in need.

In addition to payroll deductions, payroll lottery and one-time donations, many departments designed events in support of the campaign. Lunches, office raffles, bake sales and 50/50 raffles at WolfPack games all contributed to us surpassing our projected goal.

We thank matching donors, KPMG Foundation, the Kamloops KPMG office and the Kelson Group for their generous support.

### A TRU DAY OF GIVING:

Save the Date—  
November 7 and 8

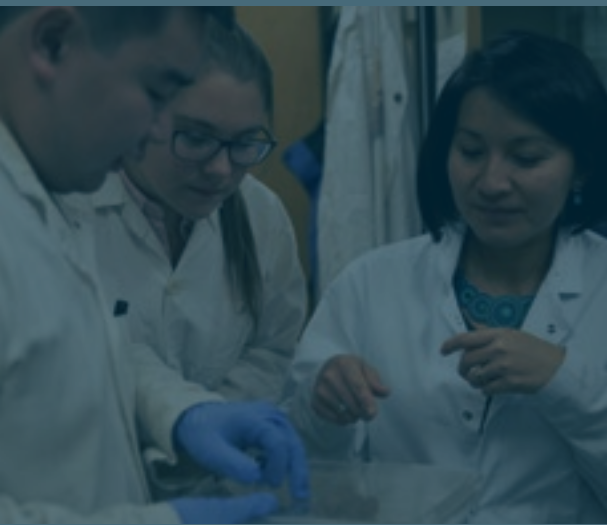
TRU's third Day of Giving is back this fall. The 36-hour fundraising campaign gives TRU alumni and donors a chance to impact current and future students, with the opportunity to contribute to scholarships, bursaries and programs across the university.

Our goal is to exceed last year's total of \$50,655 raised in 36 hours. From 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 7, to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, November 8, alumni and donors can make an online gift at [tru.ca/givingday](http://tru.ca/givingday) or by calling us on these days during business hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) at 250-828-5264.



**Donations of all sizes make an impact.**

Watch our website at [tru.ca/givingday](http://tru.ca/givingday) for more information. Thank you for your support!



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