

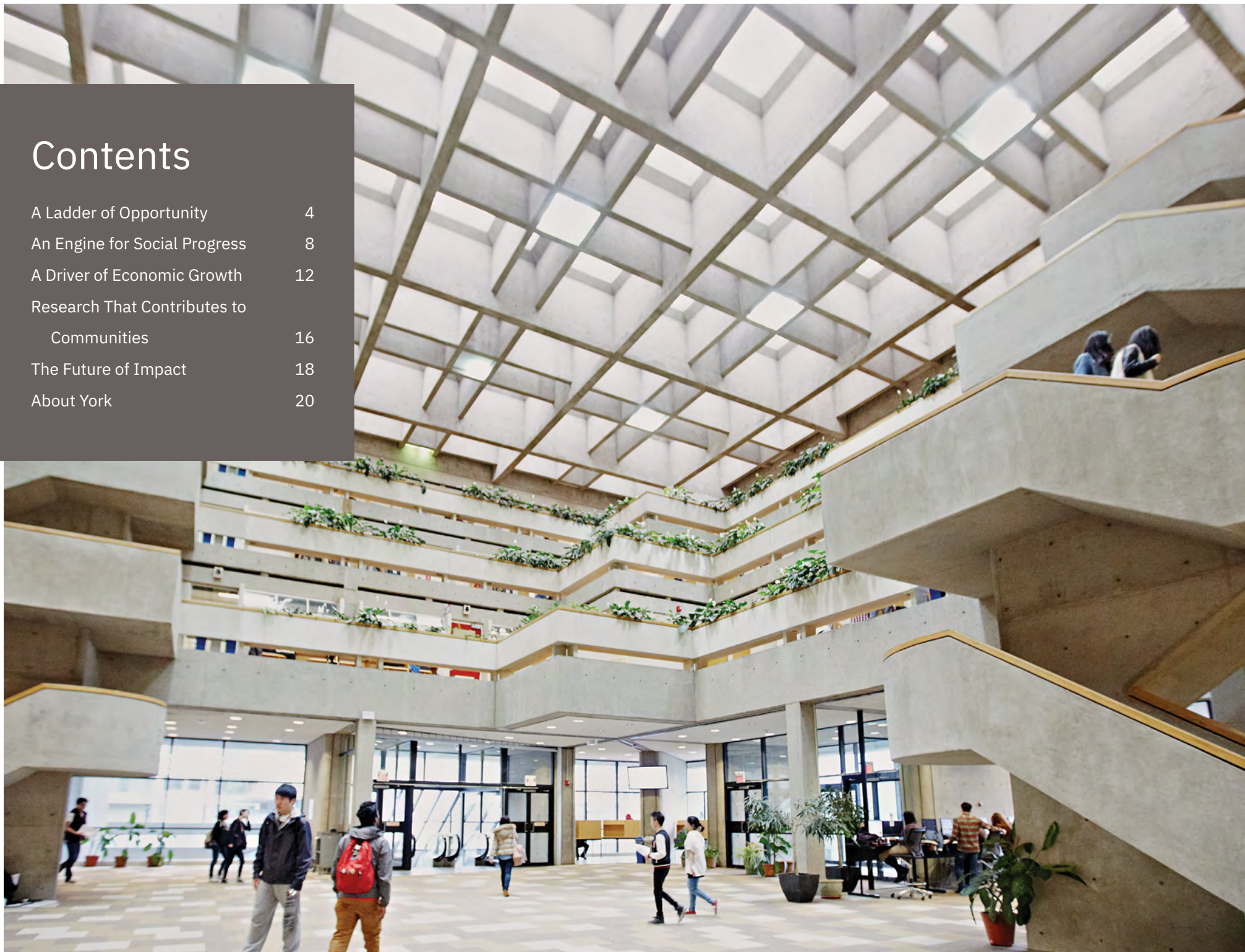
Driving Positive Change

The York University Economic and
Social Impact Report 2020 Summary



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York University drives growth and social development in many of the **most diverse and fastest-growing communities** in Canada, both in Toronto and other parts of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), like Markham, Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Brampton.

This report specifically examines how York acts as:

- A Ladder of Opportunity
- An Engine for Social Progress
- A Driver of Economic Growth

Undergraduate and graduate students

55,000

International students from 178 countries, as well as domestic students from across Canada

8,500



The University boasts two campuses in Ontario and is currently building a third one to serve the expanding needs of these dynamic cities and regions. Our comprehensive Keele campus features state-of-the-art learning and research facilities located in the heart of the GTA. Glendon campus is located in midtown Toronto and is uniquely specialized in offering bilingual and French-language programs. In 2023, the York University Markham Centre Campus (MCC) will open its doors and offer students innovative programs focusing on technology and entrepreneurship to meet the emerging labour market and research needs of the region.

By enrolment, York is the second largest university in Ontario and the third largest in Canada. The University employs 1,670 full-time faculty and 5,205 staff.



York alumni surveyed

Current students surveyed

5,551 2,239

What makes York truly unique is the way it pairs research and learning excellence with a deep commitment to inclusion, community engagement, and social and economic justice. York opens the doors of higher education to traditionally under-represented groups – first-generation students, students with disabilities, mature students and individuals from marginalized groups. The transformative impact of a York education creates social and economic opportunity for these individuals, their families and their communities. We also seek to push our scholarship and innovation into the neighbourhoods, cities and regions we serve, building more prosperous, inclusive and resilient communities.

York has one of Canada's most diverse groups of students, staff and faculty. This diversity is York's greatest strength and the key to our ability to make positive social, economic and environmental change.

York is home to 55,000 undergraduate and graduate students, including 8,500 international students from 178

countries, as well as students from across Canada. By enrolment, York is the second-largest university in Ontario and the third largest in Canada. The university employs 1,670 full-time faculty and 5,205 staff.

This report highlights the significant benefits generated by York University. It was developed by Higher Education Strategy Associates, 2018-19 data. The group generated and implemented two surveys in partnership with York's Office of Institutional Planning and Analysis, and these were key sources of evidence for the review. We surveyed 5,551 York alumni and 2,239 current students, with a special focus on first-generation students.

In the following pages, we hope you'll be able to realize York's vast social and economic impact, driven by our vision of academic excellence, access and opportunity. This impact extends far beyond our campuses to the GTA, Ontario, Canada and, ultimately, the world.





A Ladder of Opportunity

As of 2019, there are

21,226

people ages 25 to 64 with university degrees they would not otherwise have because of York

Access to university education is recognized as being transformative. The literature establishes that university graduates have higher earnings than high school or college graduates, including graduates from lower income backgrounds. There are also non-financial benefits related to health, stronger relationships and civic engagement. Many of these benefits pass along to university graduates' children.

York's access mission is both integral to the university's identity and a major part of its community impact. The core population York serves has a very high proportion of new Canadians – immigrants or the children of immigrants. In providing access to these students, York is not only offering an education and a step on the ladder to career success but also performing a vital service as an engine of inclusion in Canadian society.

In this report, we classify *access students* as those who are accessing post-secondary education or university **specifically because of York University**. We further divide these access students into two categories: post-secondary access students who would not have attended post-secondary education at all if not for York, and university access students who would have attended college instead of university.

Table 1 Access students among all students and first-generation students

Access Group	Total Students		First-Generation Students	
	%	Projected count	%	Projected count
Post-secondary access	4.7	2,626	6.7	980
University access	3.3	1,841	4.7	682
Total access	8.0	4,467	11.4	1,662

Table 2 Former access students among total alumni and first-generation alumni

Access Group	Total Alumni		First-Generation Alumni	
	%	Projected count	%	Projected count
Post-secondary access	3.32	8,324	4.50	5,356
University access	5.15	12,903	6.59	7,841
Total access	8.47	21,226	11.08	13,197

The York Access Effect

There is strong evidence in the literature to show students at the margin of admission to university typically have significantly better life outcomes than peers who barely miss out. That York actively welcomes these students, supports the development of their talents and sets them on the road to success is an unqualified public policy success.

Our findings reveal that **8% of**

York University students believe they would not attend university if they could not attend York. Of these access students, most (59%) would otherwise not attend post-secondary education *at all*. This has enormous knock-on effects in terms of higher income, better well-being and greater civic engagement, not only these students but also their families and the communities they live in.



Imagine what your life would most likely be like if you had not studied at York University. **Do you think that on balance you are better or worse off having studied at York?**

Percentage of post-secondary access alumni who say they are better off

56.9%

Percentage of university access alumni who say they are better off

47.1%

Compared to

32.5%

of non-access alumni, which demonstrates that **access students experience significantly better benefits** from attending York



Economic activity created by York's effect in expanding access for alumni

\$2,185,068,472

The York Advantage

Three main reasons explain why York University is recognized as an accessible institution of higher learning.

1. The University's Keele campus is uniquely positioned geographically to serve growing communities along Toronto's northern periphery, as well as communities such as Jane and Finch that have historically faced barriers to social mobility.
2. York's reputation for diversity and inclusion makes it an attractive option for a variety of learners, leading them to choose it over other institutions.

3. The institution offers an array of policies and programs that cater to students who otherwise would likely not attend post-secondary education. These strong access policies include articulation agreements with local colleges and bridging programs.

York's place **at the heart of these communities** has meant that over time it has become a world leader in integrating an ethnically diverse student population, and providing all of its students, especially first-generation students, a place from which to launch their professional and/or scientific careers.

Better Jobs. Better Outcomes.

Access students experience **significantly greater benefits** from attending York. Because of the opportunity York University provided, as of 2019, there are 21,226 people ages 25 to 64 who have university degrees who would not otherwise.

As of 2018, the overall estimated benefit of York's historic accessibility was equal to over **\$1.1 billion in additional income** and **1,338 additional jobs for York alumni**. In addition, we estimate that York's effects in expanding access for alumni created close to **\$2.2 billion in**

economic activity and 1,621 jobs.

To further highlight the significance of a university education for individuals at the margin of admission, we estimate that post-secondary access alumni from York on average earned approximately 140% or \$63,253 more than Toronto Census Management Area (CMA) high school graduates in 2018, while university access alumni earned 86% or \$47,395 more than Toronto CMA college graduates.

Table 3 Returns to access among alumni

	Post-secondary access	University access	Total access	
Number of alumni	8,324	12,903	21,227	
Earnings	Average returns to access	\$66,782	\$51,696	\$57,612
	Aggregate returns to access	\$555,893,368	\$667,033,488	\$1,222,926,856
Jobs	Advantage in employment rate	16.1 pp	2.2 pp	4.3 pp
	Aggregate advantage in employment	1,338	283	1,621

York's Key Accessibility Facts

- **More than 71%** (\$59 million) of York's total scholarships were distributed at least in part on the **basis of need** in 2018-19.
- In 2018-19 alone, **more than 4,600** individuals benefited from access, bridging and pathway programs.
- **22% of first-generation students** reference **diversity and inclusion** as having "made York University **uniquely attractive or possible to attend** compared to any other university."
- Asked to identify whether York's reputation for inclusivity was an important factor in whether to study at York, **42.2% of first-generation students** responded that it was "**very important**" or "**extremely important.**"



A substantial portion of students at York would simply not have attended university or college had York not existed: a tribute to the institution's intensive outreach efforts and its welcoming environment. For these thousands of students, York is a **genuinely and uniquely transformative institution**, a key part of the system that integrates new Canadians into Toronto's economy and society.



Bharat Masrani

Group President and CEO of
TD Bank Group

"York University understands that when our communities thrive, we all thrive. As a leading post-secondary institution serving a diverse community, York has not only recognized but embraced its role as a community catalyst and a ladder of opportunity for tomorrow's leaders. Much like York University, I've always believed that with the privilege of education comes the responsibility to give back to our communities and contribute to a more inclusive future for all Canadians. I am incredibly proud to count myself as an alumnus."

Bharat Masrani graduated from York University in 1978 and earned an MBA from the Schulich School of Business the following year. Of South Asian descent, he became the first member of a visible minority appointed president and CEO of a large Canadian bank, taking the helm of TD Bank Group in 2014. A champion of York University and a community and business leader, Masrani was awarded an honorary degree from the Schulich School of Business in 2017. His banking career with TD spans more than three decades of multifaceted experience that includes retail, commercial, wholesale, wealth and risk. Masrani is proudly chairing the 2020 United Way Greater Toronto campaign and works actively toward a more inclusive society.



An Engine for Social Progress

York alumni are

13.5%

more likely to have volunteered in the past 12 months than other university graduates in the GTA

Universities have a responsibility to the communities in which they are situated, not just to the students who pass through their gates. York achieves this partly by producing civically engaged graduates, who **volunteer millions of hours and create new charities and non-profits**, and partly by engaging in research and other service activities that are broadly in the public interest and designed to foster resilience in local communities.

Many of York's programs are designed with an **explicit focus on preparing students to advance the public good**, through a growing emphasis on experiential learning and with equity and social responsibility in mind. Every day, in multiple ways, York is engaging with communities to develop increased resiliency and to work on problems faced by society, from challenges in health care to sustainability to the protection of the environment.

Civically Engaged Graduates

Careers serving society

Almost two-thirds of York alumni agree or strongly agree that their career serves society by advancing equality of opportunity, promoting social and cultural inclusion, and improving health, well-being and safety.

More than a third (34.6%) of alumni (and 39.2% of first-generation alumni) agree with the statement that "because

[they] attended York University, serving others has been a more important motivating factor in [their] career than it would have been otherwise." Certain programs at York are especially dedicated to training students for service.



- York trains **more teachers than any other university in Ontario, graduating 27% of the province's new teachers.** It is especially dedicated to training teachers for the province's increasingly diverse classrooms.
- York trains **the second highest number of nurses in Ontario and graduates 12% of the province's new nurses,** in part through collaboration with Georgian College and Seneca College.
- Glendon campus is an important gateway into the public service. As the GTA's main provider of bilingual education, it is a reliable and consistent source of talent for federal and provincial governments, which require many public servants to have proficiency in both official languages. In particular, Glendon's International Studies program has produced a steady stream of graduates qualified to fill positions in Canada's Foreign Service and the Department of International Trade, as well as at international agencies such as the United Nations and the World Bank.

Community volunteering

More than half (56%) of York alumni report that they have "pursued volunteer activities on behalf of a group or an organization such as a school, religious organization, sports or community association" in the past 12 months. Comparing this volunteering rate to Statistics Canada, **York alumni are 13.5% more likely to have volunteered in the past 12 months than other university graduates in the GTA.**

As well, York alumni are significantly more likely than other university graduates in the GTA to have volunteered for sports or recreational organizations; cultural, educational or hobby organizations; school groups and political parties or groups, among others.

York alumni who donated, while in smaller proportion than other grads in the GTA, **gave three times the city's average amount.**

27% of respondents indicate they are "a more civically active person because they attended York University."

29% indicate they are "a more politically engaged person."

Figure 1 Alumni agreement regarding ways their careers serve society

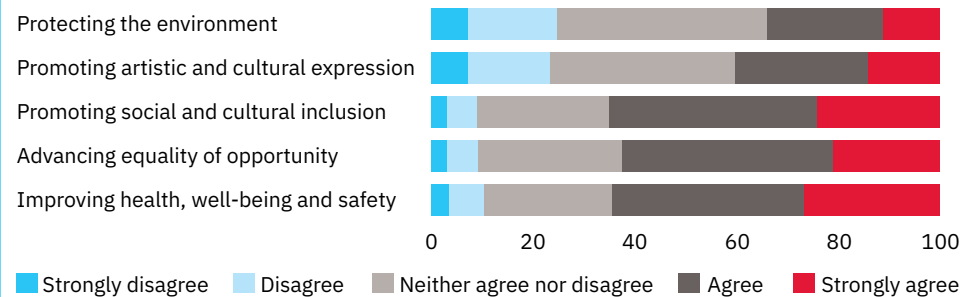
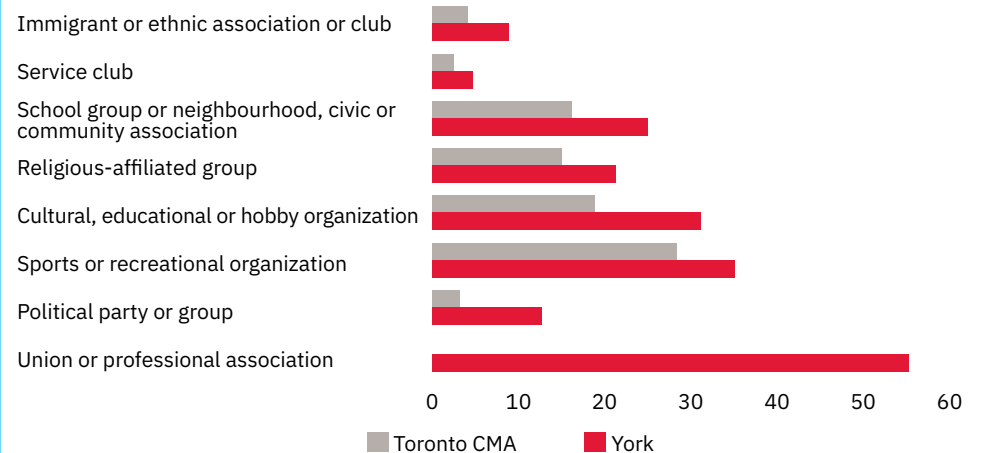


Figure 2 Share of York alumni who report being members or participants in civic organizations compared to the CMA population



Engaged citizens

Of alumni survey respondents, 12.6% report having “started a charity or non-profit organization at any point in [their] life, either alone or working with others.” Most (62%) of the charities started are currently active.

Three percent of York alumni indicate they have “ever run for election to a school board, for a nomination within a political party or to government at the municipal, provincial or federal level,” which translates to **7,389 individual candidates** when projected across all York alumni.

In addition, participation in political parties, and immigrant and ethnic organizations are more than three and two times as high, respectively, among York alumni as among Toronto CMA university graduates, which reflects the diversity and civic-mindedness of York graduates.

Intercultural connections

One mechanism by which students build their intercultural communication skills and develop more positive attitudes regarding diversity is through conversations with people of a race or ethnicity other than their own.

York alumni feel they have **stronger intercultural communication skills** or more positive attitudes regarding diversity.

- Almost half (44%) agree they are better able to communicate with people from different cultures because they attended York University.
- Exactly half (50%) agree they are more appreciative of diversity because of their studies at York University.

A sizable share of alumni agree they feel a **greater sense of belonging** in Canada (27%) and in their communities (20.5%) **because they attended York University.**

A majority (78%) of alumni indicate they often or very often have “had discussions with people of a race or ethnicity other than [their] own” while at York University. Among those who had such discussions, 59% agree they are “better able to communicate with people from different cultures because of [these] discussions.”

Figure 3 Alumni agreement as to whether they improved their intercultural communication skills or understanding because of their studies at York

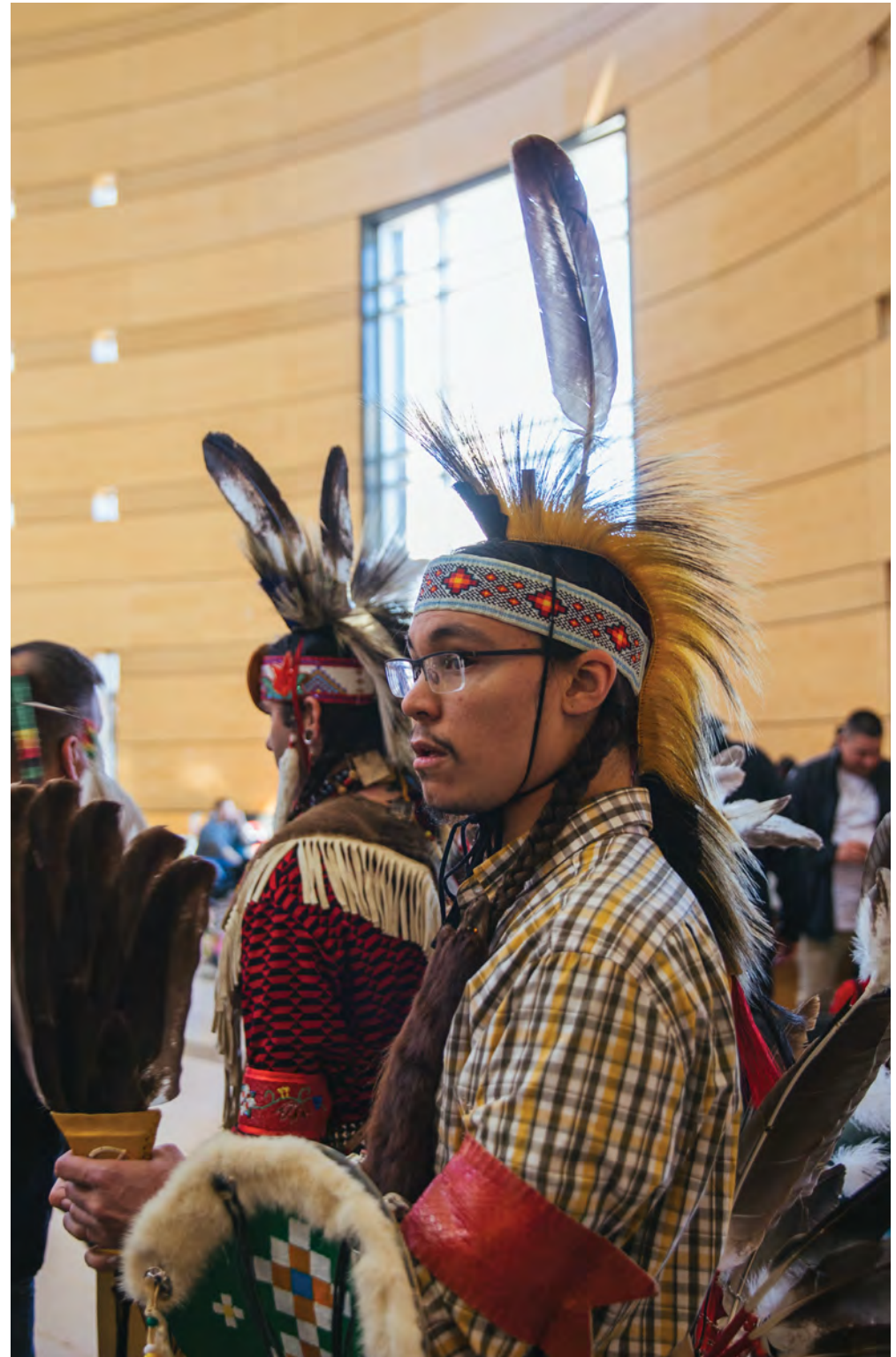
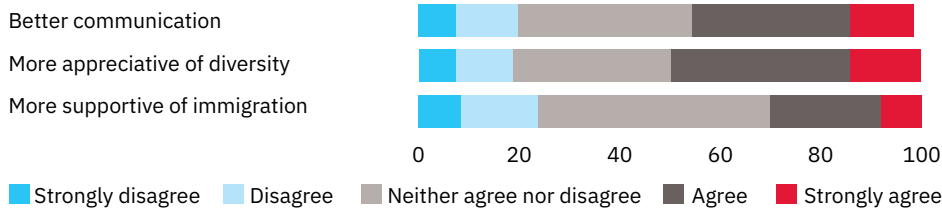




Table 4 Share of respondents to the alumni survey who “strongly agree” they have attributes “because [they] attended York University,” by access status

	Non-access	Post-secondary access	University access
I am a more civically active person	7.0%	13.7%*	11.2%*
I am a more politically engaged person	8.2%	15.0%*	11.8%
I feel a greater sense of belonging in my community	3.0%	11.6%*	6.0%*
I feel a greater sense of belonging in Canada**	5.6%	13.5%*	8.9%*
I am better able to communicate with people from different cultures	12.2%	20.0%*	12.2%
I am more supportive of immigration	7.6%	13.4%*	8.9%
I am more appreciative of cultural diversity	13.6%	24.2%*	12.6%
I participate more in cultural creation	5.3%	13.5%*	7.5%***
Serving others has been a more important motivating factor in my career than it would have otherwise been	11.2%	24.0%*	10.1%
I have had more meaningful and motivating work over the course of my career than I otherwise would have	22.0%	31.9%*	18.3%
I am better able to communicate with people from different cultures because of my discussions with a people of a race or ethnicity other than my own while at York University	19.6%	32.2%*	20.6%

* Statistically significant difference relative to non-access students

** Question was only asked of immigrants

*** There is no statistically significant difference in the share of respondents who strongly agreed relative to non-access students, but a significantly larger share of respondents agreed (between 6.5 to 6.9 percentage points)



Community at the Core

York University has taken a strategic, hyperlocal approach to community engagement by investing time and resources in the Jane and Finch community. We partnered with TD to create the **Community Engagement Centre (CEC)**, which seeks to establish equitable and mutually beneficial collaborative research and partnerships in the neighbourhood. The CEC’s core activities include:

- Fostering innovation in teaching and learning through community experiential learning opportunities;
- Promoting post-secondary attainment among residents of the community;
- Enhancing the capacity of York faculty, students and community partners to collaborate on community-based research; and
- Providing a co-ordinating institutional structure to respond to community requests and opportunities for collaborations.





A Driver of Economic Growth

York University contributes to the provincial economy in significant and direct ways: first, through the employment and immigration of its access and international alumni; second, by its focus on fostering innovation and entrepreneurship; and third, through hundreds of industry partnerships that benefit both the private sector and the university and its students.



York's attributable direct annual output effects exceeded its 2018 operating expenditures more than two-fold.

The impact of York University on the Ontario economy is equal to over \$4 billion, or about 0.6% of provincial GDP.

Direct institutional spending at York was equal to \$914 million, with indirect and induced effects raising the institutional spending footprint to over \$1.4 billion.

Total estimated spending footprint of York, its students and its alumni in 2018

\$2.3 B

Estimated total when accounting for indirect and induced spending

\$4.4 B

Together, through accessibility, the downstream effects of having facilitated immigration to Canada and international student education, **York could be directly attributed \$2.34 billion in spending and 10,569 jobs in 2018. Including indirect and induced effects, York's impacts in these areas increases to over \$4 billion and 13,480 jobs.**

Measurable Institutional Impact

We can attribute to causal economic impact to York in three ways: alumni who accessed post-secondary or university education because of York; alumni who immigrated to Canada because they studied at York University; spending in Canada by York's international students.

Adding these effects together, we estimate that **York was directly responsible for \$2.24 billion in economic output and 10,569 jobs in Canada in 2018**, with these figures expanding to over \$4 billion and 13,480 jobs when accounting for indirect and induced effects. An upper bound **estimate of attributable tax revenues generates a figure of \$913 million, well in excess of the \$582 million spent on York by governments.**

York University has effects on the distribution of economic activity and people within Canada. Among students surveyed, only 24.5% reported their primary residence before studying at York was outside the GTA, but among these, more than half (51.2%) indicated

they would have been unlikely or very unlikely to come to the GTA if not for their studies at York.

Among alumni, 10% of respondents indicated their primary residence before attending York was outside Canada, and 65.5% of these alumni were now living in Canada.

The alumni survey asked how many would have been unlikely to be living in Canada if not for attending York, meaning that York played a crucial role in their residency in Canada. The share was 44.2%, which across all York alumni translates into approximately 7,277 people aged 25 to 64 who would not be living in Canada if not for having attended York.

The average income of these alumni was \$128,080 in 2018. This translates into a total direct output impact of \$932,038,160 in 2018, which would correspond to \$1,789,513,267 when including indirect and induced spending. In terms of jobs, **the employment rate of these alumni was 92.7%**, meaning

Table 6 Measurable economic effects of York University, 2018

	Economic Output		Jobs	
	Direct	Direct, indirect and induced	Direct	Direct, indirect and induced
Access	\$1,138,056,496	\$2,185,068,472	1,621	2,918
Immigration	\$932,038,160	\$1,789,513,267	6,747	7,810
International students	\$268,708,544	\$36,195,458	2,201	2,752
Total	\$2,338,803,200	\$4,010,777,197	10,569	13,480

Table 9 Upper bound estimate of total tax revenues attributable directly to York access, immigration effects and international student recruitment, 2018

	Federal	Provincial	Total
Access	\$314,258,628	\$216,752,907	\$531,011,535
Immigration	\$226,424,553	\$150,552,059	\$376,976,612
International students	\$1,976,176	\$3,161,881	\$5,138,056
Total	\$542,659,357	\$370,466,847	\$913,126,204

they would include 6,747 workers, with a further 63 induced jobs.

There are significant direct-to-private-sector economic impacts associated with York's activities: between the increased income and expenditure of those individuals who wouldn't have gone to university (or possibly any post-secondary institution) but for York, the expenditures of current international students and the

expenditures of former students who have since become permanent residents or citizens, **the impact of York University on the Ontario economy is equal to over \$4 billion, or about 0.6% of provincial GDP.** Without York, the GTA, Ontario and Canada would lose out considerably in the long-term.

Entrepreneurship and Commercialization

Entrepreneur alumni credit York University for giving them the desire and tools to create and build their own ventures. They also recognize York's role in supporting their development through the stages of commercialization.

Entrepreneurship

Among alumni entrepreneurs, 21% agreed with the statement that they became an entrepreneur because they attended York University, suggesting that **York University was instrumental to 16,491 entrepreneurs launching their ventures**. Additionally, 30.2% of York alumni entrepreneurs said their ventures had been more successful because they attended York University.

In the 2018 Graduate Programs Outcomes Survey, 12% of York respondents indicated that they both expected to be and subsequently were self-employed, compared to 10% on both measures across Ontario, a statistically significant difference. Four percent more of these entrepreneurs also employed others.

Bringing together York's entrepreneurial

initiatives, Innovation York data shows a considerable increase in startups meaningfully supported since 2016-17. As shown in Figure 6, they project this growth will continue for the foreseeable future.

Commercialization success

Beyond supporting entrepreneurship among students, York continuously innovates to create spaces that help new ideas come to market in an effective way.

In 2017, York established its YSpace, a 10,000-square-foot community innovation centre in Markham Centre. YSpace supports entrepreneurs by providing a co-working space, access to industry advisors, education, workshops and technologies. By 2019, the **YSpace incubated 32 ventures that raised \$5.8 million in funding, with the incubator itself generating \$3.1 million in revenues, creating 87 jobs**.

To participate in the YSpace incubator programs, founders must have **products in market or ready for launch within three months** and must be committed to working on their venture full time and

in the YSpace for at least three days per week. Further, the startup should have **potential to grow and scale**; the team should be focused on **solving a societal problem** using innovative methods; and the project team must be driven, coachable and collaborative.

YSpace has also launched a consumer packaged goods Food and Beverage

Accelerator program with the goal of tripling company sales through mass-market distribution. The project supported eight ventures in its first year and will continue for two additional years to support 18 more ventures (YSpace Markham 2019). Examples of ventures incubated in YSpace to date are outlined in Table 10.

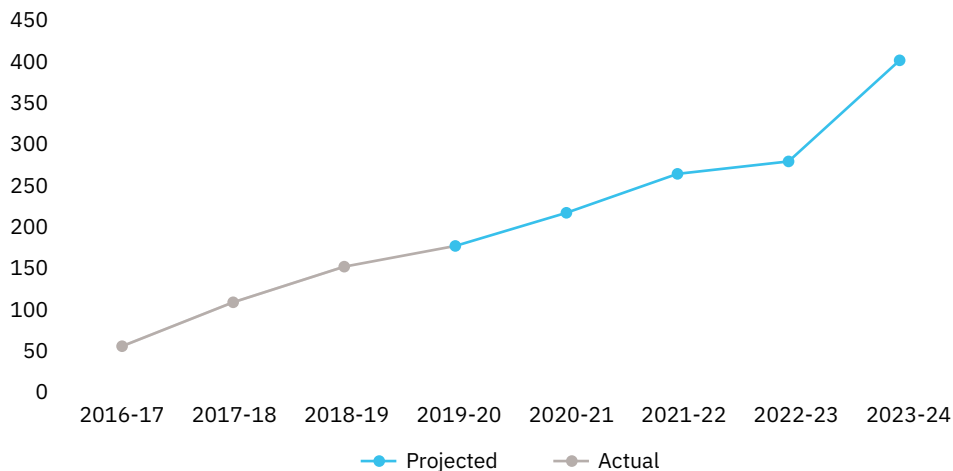
Table 10 YSpace ventures incubated to date

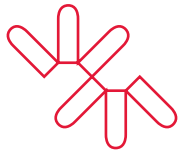
Venture	Product	Indicators of success
Able Innovations (graduated)	Technology to support patient mobility in health care	Two collaborative research projects; over \$600,000 in funding raised
Creation Crate	E-learning platform combining digital course content and hands-on projects to teach STEM skills	Over 17,000 subscriptions sold in 65 countries
Eatable	Snacks, including all-natural gourmet popcorn with cocktail-, wine- and spirit-inspired flavours	Sold in over 50 locations- nine magazine features
Mero Technologies (graduated)	Smart property management solutions	Deployed in 10 facilities including Pearson International Airport and, Hilton Hotels and Resorts; 30% initial client efficiency savings
Screenfluence	All-in-one hardware solution to help businesses control their display content remotely and easily	Deployed in over 150 locations; 111% annual growth since 2017
Suku Vitamins	Natural gummies that provide beauty and wellness benefits and are sugar- and gelatin-free	Sold in over 250 locations; 58.12% month-over-month growth

Commercialization success stories

- Droplet Lab, a startup commercializing an image-based surface tensiometry instrument using a smartphone. Dr. Alidad Amirfazli from the Lassonde School of Engineering secured \$50,000 through the prototype fund, as well as \$125,000 through the NSERC I2I program. These funds supported the development of a commercial prototype that is now being sold globally through the startup company (dropletlab.com).
- Founded in 2014 through Innovation York's commercialization unit, Bitnobi Inc. is a startup focused on commercializing a privacy-protected data-sharing technology developed in the laboratory of Dr. Marin Litoiu. This YorkU startup has had a considerable amount of success, securing \$470,000 from the federal government, \$200,000 from the Canadian Department of National Defense to deploy and test the technology and a further \$1,000,000 to take the prototype from phase 1 and turn it into a commercial product. In addition, Bitnobi was named as a key one in the Canadian Personalized Health Innovation Network led by Roche Canada.

Figure 4 Startups receiving meaningful support from York University 2016-17 to 2023-24





Businesses started by York alumni

100,000+
1 in 5

alumni entrepreneurs credit York for giving them the desire and support needed to start a business

Partnerships and work-integrated learning

Partnerships with industry and work-integrated learning opportunities for students are integral to how York innovates in its learning and discovery.

Partnerships

In 2018-19, York University had 178 industry partnerships, with these generating private funding equal to \$4,601,702. These figures are primed to grow.

- The largest York University private sector partnership in recent years has been with Sanofi Pasteur. In 2018, **Sanofi Pasteur committed to providing \$1.5 million over five years**, on top of \$1 million from NSERC, to support the NSERC/Sanofi Industrial Research in Vaccine Mathematics, Modelling and Manufacturing, occupied by distinguished research professor Jianhong Wu.
- A large project aims to develop an all-weather radar-based system to help improve roadway safety for first responders. The project, associated

with the Advanced Disaster, Emergency and Rapid Response Simulation (ADERSIM), has connected AUG Signals Limited with the Lassonde School's Civil Engineering; York's Advanced Disaster, Emergency and Rapid-Response Simulation Facility; and Defence Research and Development Canada's Centre for Security Science, among others, with additional financial support of \$1.44 million from Public Safety Canada.

- York University partnered with the Southlake Regional Health Centre and the University Health Network in implementing the **Health Ecosphere**. The Health Ecosphere received **\$15 million from the Federal Economic Development Agency of Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario) and \$19.45 million from over 30 other partners**. From 2016 to 2019, the Health Ecosphere had led to the **commercialization of 77 new products in 62 new markets and fostered almost 100 new partnerships**, while creating and maintaining over **150 well-paid jobs**.

Work-Integrated Learning

Increasingly, institutions have added elements of work-integrated learning (WIL) into their offerings. While WIL is an umbrella term that encompasses a variety of elements, such as work placements and applied research projects, it is a model of education that formally and intentionally integrates a student's academic studies within a workplace or practice setting.

In 2018-19, more than 9,000 York students (19% of the full-time undergraduate total) participated in some form of a work placement. Moreover, 21% of students participated in an experiential learning opportunity outside the classroom.

- In fall of 2018, the **Lassonde School of Engineering** launched a four-year Honours Bachelor of **Computer Science degree in partnership with Shopify**, known as the Dev Degree. Students in the program are embedded within Shopify development teams through a **4,500-hour paid internship (double the length of a traditional co-op)** over the course of their studies, while **Shopify**

pays the students' tuition over the full length of the program. This program falls under the Industry Partnership Stream of Lassonde's Computer Science Honours program, which places a special emphasis on experiential learning and allows students to earn practicum credits.

- Starting in 2019, York began delivering third- and fourth-year **bachelor of commerce courses at the IBM Canada headquarters in Markham**. This initiative aimed to **situate students' learning within a dynamic business environment**. Students would benefit from joint networking and learning events alongside IBM employees, as well as the engagement of IBM staff within the classroom. The company reports that it **hired 41 students from York University in 2018, mostly from Lassonde and Schulich, for co-op and internship opportunities**. The value of IBM's in-kind contributions to York add up to \$1.8 million, which indicates how much the company values the partnership.





Research That Contributes to Communities

York University received

\$45.87 million

in partnership research funding
through more than 800 agreements

Advancing the public good is a focal point of York University research. To help support this direction, in 2018-19, York University received \$45.87 million in partnership research funding through more than 800 agreements.

A large portion of this funding (\$26.75 million) was provided by the Government of Canada and its agencies, while not-for-profit organizations, such as health-related groups or other universities, contributed \$8.95 million in funding.

These funds supported a wide range of projects, many with an emphasis on the most disadvantaged in Canada and around the world.

Centre for Refugee Studies

For 32 years, York University has hosted the Centre for Refugee Studies, an interdisciplinary research institute focused on advancing the well-being of refugees and other displaced people through research, education and policy engagement.

- The Refugee Integration and Long-Term Health Outcomes in Canada project, with \$1.35 million in support from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), is assessing refugees' integration levels from

2016 to 2021 by tracking their social connections, employment, housing, social services usage and sense of belonging.

- The Borderless Higher Education for Refugees project aims to train teachers who are working in refugee camps with little or no formal qualifications. The project is indirectly impacting the learning opportunities of more than 18,000 students in elementary and secondary education.



A Vision for the Future

Ranking third in the world in the area of biological and computational vision, York's Centre for Vision Research is dedicated to tackling problems related to human vision, including strokes, migraines, brain disorders, autism and visual deficits in Canada's aging population. The Centre's Vision: Science to Applications (VISTA) initiative co-operates with more than 50 academic and non-academic global partners, with the goal of exploring how technology can be used to permit or enhance vision. One crucial element of VISTA is to provide \$50,000 in seed grants that allow projects to pursue their initial development before securing further resources externally. The centre's faculty includes seven Canada Research Chairs at York and seven York Research Chairs.

Focus on Youth Homelessness

The **Canadian Observatory on Homelessness**, based at York University, received \$17.9 million in 2019 for Making the Shift Inc. – A Youth Homelessness Social Innovation Lab. This project aims to enable stronger evidence-based strategies to reduce youth homelessness, foster community partnerships and co-ordinated care to support

homelessness prevention, improve the effectiveness of public spending in this area and build a more equitable society, especially for marginalized youth.

Global Disaster and Emergency Response Preparedness

Advanced Disaster, Emergency and Rapid Response Simulation (ADERSIM) is a York-based research and training program designed to evaluate and drive improvements in disaster and emergency planning and response in Canada and around the world. Jianhong Wu, Canada Research Chair in Industrial and Applied Mathematics, leads the ADERSIM team, working with faculty from across the university and other institutions.

One recent project sought to develop a framework for managing volunteers in the event of major disasters and emergencies in Ontario (in partnership with the NGO Alliance of Ontario and the City of Brampton).

In 2019, collaboration between ADERSIM and the City of Vaughan's Fire and Rescue Service won the Bronze Innovative Management Award from the Institute of Public Administration of Canada for helping to generate modelling and simulation tools to improve the performance of fire rescue services.



Cross-Campus Capstone Classroom (C4) Project

The Cross-Campus Capstone Classroom (C4) Project, led by professors **Danielle Robinson** of the School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design and **Franz Newland** of the Lassonde School of Engineering, brings together students from across York University to work in interdisciplinary teams to address real-life social challenges that benefit from a variety of perspectives. In 2020, the C4 received an international award from Airbus and the Global Engineering Deans Council in Toulouse, France.

In one project, eight students from the Lassonde School of Engineering,

Glendon College, the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change, and the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies developed the Solar Floatie, a solar home system that provides affordable heating and electrical power for homeowners, farmers and workers in El Norte Chico, Chile. The system replaces conventional high-cost industrial components with low-cost, accessible materials.

The C4 2020-21 project will be expanded to upper-year students enrolled in all faculties at York University.

“The whole C4 team is elated that Airbus recognized the global potential of the cross-disciplinary, project-based classroom that we pilot-tested last year, with major support from York University Faculty Association and the Academic Innovation Fund. We can't wait to bring C4 to more students, more programs, more faculties and more campuses next year. The world needs more people who not only know how to work with people who think and do differently, but can also recognize the advantages diversity brings.”

— Danielle Robinson, Director of the York Capstone Network



The Future of Impact

The report's findings clearly show that York University is an economic engine for the GTA, Ontario and Canada. The report also highlights how we drive social progress, through our collaborative and interdisciplinary learning, scholarship, creative activities and innovation. In all of our activities, we focus on addressing society's most pressing challenges by working with government, industry, community organizations and international partners.

Perhaps most importantly, York is a ladder of opportunity for students from a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences. What differentiates York is the way it pairs its unified mission of academic excellence, access and opportunity with a deep commitment to creating smart, inclusive and resilient growth in the communities we serve. Providing access for students from diverse backgrounds is just the beginning. Through partnerships and innovative programming, we create opportunities for our graduates that yield positive impacts across families and communities.

York's leadership is reflected in the positive economic effects generated by its ability to attract international students who, post-graduation, stay and enrich the province both economically and socially.

York's impact is also reflected in the tens of thousands of businesses created by York graduates, many of whom attribute their entrepreneurial drive and instincts to their time at the institution.

And this impact is deeply felt by the tens of thousands of students who say they would not have gone to university had York not admitted them, and who,

thanks to a York University education, have been able to access the jobs that higher education makes possible.

As we continue to advance within a rapidly changing world that increasingly requires a workforce that can adapt and thrive in uncertain new realities, York is ideally positioned to provide the training, programs and partnerships to enable more students and organizations to jointly contribute to building a better Ontario.

We look forward to partnering with you as we work to create a more just, sustainable and prosperous world.

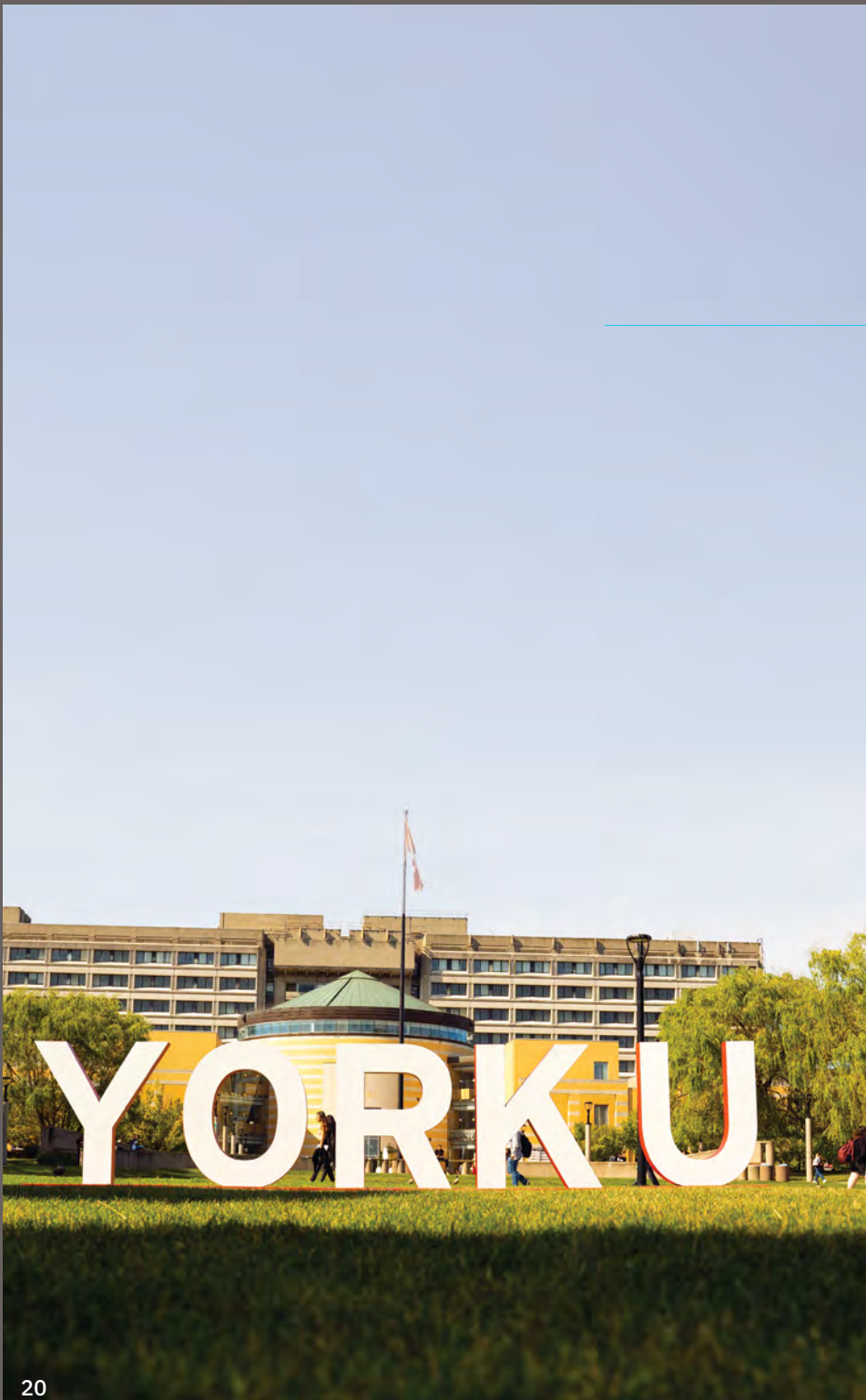


“Ontario and the world face challenges that no single government, business or university can solve. Through partnership and collaboration, York University is embracing its role as a hub for innovative solutions to inequality, pandemic recovery, climate change and a host of other difficult social, political and environmental issues. Through our unique approach to higher education, we build resilience and opportunity at both the individual and the community levels, leveraging our excellence in research and learning to create positive change.”

— Rhonda L. Lenton
President & Vice-Chancellor, York University

To learn more about partnership opportunities, visit yorku.ca/partnerships

About York



York is a leading international teaching and research university and a driving force for positive change. Empowered by a welcoming and diverse community with a uniquely global perspective, we are preparing our students for their long-term career and personal success.

Home to one of the largest and most diverse student bodies in Canada, York has 53,000 students from 178 countries, 325,000-plus alumni and leading professors who are working with over 300 university, industry and NGO partners to tackle pressing issues. Recognized as a global leader for two consecutive years in the new Times Higher Education Impact Rankings and number one in global joint research publications in Ontario, York is positioned to take on the challenges that matter most.

Through our leading programs and

9,500-plus diverse experiential education opportunities, including internships, community placements, co-ops and capstone projects, we are preparing our students for meaningful careers, long-term success and the critical knowledge to work toward a better future.

Across our multiple campuses both locally, including the Keele and bilingual Glendon campuses in Toronto, and globally in Hyderabad, India, and Costa Rica, we continue to innovate. This brings success to our students in our top-ranked Schulich School of Business and Osgoode Hall Law School, as well as in the liberal arts, creative and performing arts, professional studies, health, engineering, education and sciences.

We value collaboration, diversity and inclusivity. Together, we can make things right for ourselves, our communities, our planet and our future.

**Future York University Markham Centre
Campus, opening fall 2023**

The new campus will focus on management, entrepreneurship and financial technology, digital media arts, new media and computer science programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels, enriched by York's long-standing strengths in humanities, social sciences and professional studies.



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