York’s Communications and Public Affairs team received four Council for Advancement and Support of Education 2021 Circle of Excellence Awards — two golds and two silvers — for their compelling marketing and creative, design, and storytelling accomplishments, locking in a second-in-Canada standing.

With support from the Government of Canada, two new Canada Research Chairs (CRCs) have been appointed at York University and two existing have been renewed this year. Alan Corbiere and Christina Sharpe are the two newly appointed CRCs at York, while the CRC appointments of Christopher Kyriakides and Sean Tulin have been renewed.

Cristina Wood, a PhD candidate in York University’s Department of History, has been awarded the prestigious Trudeau Doctoral Scholarship presented by the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation, which recognizes top doctoral students in Canada and abroad in the fields of humanities and social sciences.

Two York researchers have been awarded more than $3.2 million through the Natural Sciences and Engineering Council’s Collaborative Research and Training Experience program. Professor George Z. H. Zhu, York Research Chair in Space Technology in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Lassonde School of Engineering, will lead the Smart Autonomous Robotic Technology for Space Exploration (SMART-ART) project, and Professor Satinder K. Brar, James and Joanne Love Chair in Environmental Engineering, Lassonde School of Engineering, will lead the Training in Applied Biotechnology for Environmental Sustainability (TABES) project.
Four **York researchers** have received research awards from the Government of Canada’s New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF)-Exploration stream. Professors Cristina Delgado Vintimilla from the Faculty of Education, Sarah Flicker from the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change, Matthew Perras from the Lassonde School of Engineering, and Dayna Scott from Osgoode Hall Law School are the principal investigators on the winning projects, which were announced in late May.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) has established the Toronto Centre of Excellence on Youth Homelessness Prevention, the first Geneva UN Charter Centre of Excellence in North America. The centre will be hosted by York University and co-directed by Faculty of Education Professor **Stephen Gaetz**, President of the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness.

The Schulich School of Business has officially launched the George Weston Ltd Centre for Sustainable Supply Chains. **David Johnston**, director of the Master of Supply Chain Management program at Schulich, will take on the role of the new George Weston Ltd Chair for Sustainable Supply Chains and be the centre’s Director.

Archivist **Katrina Cohen-Palacios** of the Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections at York University has been awarded the Archives Association of Ontario’s 2021 Emerging Leader Award, which recognizes early career archivists whose work and service demonstrate consistent growth, leadership, and promise to the archives profession in Ontario.

Four **York professors** have received Faculty of Graduate Studies teaching awards. Professors Michaela Hynie and Mike Zryd were chosen as the 2019–20 award recipients, and professors Michele Johnson and Sandra Schecter were chosen as the 2020–21 award recipients.
York Lions wrestler Alexandria Town earned a silver medal for Canada in the 57-kilogram weight class at the 2021 Pan-American Championships in Guatemala.

Amir Rasouli, a recent PhD graduate from the Lassonde School of Engineering, was awarded the 2020 Canadian Image Processing and Pattern Recognition Society John Barron Doctoral Dissertation Award. His winning thesis, “The Role of Context in Understanding and Predicting Pedestrian Behavior in Urban Traffic Scenes,” focuses on understanding and predicting pedestrian behaviours from the perspective of drivers to develop systems for intelligent driving for both autonomous and assistive driving applications.

Still Max, a documentary by Professor Katherine Knight from the Department of Visual Art & Art History at the School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design, was the recipient of a Rogers Audience Award at the 2021 Hot Docs Festival. Also recognized at the festival were York film MFA alumni Lisa Jackson and Cailleah Scott-Grimes. Jackson received the Canadian Forum Pitch Prize for her next project, Wilfred Buck, as well as the peer-nominated DOC Vanguard Award. Scott-Grimes received the Lindalee Tracey Award for her film Between Us.

Nursing Professor and Director of York’s School of Nursing, Shahirose Premji, has been named a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Nursing by the Canadian Nurses Association, recognizing her as one of the most accomplished nurses in Canada.

Schulich School of Business alumna Joan Nyangena (MREI ’20) has been selected as one of the top three winning contributors to this year’s Global Essay Competition Award at the 50th St. Gallen Symposium for her essay “The Pursuit of a More Equitable, Multilateral & Collaborative Belt and Road Initiative.”

Osgoode Hall Law School alumnus Payam Akhavan has been selected as the recipient of the Law Society of Ontario’s Human Rights Award, recognizing him as an outstanding academic and an exceptional international legal advocate.

Kinesiology & Health Science Professor Sherry Grace from the Faculty of Health was recognized as a leading international Cardiac Rehabilitation researcher by the journal Frontiers in Cardiovascular Medicine.
Assistant Professor of English Kenzie Allen from the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies won the inaugural James Welch Prize for Indigenous poets.

York University has won the 2020 CUCCIO Innovation Award for SAVY, our unique virtual student advisor, developed in partnership with York students and IBM Canada.

Yanlin Zhou, a Master of Real Estate and Infrastructure student at the Schulich School of Business, was part of a team that won the Urban Land Institute’s Gerald D. Hines Student Urban Design Competition, with a prize of $50,000.

York University and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) announced the establishment of Canada’s first Centre International de Formation des Acteurs Locaux (CIFAL) centre, CIFAL York. Professor Ali Asgary from the School of Administrative Studies at the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies has been named the new Director of CIFAL York, and Associate Professor Idil Boran from the Department of Philosophy at the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies has been named Associate Director.