FOR INFORMATION   **PUBLIC**   **OPEN SESSION**

TO:	UTSC Campus Affairs Committee
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DATE:	May 2, 2022 for May 9, 2022
AGENDA ITEM:	4

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Annual Report: Community Partnerships and Engagement, 2022

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Sections 5.1 and 5.9 of the UTSC Campus Affairs Committee *Terms of Reference* states that the Committee receives annually, from the appropriate administrators, reports on services within its areas of responsibility, including relations with the campus's external community.

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1.   UTSC Campus Affairs Committee [For Information] (May 9, 2022)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

No previous action in governance has been taken on this item.

HIGHLIGHTS:

In this year's report, we highlight some of the key ways in which we have contributed to the community through our partnerships and engagement activities. Our theme of Purposeful Impact is categorized in three ways: Enhancing Economic Pathways, Informing Structure through Dialogue and Community Impact, we are glad to tell you the story of how and why our commitment to this work, and our community will continue for years to come.

Stewarding impactful relationships with the internal and external U of T Scarborough community is who we are. It helps us gain insight into how we can further develop ourselves as an integral anchor institution in our community's fabric. Our partnerships can serve as catalysts for necessary changes that will shift our institutional frameworks, embed values of innovation and help us drive towards realizing our Strategic Plan: Inspiring Inclusive Excellence.

As we co-create new partnerships and further develop existing ones, we are dedicated to listening and responding to the priorities of the communities we serve, ensuring that our initiatives create impact where they are needed most. As we move forward, we welcome continued opportunities for learning, research, reflection and purposeful implementation with our partners, faculty, students, staff, and alumni.

Always striving to live our values of reciprocity, intentional inclusion and relational accountability, this year's report was written and designed by community partners.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

Presented for information.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

Annual Report: Community Partnerships and Engagement, 2022 (PDF plain text)

Community Partnerships & Engagement 2022 Annual Report: Purposeful Impact

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Introduction

If we didn't know it before, one thing has become abundantly clear over the past couple of years: communities keep us going.

Communities are where we find meaning. Communities are where we find connection. Communities make us stronger.

In an era of global uncertainty and unrest it is increasingly important that, even as we all continue to change, we also find meaningful ways to uphold, uplift and support the communities we serve.

As an anchor institution, we know we have a role in finding purposeful ways to connect and strengthen our surrounding communities and beyond.

In this year's report, we highlight some of the key ways in which we have offered a contribution through our partnerships and engagement activities. Within our three themes — Enhancing Economic Pathways, Informing Structure through Dialogue, and Community Impact — we share the story of how and why our commitment to this work and to our community will continue for years to come.

Enhancing Economic Pathways

Contributing to stronger communities and building our city is one of many University of Toronto Scarborough hallmarks. The University leverages its resources to invest in our local economy and align with community priorities. Our approach embraces co-creation which enables participants to dedicate the time, insights and energy needed to support mutually rewarding partnerships. We are proud to be embedded in the region that we serve, and we embrace our role as an anchor institution that is committed to the social and economic development of its immediate communities.

East Scarborough Works

Community partner: East Scarborough Storefront
We are proud of our partnership with U of T Scarborough. Our collaboration on the East Scarborough Works (ESW) initiative addresses how systemic barriers in the local employment ecosystem impede marginalized local jobseekers. The ESW initiative facilitates cross-sector collaboration between employers, unions, U of T Scarborough and other anchor institutions. Service providers, trainers and residents also contribute to our initiative to help nurture a thriving and connected local employment ecosystem.

Purposeful Impact

- Conducted an anti-Black racism analysis to identify and address unintended exclusion and barriers impacting Black local jobseekers.
- Facilitated pathways to the construction trade through LIUNA apprentice training, including future opportunities on major campus construction projects.
- Successfully employed a local candidate as a seasonal assistant with U of T Scarborough's Campus Farm.
- Explored ways to strengthen the initiative and its impact through regular meetings between the East Scarborough Storefront team and a cross-departmental team at U of T Scarborough. Participating departments included: Community Partnerships & Engagement, Business Operations, Human Resources Services, and Facilities Management.

Looking Ahead

East Scarborough Works is continuing to take bold steps towards improving access to employment opportunities at U of T Scarborough. We are exploring opportunities in professional, administrative and technical roles at the University. A new tracking mechanism for community agency referrals will soon be part of the University's online recruitment platform and will play a key role in tracking community partnerships and strengthening engagement through feedback.

Procurement and Student Engagement

The Social Procurement Project is a unique endeavour which brings together U of T Scarborough students and community partners as well as the following departments: Community Partnerships & Engagement, Financial Services, Partnerships and Legal Counsel, and The BRIDGE. The goal is to engage U of T Scarborough students in the University's procurement process as a way to get them thinking critically about the ways in which the University can enhance its approach towards impact investments that support community objectives equitably.

Purposeful Impact

- Thirty-six students participated in a Work-Integrated Learning experience where they learned how economic development professionals and leaders are working in partnership to create inclusive and sustainable economies.
- Fourth-year accounting students performed thorough analyses using frameworks designed to assess the impact of the procurement process.
- Students learned how to prepare management control systems that included performance measurements, allowing the U of T Scarborough procurement team to monitor success.

Looking Ahead

Project reports provided by the students will be reviewed and additional areas for exploration will be identified. Students will return for the next course engagement beginning in Fall 2022.

MAAT REACH Program

Community partner: Boys and Girls Club East Scarborough
MAAT REACH is a work-based learning program designed to provide youth with employability skills through work experience and by preparing them for the labour market. The program focuses on youth who face barriers such as lack of education, addiction and mental health issues, and youth who have experienced legal challenges. We respond to the priorities and realities of marginalized youth by providing them with essential skills development training and work experience placements so that they can begin to build their future.

Purposeful Impact

- Trained over thirty BIPOC youth by providing them with employable skills that also improved their personal growth.
- Participants reported improvements in areas of confidence, self-esteem and motivation.
- Inspired more youth to explore careers in fields of continued economic growth.

Looking Ahead

MAAT REACH plans to further inspire youth to enter into innovative fields where BIPOC individuals are currently underrepresented. We hope to introduce programming about the value of Social Enterprise as a way to provide youth with employment opportunities. MAAT REACH participants look forward to working at the U of T Scarborough Campus and will continue to passionately develop pathways for youth to improve their future possibilities.

Quote:

"Programs like REACH create opportunities where there seemed to be none. It provides a sense of belonging, esteem and safety, which are fundamental to human motivation. With tools and supports geared to warrant success, the youth in our program feel heard, appreciated and valued. This not only encourages performance but also provides results." - Nicola Bryan, REACH Job Developer

Student Graphic Design Support

The Student Graphic Design Support initiative provides opportunities for students to be self-starters in digital entrepreneurship, making digital design and art accessible to the U of T Scarborough community initiatives ecosystem. Students gain employment with the Department of Community Partnerships & Engagement (CPE) and receive opportunities for skills development by designing a wide variety of digital assets.

Purposeful Impact
- U of T Scarborough student Estrella Marquez was hired by the CPE to provide graphic design support.
- Estrella created virtual invitations, graphic portraits and other digital assets for U of T Scarborough's professional development work series, *Community Is!*
- Inspired by her success with CPE, Estrella is working toward developing her business and growing her own brand and impact.

Looking Ahead

The Student Graphic Design Support initiative hopes to continue working closely with U of T Scarborough students to both learn from and contribute to the campus community.

Quote from Chief Administrative Officer [Design note: There won't be a header for this quote. Also, it is not attached to a specific initiative]

"Over the past decade, U of T Scarborough has played an instrumental role in mobilizing anchor institutions in the eastern Greater Toronto Area with the intent to think more strategically about how we create socio-economic opportunities within the communities in which we live. Due to our location and close ties with the community, we are committed to collaborative, intentional, cross-

sectoral efforts to address social and economic priorities across the region." - Andrew Arifuzzaman, Chief Administrative Officer, University of Toronto Scarborough

Informing Structure through Dialogue

U of T Scarborough's Department of Community Partnerships & Engagement (CPE) has been involved in discussions about the campus review processes, policies and structures. These dialogues have considered both internal and external priorities, and included a wide range of key voices building on evidence from community conversations and consultations. We have an end goal in mind: to bring the voices of students, staff, faculty, alumni and partners to bear on how we co-create our structures. Community collaboration is the key to crafting the caring, supportive, healthy campus on which we want to work, study and play.

Curriculum Review

In Fall 2020, the U of T Scarborough curriculum review was initiated, led by a Working Circle of students, faculty, staff and community members. Named as a priority in our 2020-25 Strategic Plan, *Inspiring Inclusive Excellence*, the review focuses on incorporating Black and Indigenous knowledge and knowledge systems into the curriculum. It also aims to centre racialized, international and intercultural perspectives. The review followed a process that emphasized listening, leadership and an openness to learning from diverse voices and perspectives.

Purposeful Impact

- Twenty-seven members who reflected a range of academic disciplines, campus initiatives and communities, and who were directly impacted by inequity and racism, contributed to the review.
- The review builds on work that has come before at U of T Scarborough and the tri-campus University of Toronto. They upheld and protected rights set by the Ontario Human Rights Code, the Canadian Constitution Act and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
- The review drew on student perspectives on curriculum renewal at U of T Scarborough, as well as leveraging insights gained throughout the pandemic to improve outcomes for students who face inequities that affect well-being, access and success.

Looking Ahead

The Working Circle recognizes the important role that community relationships and treaty partnerships play in developing long-term anti-racist and anti-colonial curriculum changes. The U of T Scarborough curriculum review report and recommendations was released in April 2022. The recommendations invite all members of the campus — faculty, librarians, staff and students — into an ongoing process of individual and collective learning, action and accountability.

A $1.36 million annual fund, Pedagogies of Inclusive Excellence (PIE), will support the goals of the U of T Scarborough curriculum review and ensure that financial resources are in place to advance the future implementation of the recommendations set forth in the report.

Quote

"None of us are under any illusion that this work is suddenly going to be done in July. This is ongoing work. It's work that never stops. And the process is building on work that was already underway." - Katherine Larson, Professor and Vice-Dean Teaching, Learning & Undergraduate Programs, U of T Scarborough

"Indigenous ways of knowing and Indigenous peoples have been systematically excluded from post-secondary and most other settings in Canadian society. The erasure of any knowledge is antithetical to the ideals of educational institutions." - Randy Lundy, member of the listening and conversation sub-circle and Assistant Professor, Department of English, U of T Scarborough

Strategic Direction 4.1

Community engagement is an integral part of enriching student experiential learning experiences, creating research opportunities and actively participating with stakeholders by expanding our role as a city-building, anchor institution. It is a key component of the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, *Inspiring Inclusive Excellence*, which highlights the priority to "develop and implement an overarching partnership and community engagement framework that advances our strategic priorities while recognizing the diversity and complexity of relationships and approaches." The Department of Community Partnerships & Engagement is committed to ensuring that the work we do is in alignment with this Strategic Direction.

Purposeful Impact

- Revisited the existing community engagement and partnership framework and strategy.
- Included a multitude of perspectives and voices from across the University.
- Conversations with the community were centred in rethinking and reimagining our existing practices and strategies.

Looking Ahead

The strategy and framework developed as part of collective Strategic 4.1 work will support partnership development and ongoing relationship care, as well as on- and off-campus initiatives and events. The long-term impact of this process will establish a framework that is rooted in values and anti-oppressive practices.

Community Is!

Traditionally, educational institutions have led with a top-down approach to learning which, at times, has fostered feelings of inequality and inequity. U of T Scarborough has expressed a

commitment to counter this outdated approach by launching Community Is! The initiative consists of a series of engagements and ongoing conversations that facilitate collective learning to explore some of the deeper questions surrounding partnership-building.

Led by the Department of Community Partnerships & Engagement with support from the Vice-Dean Teaching, Learning & Undergraduate Programs and Vice-Dean Faculty Affairs, Equity & Success, the sessions are guided by a framework that prioritizes holistic community engagement and partnerships, and centres community voice.

Purposeful Impact

- *Community Is Rooted* included presenters from the Boys and Girls Club East Scarborough and Catholic Crosscultural Services, who shared the complexities of their ongoing relationship with U of T Scarborough, the importance of co-learning and mutually beneficial priority setting, and the integral role that U of T Scarborough can play in supporting sustainable and ethically responsible connections with surrounding communities.
- *Community Is Reciprocal* featured the relationship between U of T Scarborough, the East Scarborough community and East Scarborough Storefront organization, highlighting the process of relationship-building and discussions around actions and accountability.
- Shared the Community-University Reciprocal Learning Partnership approach with internal and external communities, with a focus on understanding how the principles of this approach are embedded in the Strategic Plan.

Looking Ahead

U of T Scarborough's *Community Is!* series will continue to facilitate collective learning for community partners as well as the University's faculty, staff and students. We will continue to listen to feedback and be responsive to campus and local priorities. The approach to reciprocal learning partnerships will continue to evolve within the context of the University's strategic priorities.

Quote

"Reciprocity happens when stakeholders such as institutions, organizations and people collaborate, bringing their sets of knowledge, resources and assets to achieve outcomes that underpin ownership and equity. Reciprocity is process-guided and values relationships between and among stakeholders in community engagement." - Raj Guatam, resident of East Scarborough

Health Symposium

The COVID-19 pandemic has shone a light on the existing inequities that disproportionately affect and undermine the health and well-being of our communities. Inclusive Health: Bridging

the Equity Gap in the Eastern GTA is an initiative led by U of T Scarborough's Office of the Vice Principal Research & Innovation, which united U of T Scarborough-based health researchers, community health advocates and senior leaders for discussions that explored health inequities. Key to these discussions was the acknowledgment of health as a human right. Session topics included collective impact, accessibility and mobility, food equity, and student mental health and wellness.

Purposeful Impact

- Facilitated discussions centred on recognizing individuals, families, communities and partners as advocates for and co-developers of critical health strategies that emphasize collective action to affect systemic change.
- The regional gaps and needs in Eastern GTA were identified through conversations with session participants which included community healthcare organizations, leaders, faculty and staff.

Looking Ahead

U of T Scarborough will be launching the Scarborough Academy of Medicine and Integrated Health (SAMIH). This initiative will provide an inclusive hub for education, increase the number of health professionals and strengthen support for the healthcare sector in the city.

Transitional Year Program at U of T Scarborough

The Transitional Year Program at U of T Scarborough (TYP@UTSC) believes that if you have the desire to learn and continue your education, you should have that opportunity. The program focuses on mentoring, supporting and elevating students who have faced barriers or interruptions to their education and who do not yet have the formal qualifications for university admission.

Modelled after the Transitional Year Programme at U of T St. George, the TYP@UTSC is expanding to assist more students in getting closer to furthering their educational goals. The program, which actively recruits Black, Indigenous and other marginalized student groups, was made possible by a grant from the University's Access Programs University Fund (APUF).

Purposeful Impact

- TYP@UTSC intentionally paused for the 2021-2022 academic year to create and redefine procedures and structures that honour the historical roots of Black advocacy and the spirit of resistance. This allowed us to improve the program and create a community of belonging.
- Consulted with the Transitional Year Programme team at the St. George campus, learning best practices, observing their approach and holding targeted meetings on specific topics such as recruitment and student support.

- U of T Scarborough's administrative staff will engage in tailored equity sessions to learn, unlearn and embed principles of African-Indigenous knowledge systems.

Looking Ahead

The TYP@UTSC is currently recruiting for the 2022-2023 cohort. Financial barriers to the program have been removed and program presentations are being shared with local community partners to encourage them to refer interested individuals and gradually increase the program's enrolment.

Student Funding Support [Design note: Call out]

This year the following student awards were established to help foster our goal of inclusive excellence and improve accessibility for equity-deserving students:

- The *Access Student Success Fund* is intended to remove financial barriers to student employment and volunteerism in access programs.

- The *Biological Sciences Award for Black and Indigenous Students* is the first department-initiated scholarship of its kind at U of T Scarborough, reflecting an effort to help lower barriers that could prevent bright young minds from entering the field.

- The *Andrea Ruth Kerr Co-op Award* is to be awarded to a mature student who identifies as Black or Indigenous and is pursuing a co-operative Arts & Science or Management program, for the purpose of offsetting co-op fees.

- The *Ankit Shah Scholarship Award* is to be awarded to one or more students who are registered with Accessibility Services, with primary preference given to students who require the use of a wheelchair due to a permanent physical disability, demonstrate financial need and are in good academic standing.

- The *Ilsa Larraine Abraham Award* is awarded to an undergraduate student who is registered with Accessibility Services, with primary preference given to students enrolled in the Department of Management in good academic standing.

- The *Bailey Parnell & Hamza Khan Award* will be awarded to students on the basis of financial need who are in good academic standing, with preference for a student who is Black, Indigenous or registered with Accessibility Services.

Funds will be made available to full-time or part-time U of T Scarborough students volunteering or working within access initiatives and programs at U of T Scarborough, including but not limited to TYP@UTSC, The Village, See U of T, Imani Academic Mentorship Program and Modern-Day Griot Project. Funds are awarded based on financial need and demonstration of commitment to a pathway program.

Scarborough National Charter

The University of Toronto Scarborough is proud to have led the historic signing of the Scarborough National Charter. After a two-day conversation that occurred in October 2020, participants agreed on the need for a unified approach to fighting structural racism. A national plan of action was struck — its message: the time to act on anti-Black racism and to promote Black inclusion is now.

The action plan was captured in the *Scarborough National Charter on Anti-Black Racism and Black Inclusion in Canadian Higher Education: Principles, Commitments and Actions*. The Charter launched in November 2021 and offers a concrete way to bring the sector together to ensure there's commitment to accountability and action.

Purposeful Impact

- Drafted an inter-institutional committee of the Charter based on perspectives and insights shared at the 2020 forum.
- Partner institutions consulted with their own communities to gather feedback that informed the Charter.
- Released on November 19, 2021, the Charter was signed by more than 50 post-secondary institutions in Canada.

Looking Ahead

U of T Scarborough will be looking to the four main principles of the Charter (Black flourishing, inclusive excellence, mutuality and accountability) to guide its actions and improve the educational experience of its students. This will inform areas of governance, research, teaching and learning, and community engagement within U of T Scarborough.

Quote

"This charter follows through on a promise we made as a sector to move from rhetoric to meaningful action in addressing anti-Black racism and promoting Black inclusion." - Wisdom Tettey, Vice-President & Principal, U of T Scarborough and Charter Committee Chair

Community Impact

Community impact requires U of T Scarborough to centre community voice, address and remove power dynamics, align with community priorities and disrupt the status quo. We are committed to focusing on strengthening and building trusting and enduring relationships with underrepresented, equity-deserving communities to facilitate access and a sense of belonging. We remain dedicated to constructively disrupting the status quo by working collaboratively with community residents and partners to connect perspectives both locally and globally, and advance transformative change towards just communities for all.

Modern-Day Griot Project 2.0

Community partner: Sweet Lime Communications
The Modern-Day Griot Project (MDGP) 2.0 offers an opportunity to discuss and explore what excellence looks like through an Afrocentric lens and to disrupt the stereotypes that are too often used to describe Black communities in Canada. We created the initiative in 2021 as a response to the murder of George Floyd in the United States that resulted in heightened awareness of anti-Black racism issues worldwide. Since its launch last year, the project now has participants creating stories that centre and offer fresh, multi-dimensional narratives on Blackness. Participants are empowered to continue to change old narratives. The MDGP is supported by a grant from the U of T's Access Programs University Fund (APUF).

Purposeful Impact

- Developed planning for a library of Black stories that shift away from common and outdated Eurocentric narratives. The library is being created under the guidance of the project's Knowledge Gatherer, Dr. Kisha McPherson.
- Collaborated with students from the Durham District School Board and U of T Scarborough students to encourage them to look at life through an Afrocentric lens and guided them to uplift themselves while also pushing back against harmful stereotypes.
- Due to her leadership with the MDGP, Shellene Drakes-Tull of Sweet Lime Communications has joined the U of T Scarborough Arts, Culture and Media department's Equity and Diversity in the Arts initiative for a residency.
- Shellene was also invited to contribute to *The Race Journals*, a collection of stories from the U of T's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, that explore the lives of Black women living in Toronto and the GTA, and their experiences with racism.

Looking Ahead

The Modern-Day Griot Project plans to extend the program with a third version running in the 2022-23 academic year. Sweet Lime Communications will freshen it up, however the program

will remain true to its fundamental principle: changing the narrative of Blackness through storytelling. Participants can look forward to an even broader scope of programming that will stretch the notion of what is "Black."

Nobellum Innovator Program

Nobellum is a social and technology enterprise with a bold mission: to help launch over 100 Black-owned businesses in STEM by the year 2025. Over the next five years, Nobellum will collaborate with U of T Scarborough's campus-linked accelerators The BRIDGE and The Hub — together with the Black Founders Network and the broader U of T Entrepreneurship community — to deliver training, mentorship and incubation programs for aspiring entrepreneurs across U of T who identify as Black through the Nobellum Innovator Program.

Purposeful Impact

- The Spring 2022 skills-building workshop series, led by diverse business leaders and U of T Scarborough faculty members, will give participants the tools and skills to ideate, evaluate and learn to pitch their business ideas.
- The goal is to equip Black students with transferable skills and knowledge, as well as to forge and amplify pathways towards a more diverse and inclusive tech industry for Black entrepreneurs nationwide.
- Nobellum has pledged $60,000 to create an accelerator fund which was matched by the University's True Blue Fund for a total investment of $120,000 to help participants advance their business ideas.

Looking Ahead

The U of T Scarborough will host the Innovathon Pitch Competition in July 2022, a two-day event that will culminate in an opportunity for participants to do a live pitch of their business idea. Winners of the competition will leave with a detailed action plan and seed funding to transform their ideas into functioning businesses. Successful participants will also get the opportunity to embark on a year-long incubation period known as the Innovator Bridging Program, which provides students with unprecedented access to mentorship and resources within the tri-campus U of T Entrepreneurship network.

Quote:

"When you're in the market to hire Black talent or give business to Black vendors, you realize there aren't enough Black entrepreneurs and professionals working in the tech space today. This is why we are partnering with U of T: to build an ecosystem of support and funding for Black students who are just getting started in the business world." - Melisa Ellis, Founder of Nobellum

Keeping it 100

Black men are often ignored when it comes to conversations about health, wellness, education and self-care. Hearing the views of students who identify as Black men and prioritizing making space for Black men to be their full selves at U of T Scarborough is of utmost importance to us. A collaboration between MARTK'D, a community partner, and U of T Scarborough (led by the CPE) provided an opportunity to centre Blackness and male well-being. Keeping It 100: Surviving to Thriving is a virtual series that features a collection of honest, one-on-one conversations between four Black-identifying men. Conversations focused on wellness, self-love and what it means to thrive in today's society.

Purposeful Impact

- Uplifted the stories and perspectives of four Black-identifying men:
    - Mark Campbell, Assistant Professor and Assistant Chair, Department of Arts, Culture and Media, U of T Scarborough
    - Dion Fitzgerald, Visual Artist
    - Kevin Johnson, Chief Executive Officer, MediaCom Canada
    - Dion Walcott, President, MARTK'D
- As part of Black Mental Health Week in March 2022, released weekly video teasers featuring the themed conversations.
- Speakers shifted commonly held perspectives by candidly sharing their thoughts and ideas around thriving and surviving in predominantly colonial spaces, their relationship with emotions, and coming to terms with their identity.

Looking Ahead

The Black community belongs at U of T Scarborough. We are committed to providing recreational, mental health and wellness spaces to facilitate inclusive environments where members of the Black community can feel comfortable to learn, share and be vulnerable. We hope to continue to work inter-departmentally and with our community partner to continue to amplify the voices and perspectives of Black-identifying men.

Quote:

"Health & Wellness and Athletics & Recreation's goal is to create opportunities where wellness is for EVERY student including Black men. Black men deserve to be represented, feel cared for, supported and heard. They must have the space to show up as they truly are and not as preconceived notions that society and history has placed on them. Health & Wellness and Athletics & Recreation's initiatives must provide these exact environments, where Black men can feel comfortable to learn, share, be vulnerable and be themselves." - Shari A. Russell Opara, Assistant Dean (Acting), Wellness, Recreation & Sport, U of T Scarborough

Auntie Betty Project

Community partner: The Pamoja Institute for Community Engagement and Action

The Auntie Betty Project recognizes the important role Aunties play in the Black community. We introduced virtual "Aunting" to provide urgent COVID support to the most vulnerable within Black communities in Toronto. "Auntie Betty" links with the community to offer health equity by sharing up-to-date COVID information via WhatsApp in a fun and engaging way. The project also provides access to much-needed personal protective equipment, culturally responsive support through referrals to the Scarborough Health Network Vaxfacts clinic and wrap-around services in partnership with the Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities.

Purposeful Impact

- Provided over 10,000 N95 masks, wipes, surgical masks, vouchers and transit cards for East Scarborough communities.
- Achieved international attention, attracting students from Arizona State University, the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and other universities in Ontario to work on the project.
- Collaborated with Verified, a United Nations initiative, in support of the Black community across the diaspora and shared the initiative with health partners in Australia.
- Awarded by the Canadian Black Scientists Network (CBSN) for "Research Excellence in Black Community Impact" at the Black Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine/Health Conference (BE-STEMM) 2022. The awards were chaired by Maydianne Andrade, U of T Scarborough professor in the department of biological sciences and the president and co-founder of the CBSN.
- U of T Scarborough provided sponsorship and letters of support to advance the work of the Pamoja Institute for Community Engagement and Action.

Looking Ahead

The Auntie Betty project plans to continue working towards an equitable future for the Black community in healthcare by providing culturally conscious care to those who need it most. We believe in making health care more accessible to all and that greater diversity is needed in the healthcare industry. The project has received funding to pilot an undergraduate course focused on providing Black and racialized students with experiential learning, and is currently exploring whether embedding the practice of 'Aunting' in course delivery has the potential to positively impact the learning experiences of Black students and those from equity-deserving groups.

Quote

"Scarborough Health Network is proud to be a partner in the Auntie Betty initiative through our VaxFacts Clinic. We recognized early on that building trust and engaging with our diverse community in meaningful, new ways would be essential to building confidence in the COVID vaccine. The innovative, community-driven Auntie Betty program aligns to our hospital's commitment to inclusion, health equity and population health." - Michele James, Vice-President, People and Transformation, Scarborough Health Network

Vaccination and Assessment Centre

The U of T Scarborough Campus (UTSC) plays an integral role in the Scarborough community, not only as an educational institution, but as a tangible physical space. As COVID cases rose during the pandemic, we identified an urgent need for access to vaccinations and case assessments. Partnering with the Scarborough Health Network and in support of the underserved eastern Toronto area, UTSC made the Event Centre in Highland Hall available as a vaccination and assessment centre. In the process, we also provided health care support to our own campus community of students, faculty and staff.

Purposeful Impact

- The Vaccination and Assessment Centre was in operation from June 2021 to February 2022.
- Over 31,000 vaccinations were administered at the centre.

Looking Ahead

While centre activities are currently on hold, the U of T Scarborough is prepared to repeat the initiative should the circumstances demand it as a way to continue supporting our campus community.

Conclusion

Guiding impactful, collaborative relationships with our internal and external U of T Scarborough community is a large part of our work at Community Partnerships & Engagement. Our work helps us gain insights into how we can further develop ourselves as an integral anchor institution. Our partnerships serve as catalysts for necessary changes that will not only shift our institutional frameworks but also embed values of innovation that will help us realize our Strategic Plan: *Inspiring Inclusive Excellence*.

As we further develop our partnerships and co-create new ones, we are dedicated to listening and responding to what our community is telling us. Addressing those priorities ensures that our initiatives create impact where they are needed most.

U of T Scarborough is a special place and it's important that we continue to uplift our stories. We welcome continued opportunities for learning, research and reflection. As we move forward towards a new academic year, CPE is energized to continue doing our part to co-create a campus culture that provides us all with a space to study, work and thrive for years to come.