

Driving Growth

Community Partnerships
& Engagement Report

20

17



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO
SCARBOROUGH



Building through the Anchor Institutions Framework

University of Toronto Scarborough has been an influential community member since its founding as Scarborough College in 1964. With a diverse student population and a picturesque campus located within Highland Creek in northeast Toronto, U of T Scarborough has become a hub of student activity, groundbreaking research and community engagement, encouraging local knowledge and expertise with community-based scholarship and partnerships.

An Anchor Institution:

U of T Scarborough is among the Eastern GTA's largest employers and purchasers of goods and services. As an anchor institution, the campus is intrinsically linked to the community and invested in its long-term success. Anchor institutions – hospitals, universities and government agencies – use long-term, strategic economic influences to strengthen their local communities, particularly neighbourhoods affected by historic and other barriers to economic development. By working with other anchor institutions such as the Scarborough and Rouge Hospitals, Centennial College, Toronto Zoo and the Rouge National Urban Park, the University is part of a collectively-generated, positive social impact in the Eastern GTA.

At U of T Scarborough the core principles of our strategy as an anchor institution include: *Social Procurement, Incubation, Network Building, Advocacy & Advising, Community Hub and Knowledge Exchange & Mobilization.*

U of T Scarborough has become a hub of student activity, groundbreaking research and community engagement

Social Procurement

In 2014, the Atkinson Foundation and the City of Toronto convened The Community of Practice for Public Sector Social Procurement. Now known as AnchorTO, the initiative explores collaborative ways to drive institutional change through social procurement opportunities. Scarborough, with established, publicly-supported organizations, historic underinvestment in infrastructure and a declining manufacturing base, was in a position to become a leader in anchor institution work. U of T Scarborough is a founding member of AnchorTO and continues to play a leadership role.

Social procurement encourages institutional purchasing decisions that advance positive economic, workforce and social development outcomes. This principle ensures a commitment to purchasing the best services and products at the most competitive prices, and a commitment to leverage limited public resources to achieve strategic community building.

There are two central components to the University's social procurement objectives:

1. Purchase of Goods and Services:

The University has initiated the process of bringing diversity and local enterprises to its contracting process by addressing barriers for small and medium-sized enterprises.

The resulting benefits include:

- Encouraging greater competition, which lead to cost efficiencies and more innovative products and services
- Building the most-qualified supplier pool
- Building economic capacity, job creation and prosperity in the community.

The University intends to conduct a series of industry workshops that introduce local companies and suppliers to the University procurement process. In addition, the University will be working with the City of Toronto and Scarborough Business Association to identify local qualified suppliers.



2. Workforce Development:

The University is committed to increasing the number of employment, apprenticeship and training opportunities for our local communities, particularly for those living in poverty, newcomers and youth.

East Scarborough Works

The East Scarborough Storefront has established East Scarborough Works, a workforce development strategy. The goal of this program is to build strong connections between the supply of qualified candidates and employer demand to ensure that local infrastructure projects benefit local residents.

Hammer Heads

Recent construction projects at the University such as the Environmental Science & Chemistry Building and Highland Hall, created opportunities to work with building contractors to initiate an apprenticeship program for underserved youth. The program, Hammer Heads, provides local young people with skills training and work opportunities in their own communities. U ofT Scarborough collaborated with Hammer Heads on its two newest buildings, and plans on including the program in future construction projects.

East End Trades Centre

Building on the success of Hammer Heads, there is an opportunity to serve local Scarborough residents with pre-apprenticeship training in skilled trades. In collaboration with City Councillor Paul Ainslie's office, the University has joined community agencies and trade unions to develop a vision and business plan and explore possible locations for an East End Trades Centre. The Centre will provide a space for local youth to learn basic trades skills, and there is also interest from the unions to use the facility to anchor environmental and sustainable construction education and training.



Network Building, Advocacy and Advising

In addition to the University's participation in AnchorTO, U of T Scarborough has embarked on a number of initiatives to enhance community networks and provide opportunities for local capacity building. U of T Scarborough is the founder of the Scarborough Anchor Institutions Group, which includes both local hospital campuses, Centennial College, Toronto Zoo, and Parks Canada through the Rouge National Urban Park. U of T Scarborough is also a founding member of the Scarborough Business Association. These initiatives assist to build relationships among other institutions and businesses. Some achievements over the past year include:

1. Eastern GTA Anchor Institutions Group

Established in 2015, the group meets quarterly to share information and emerging issues and funding opportunities within municipal, provincial and federal governments, master plans, social procurement and local economic development activities.

In July of 2016, the group jointly advocated in a letter to the Mayor and Councillors of the City of Toronto for a comprehensive Scarborough-wide transit system featuring the Scarborough subway extension, Eglinton Crosstown East LRT and SmartTrack. The University continues to play a leadership role in addressing the lack of transit infrastructure spending in Scarborough that impacts not only our students, but also the Scarborough community at large.



The University continues to play a leadership role in addressing the lack of transit infrastructure spending in Scarborough that impacts not only our students, but also the Scarborough community at large.

2. East Scarborough Youth Friendly Designation

A partnership between U ofT Scarborough and several community groups including the East Scarborough Boys & Girls Club, the East Scarborough Storefront, and the City of Toronto, secured the Youth-Friendly designation for East Scarborough, awarded by Play Works, the Ontario Partnership for Active and Engaged Youth. The designation identifies communities that are working to ensure youth ages 1 to 19 have continuous access to sport, recreation, drama, dance, music, the arts, leadership development, volunteerism and other civic engagement activities.

Almost 75 U ofT Scarborough students have worked with Professor Ahmed Allahwala, the East Scarborough Boys & Girls Club and Let's Inspire For Today (L.I.F.T.) to gather data and conduct research on youth-friendly initiatives, spaces and access. L.I.F.T. is a product of this community-led process, and continues to provide a platform for local youth to share their voices on community issues through advocacy, leadership and empowerment. L.I.F.T. is looking to build off of the community's identified strengths and address gaps discovered in the research.

Community organizations in East Scarborough can now officially leverage the Youth Friendly designation when promoting their causes and initiatives.

3. Healthy Campus Food Initiative

In 2016, U ofT Scarborough embarked on an initiative with Aramark, Centennial College and the Scarborough Rouge Hospital to secure healthier and more sustainable food systems within our institutions. Together with companies such as 100km Food Inc., this initiative is working toward local job creation and training and more efficient local purchasing, to better connect local producers to purchasers. The initiative is also exploring food share or rescue programs and is working with other local partners such as the Community Development Council Durham and Durham College.

4. KGO Literacy Project

For many years there have been fragmented efforts by independent programs and services to help learners, parents and youth in the community improve their literacy skills. U ofT Scarborough has joined forces with twelve other organizations to establish the Kingston-Galloway Orton Park Literacy Improvement Collective (KLIC). This collaboration is taking a holistic and collective approach to organize, coordinate and increase community assets and resources to improve literacy in the KGO neighbourhood, with an education-focused and neighbourhood-based strategy. KLIC has received \$25,000 in grants from the Laidlaw Foundation.



Incubation

By working with partners and building relationships as part of our anchor institution strategy, students benefit from opportunities in the community. Through the growing relationship between Rouge National Urban Park and U of T Scarborough, Parks Canada has hired a total of 28 co-op students over the past three summers (with another seven students completing work terms this summer). This partnership with Canada's first national urban park has also led to an exciting project through The Hub, U of T Scarborough's centre for innovation and entrepreneurship, to create a content-rich app that park visitors can use to enhance their experience.

Community Hub

U ofT Scarborough strives to be involved in community activities and events that bring together organizations, local residents, students, staff, and faculty. Working with our local communities and collaborating with community organizations to upgrade resources, abilities and skills that can improve the quality of life for residents and opportunities for education, research and outreach in the University community.

Over the last year U ofT Scarborough has co-hosted and organized a number of events, programs and initiatives with a range of community partners:

Scarborough Food Truck Festival

On May 28th, U ofT Scarborough hosted the first ever Scarborough Food Truck Festival. Organized by the Boys and Girls Club of East Scarborough, this fundraising event attracted over 5,000 visitors who enjoyed delicacies presented by 15 food trucks. Four student and community volunteers from U ofT Scarborough's Playing4Keeps Hub helped organize children's activities, prizes, and performances by local community groups.

TDSB Equity

Believe! Girls' Symposium - On May 11th, U ofT Scarborough hosted a Girl's Symposium organized by the Toronto District School Board equity department. Over 60 grades 9-12 students attended and 12 U ofT Scarborough students participated in a day of speeches and interactive workshops around issues such as healthy relationships, shadeism, social pressures and stereotypes, sexual violence against women and misrepresentation of young women of colour in the media and society.



Scarborough Film Festival

U of T Scarborough is a partner and presenting sponsor of the Scarborough Film Festival, an annual showcase of local, Canadian and international film. Three festival screenings in the Academic Resource Centre auditorium welcomed 220 visitors to the campus, 120 from local high schools.

The U of T Scarborough community supports the festival as volunteers – 25 students and alumni are among those who are essential to the smooth operation of the ten-day program. Faculty members also take leadership roles in the film festival. English department professors Garry Leonard, Sara Saljoughi and Department Chair Katherine Larson serve on the festival steering committee, as consultants and as members of working groups. Professor Leonard addressed festival-goers on opening night as a representative of the campus; Professors Saljoughi and Larson joined the U of T Scarborough-hosted student festival evening where they discussed how they incorporate film and the arts into their programs. Department of Computer & Mathematical Science Professor Bálint Virág and Professor Tanzina Mohsin from the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences, both joined the festival as guest speakers at films addressing their particular areas of expertise.

The campus also hosted an exhibition on the cinematic experience in the Doris McCarthy Gallery.

TDSB EcoSchools Conference

October brought the Toronto District School Board's EcoSchools Conference to campus. Over 200 high school students and 44 TDSB staff members from 36 schools participated in workshops to learn about environmental sustainability, greening initiatives and reducing one's own eco footprint. Nadia Harduar from the Sustainability office, Biological Sciences Instructor Scott MacIvor, and staff from CultureLink organized the workshops. U of T Scarborough has a growing and respected environmental science program featuring world-class faculty, the opportunity to host and sponsor the TDSB EcoSchools Conference was an important outreach to prospective students. Both U of T Scarborough Director of Admissions & Student Recruitment Shelby Verboven and Chair of the Department of Physical & Environmental Science Professor George Arhonditsis, welcomed TDSB students and provided remarks.



**U of T Scarborough
is a partner and presenting
sponsor of the Scarborough Film
Festival, an annual showcase of local,
Canadian and international film.**



U of T Scarborough has been actively supporting the development of the Malvern neighbourhood in its transition from a Neighbourhood Improvement Area

Malvern Family Resource Centre (MFRC)

Since 2014, U of T Scarborough has been working with the MFRC as its primary academic partner, providing support to build capacity among residents, volunteers and staff, and providing research opportunities and support for programming and community initiatives. The partnership spans many University administrative departments including Partnerships and Legal Counsel, Student Life, and the Centre for Teaching and Learning, in addition to several academic programs including City Studies, Health Studies, the Culinary Research Centre and Environmental Sciences.

U of T Scarborough has been actively supporting the development of the Malvern neighbourhood in its transition from a Neighbourhood Improvement Area (formerly known as a Priority Neighbourhood), participating in the 1LoveMalvern table and the Integrated Inclusive Local Labour Market group. U of T Scarborough is also working with the MFRC and other community partners on the East Scarborough Multi-Sport Collaborative.

Highlights from 2016 include:

- The Urban Farm initiative, for which the campus provided nine Farmer Learning Series workshops to more than 30 aspiring farmers and community members. U of T Scarborough co-op students Amreen Murhi and Mahboubet Rabet support this series.

- 42 Rides, a program with the Blessed Mother Teresa Catholic Secondary School Grade 8 Transition Program, giving 35 students demonstrations on advanced bicycle maintenance.
- Also the 42 Rides, a pop up repair shop served more than 90 youth and families during its eight weeks of operation.

In 2017, U of T Scarborough will continue to provide \$10,000 support to the Urban Farm Farmer's Learning Series and 42 Rides, through a grant from TD Friends of the Environment. This partnership with MFRC will continue to advance:

- ANC staff will meet in May with partners from the Entrepreneurship Education and Development to outline project timelines and leasing.
- The MFRC will facilitate week-long youth eco-campus in August on the farm site, engaging as many as 120 participants this summer.
- Colleen Hammelman, a U of T Scarborough post doctoral fellow, is working with the Malvern Food Security Work Group. She is also conducting research on urban agriculture as part of her Connaught fellowship at the Culinary Research Centre.
- 42 Rides will again open the bicycle repair shop, and will provide skateboard and BMX sessions for youth age 6 and up, as well as loaning bikes, skateboards and protective equipment.
- 42 Rides will also offer 10 specialty workshops, facilitated by guest mechanics.

Skills 4 You: Soccer Program

From June to August, U ofT Scarborough and the Boys & Girls Club of East Scarborough hosted a Learn to Play Soccer program. The eight-week program engaged 35 youth aged seven to 15, with six experienced student coaches teaching basic soccer skills.

Skills 4 You provides critical coaching, leadership and mentorship experiences for six U ofT Scarborough students. The program supports the engagement of up to 100 local youth. Funded by a grant of \$78,000 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Skills 4 You will run for two consecutive summers.

Understanding Your Environment

In Spring, U ofT Scarborough and East Scarborough Storefront ran a six-week course, Understanding Your Environment taught by Tim Lang, U ofT Scarborough's Sustainability office manager. Using the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a guide, each week covered a topic including: Sustainability 101; ecosystem services; food and agriculture; energy and climate change; water; and system dynamics. The course contributed to local environmental knowledge and connected 20 Kingston-Galloway Orton Park residents to green spaces.

WaterWise

In the fall more than 280 local residents participated in WaterWise, an ecological festival celebrating water. U ofT Scarborough worked with the East Scarborough Storefront and other community partners to create interactive activities, including a natural water filtration system showcase, water trivia questions and an photo booth with a Scarborough Bluffs background. The event, which garnered significant involvement by local youth, included food and music, face painting, and walks led by Playing 4 Keeps Pathfinding and Jane's Walk.



Knowledge Exchange and Mobilization

Knowledge exchange and mobilization addresses how knowledge meets the needs of the community. Knowledge exchange and mobilization is about engagement, community and university joint participation and attention to impact; it is not a one-way flow of information.

U ofT Scarborough faculty and staff share information including our partnership approach across Canada and the U.S:

March 2016: Soul on Ice: Past, Present, and Future, Goldring Centre for High Performance Sport, Toronto

This Canadian documentary film screening and facilitated panel explored the history and future of black hockey players from the minor leagues to the majors, and shares their experiences as athletes, coaches and icons. Twelve U ofT Scarborough students joined six staff members and five youth from the Kingston/Galloway Orton Park community at the event. The screening was followed by a panel moderated by U ofT Scarborough Community Engagement & Development Manager Kimberley Tull; panelists included filmmaker Kwame Mason and Heather Lindo, whose son Jason Lindo was featured in the film, and Varsity Blues Men's Hockey Coach Darren Lowe.

June 6-7: Beyond the Ivory Tower: Co-Creating Community-University Partnerships That Work, University of Michigan Detroit Center

Over 100 academics and community organization practitioners from 55 university and non-profit organizations attended this symposium with the keynote delivered by U ofT Scarborough, Community Development & Engagement Manager Kimberley Tull and Ewa Cerda-Llanos from the East Scarborough Storefront. Their talk provided an overview of the successful and innovative community-university partnership model.

February 24: Toronto East Quadrant - Local Immigration Partnership - Bridges Collaboration Forum

The Local Immigration Partnership held the 5th annual Bridges 2016 Collaboration Forum with over 120 participants from settlement services, refugee sponsor groups, and representatives from employment, health, government, youth service sectors. Kimberley Tull and Ewa Cerda-Llanos facilitated sessions on community-university partnerships to more than 50 participants.

Community Partnerships in the Classroom

Staff and partners share their experiences as well as the campus' community development approach with U ofT Scarborough undergraduate students. The classroom presentations focus on and spark discussion on how to incorporate the knowledge of community-university partnerships into what is taught in the classroom, demonstrating the benefits of partnerships and diverse knowledge sets.

Social Planning and Community Development

Taught by Professor Susannah Bunce, topics in this course include community development and local organizations, partnerships with formal institutions, presented by guest speakers Kimberley Tull and Ewa Cerda-Llanos. The course provides a learning space that encourages exploration, discussion and debate, starting with exploration of students' own histories and engagement with their community.

Introduction to Community Music-

Presented by Professor Lynn Tucker, this course encourages exploration, and discussion, starting with exploring students' own histories and engagement as music makers and engagers. Guest speakers from the community engagement team discussed community development, local organizations and how to engage in formal partnerships, with eight undergraduate students. The final community music project included a site visit to Chartwell Guildwood Retirement Residence and a performance for about 40 seniors, with audience engagement. The students modeled their project on the U ofT Scarborough-KGO community-university reciprocal learning partnership approach.

The Great Scarborough Mash

Up: People, Place, Community, Experience: Professor Susannah Bunce presents an overview of the community-university partnership model and examines existing systems of power and privilege. Thirty students attended this class, which also featured guest speakers Karen Cook from the East Scarborough Storefront, and U ofT Scarborough community development and engagement staff Melanie Blackman and Kimberley Tull.

In Closing

U ofT Scarborough moves away from traditional models of public service in which faculty and students are involved in the community for charitable reasons, pursuing a community engagement model that engages and develops civic agency and capacities of everyone involved. As an anchor institution, our strategic activities range from cross-disciplinary initiatives, to partnerships with diverse community-based experts to co-created spaces and economic opportunities in the city and surrounding region. Throughout this process, we seek to pool the expertise and energies of our faculty, staff, and students with partners from across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors for the betterment of our Scarborough.



To find out how you or your
organization can **get involved**
please visit

www.utsc.utoronto.ca/partnerships



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO
SCARBOROUGH