



ANNUAL REPORT

2025
2026



**STUDENT
POWERED**

**Find out where BUSU
New Student Centre
is Headed next**

**BUSU Events have
a Year of Record
Turnout – How BUSU
brought campus to life**

**Clubs up 15% - A year
of unstoppable growth**



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PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Dear Badgers,

As I reflect on this past year, I keep coming back to the moments that defined our experience as a student community. From large-scale events to everyday interactions, this year was shaped by a shared commitment to improving the student experience at Brock.

We kicked things off with an unforgettable BadgerFest, highlighted by the SomeKinda R&B Festival, where we provided 2000 free tickets and transportation for Brock students. It was more than just an event. It was a chance for students to come together, build community, and start the year feeling connected.

This year, I listened closely to what students were asking for, and what I heard consistently was a need for commitment. Commitment to advocacy, to transparency, and most importantly, to representing the student voice. That expectation shaped how I approached this role every single day. It meant being present at events, engaging in meaningful conversations, and stepping into challenging spaces to advocate for students at all levels.

Throughout the year, connecting directly with students remained one of the most important parts of my role. Whether through speeches at Smart Start, Brock Cares Day, and New Student Welcome and Academic , or through volunteering at events, I had the opportunity to listen, support, and better understand what matters most to our community.

This year, we saw more partnerships between BUSU and student clubs at large-scale events, creating opportunities for clubs to engage with students and showcase the important role they play in campus life. By increasing their visibility, we were able to foster stronger connections between students and the communities available to them on campus. At the same time, we worked to highlight student support services by sharing information on what they offer, why they matter, and how to access them, with the goal of reducing stigma and ensuring students feel empowered to seek support when they need it.

This role challenged me in ways I could not have anticipated, and it pushed me to grow as both a leader and a person. I am proud of the progress we have made, especially in strengthening advocacy, increasing transparency, and ensuring that student voices are heard.

To every student who shared their thoughts, attended an event, or trusted me to represent them, thank you. It has been an incredible honour to serve you.

With gratitude,
Fiona Seabrook
President, Brock University Students' Union



GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Dear Brock University Undergraduate Students,

Each year BUSU has one goal, to offer students the best student experience possible.

We knew heading into the 2025/26 academic year, BUSU would look slightly different to students. With changes planned for the demolition of the new Student Center, we focused on keeping campus life as smooth as possible, with little to no interruption to daily life.

The BUSU team started the process of moving Isaac's out, and into its new home within Union Station. Isaac's Express launched in September 2025 with students enjoying the same meals they have come to love, but in a slightly different setting.

BUSU events took on a new home in various locations on campus. Residence 8 quickly became the BUSU hub for our events, hosting Tuesday Trivia, Pottery Painting, Drag Shows, Comic Con and Crafting events.

BUSU Clubs grew 15% this year, putting clubs at the highest growth rate in BUSU history.

With campus life secured, we focused our time to ensure the new Student Centre project continues to move forward. The Brock University Students' Union has obtained the demolition and building permits from the City of St. Catharines, once we secure a legal agreement, Brock University will ask the Brock University Board of Trustees to approve the project that will be completed in three phases.

Phase One of the Student Centre will be a total of 47,576 sq. ft of brand-new space for students. Housing the new and improved Isaac's restaurant, BUSU events, as well as study and lounge spaces. Once the construction of Phase One is completed, BUSU offices will move in.

Phase Two construction will consist of renovating the current BUSU office space. A total of 11,550 sq. ft of space will be renovated into a new club house for students to meet and grow as club leaders.

Once Phase One and Two are completed, the entire project will be attached to the current Union Station space, and a completion of Phase Three will give students a total of 59,126 sq. ft of new student focus space on campus. BUSU hopes that demolition can begin this summer.

I have had the pleasure of serving as General Manager of BUSU for eight incredibly rewarding years, and with the positive movement forward with our new Student Centre, it is time for me to step aside and turn the Student Centre project over to the team who will construct the facility.

It has been a privilege to work alongside such dedicated students, staff, and partners, and I am deeply proud of what we have accomplished together.

BUSU is more than just a student union; it is a place where students grow, learn, and discover their potential, and I am truly grateful to have been part of that journey.

I am pleased to welcome our incoming General Manager, Christian Wiley who I know will bring fresh perspective, energy, and leadership to the organization.

It has been a rewarding eight years. I look forward to visiting the new Student Centre upon completion. Badgers, it has truly been the best student experience these past eight years, and I thank you all for it.



Robert Hilson

Robert Hilson,
General Manager

hello

BADGERS





WHAT IS BUSU?

The Brock University Students' Union (BUSU) is a non-profit organization that represents and supports all undergraduate students at Brock. Since 1970, BUSU has been dedicated to enhancing student life by delivering essential services like affordable public transit and comprehensive health and dental coverage. BUSU also provides on-campus employment, organizes events year-round, and supports 164 student run clubs – creating countless opportunities to connect, grow, and thrive.

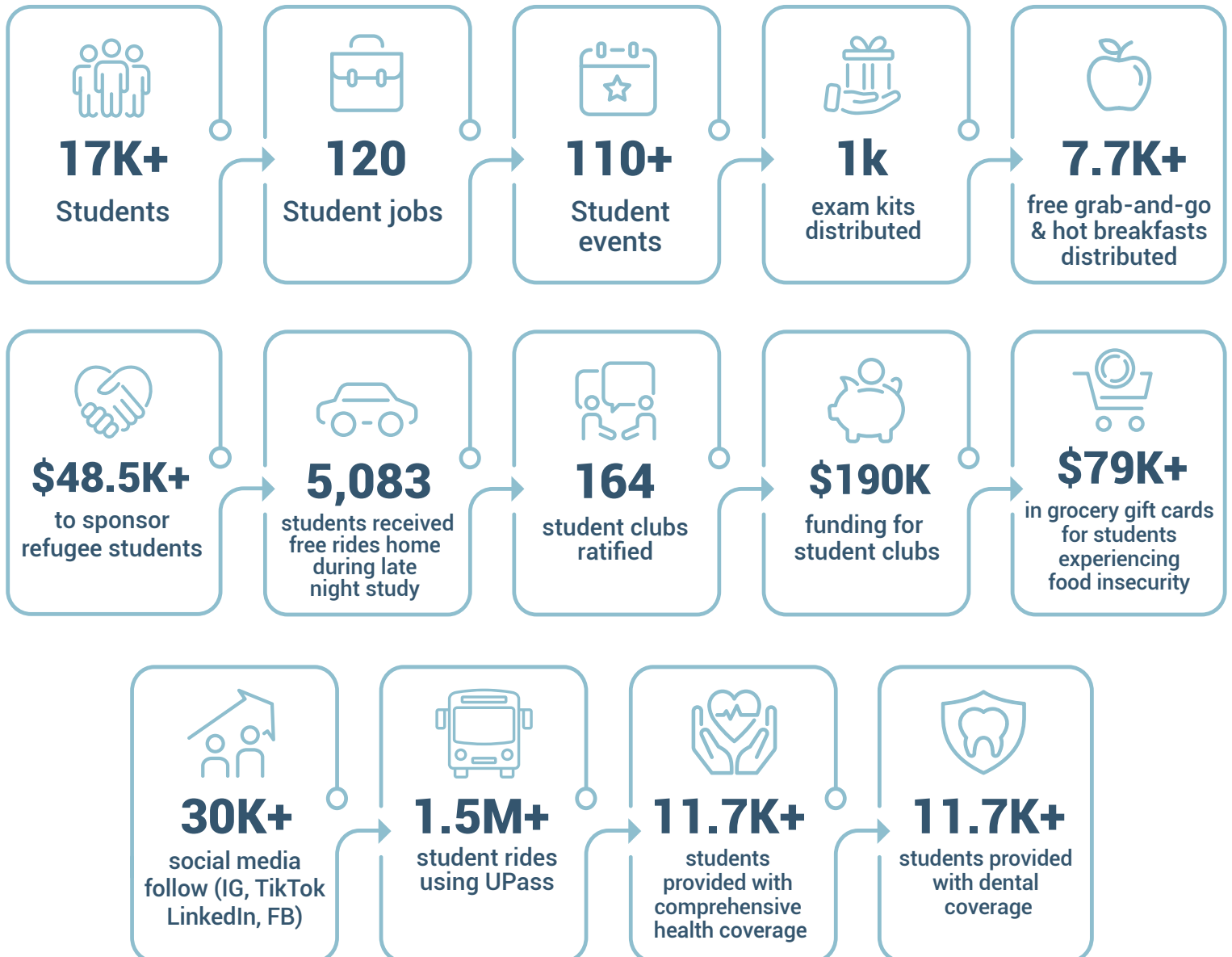
WHO IS BUSU?

BUSU is made up of student leaders, your classmates, and peers working together to make the Brock experience the best it can be. BUSU is student-driven and student-led – which means YOU are BUSU. It's your voice, your ideas, and your community shaping the student experience every day.

WHAT DOES BUSU DO?

At BUSU, we're all about building the ultimate student experience. We offer hundreds of on-campus jobs for students, fund and support 164 student run clubs, and plan engaging events all year long. BUSU also ensures students have access to vital services – from health and dental coverage to advocacy at every level of the university and government. Whether it's through resources, services, or representation, we're here to support you through every step of your Brock journey.

BUSU SUPPORT BY NUMBERS



25 / 26

BUSU EVENTS

The BUSU Events Team continued to strive for unique and adaptive programming to suit the needs of the students. Bringing back events such as Fall Carnival, Night Market, Ice Skating and introducing new events such as Comic Con, Pilates and Matcha, and the Get Crafty series. With over 100 events for the students to attend, there was something for every Badger.





FEATURED EVENTS

BadgerFest

BadgerFest is the first, weeklong event BUSU hosts each year to welcome new and returning students. This year BadgerFest took place from Aug. 30 to Sept. 6 in various locations on campus and included the SomeKinda Festival, The Badger Show with Shaun Ferguson, Sexy Bingo, and more!

- **Saturday Aug. 30 & Sunday Aug. 30**
BadgerFest at SomeKinda R&B Festival
- **Monday Sept. 1**
The Badger Show with Shaun Ferguson
- **Tuesday Sept. 2**
Community Fair and Sexy Bingo
- **Wednesday Sept. 3**
Community Fair and Movie Night Under the Stars
- **Thursday Sept. 4**
Get Crafty with BUSU: Pottery Painting
- **Friday Sept. 5 & Saturday Sept. 6**
BadgerFest Goes to Misty City Music Festival

Fall Wellness Week

BUSU's Wellness Week gives students a chance to kickback, de-stress and have some fun during the high stress times of the semester. The Fall Wellness Week took place from Nov. 4 to 7.

- **Tuesday Nov. 4**
Puppy Yoga & Tuesday Trivia
- **Wednesday Nov. 5**
Get Crafty with BUSU: Pottery Painting & Render This
- **Thursday Nov. 6**
Disney Karaoke Night



Frost Week

Frost Week kicked off the new winter semester, welcoming new and returning students to campus. Events took place from Jan. 6 to 15 and included Ice Skating, Sexy Bingo, Get Crafty With BUSU: Vision Board Making, and more!

- **Tuesday, Jan. 6 & Jan. 13**
Tuesday Trivia
- **Wednesday, Jan. 7**
Ice Skating & Sexy Bingo
- **Tuesday, Jan. 13**
Hot Breakfast
- **Wednesday, Jan. 14**
Get Crafty With BUSU: Vision Board Making

Winter Wellness Week

BUSU's Winter Wellness Week took place March 3 to 5. The events team partnered with Brock departments and BUSU clubs to provide a week filled with events for students to destress, unwind and have fun. The week-long festival was designed to support students with their physical and mental health journeys and provide fun and relaxation during a time of high stress in their academic calendar. Wellness Week events included:

- **Tuesday Mar. 3**
Tuesday Trivia
- **Wednesday Mar. 4**
Pop-Up Pantry & BUSU Comic Con
- **Thursday Mar. 5**
Mat Pilates and Matcha



Free Food Events

BUSU hosted 20 free food events throughout the year. These events aligned with the Food First program. Some of the free food events included:

- **Wednesday Sept. 17**
Free Hot Dogs
- **Thursday Oct. 30**
Free Perogies
- **Wednesday Nov. 12**
Free Sandwich Bar
- **Thursday Nov. 20**
Nacho Games Night
- **Tuesday Nov. 25**
Free Pasta Bar
- **Tuesday Dec. 2**
Free Poutine
- **Tuesday Feb. 3**
Free Drop-In Soup
- **Thursday Feb. 12**
Free Burgers
- **Wednesday Mar. 11**
Free (Late Night) Taco In A Bag
- **Wednesday Mar. 25**
Free Drop-In Salad Bar

Get Crafty with BUSU events

Crafting events showed to be one of the in demand events on campus. BUSU events team introduced more chances for students to be creative on campus.

- **Get Crafty with BUSU: Drop-In Painting**
- **Get Crafty with BUSU: Pumpkin Carving & Painting**
- **Get Crafty with BUSU: Ornament Making**
- **Get Crafty with BUSU: Bracelet Making**
- **Get Crafty with BUSU: Planting & Painting**



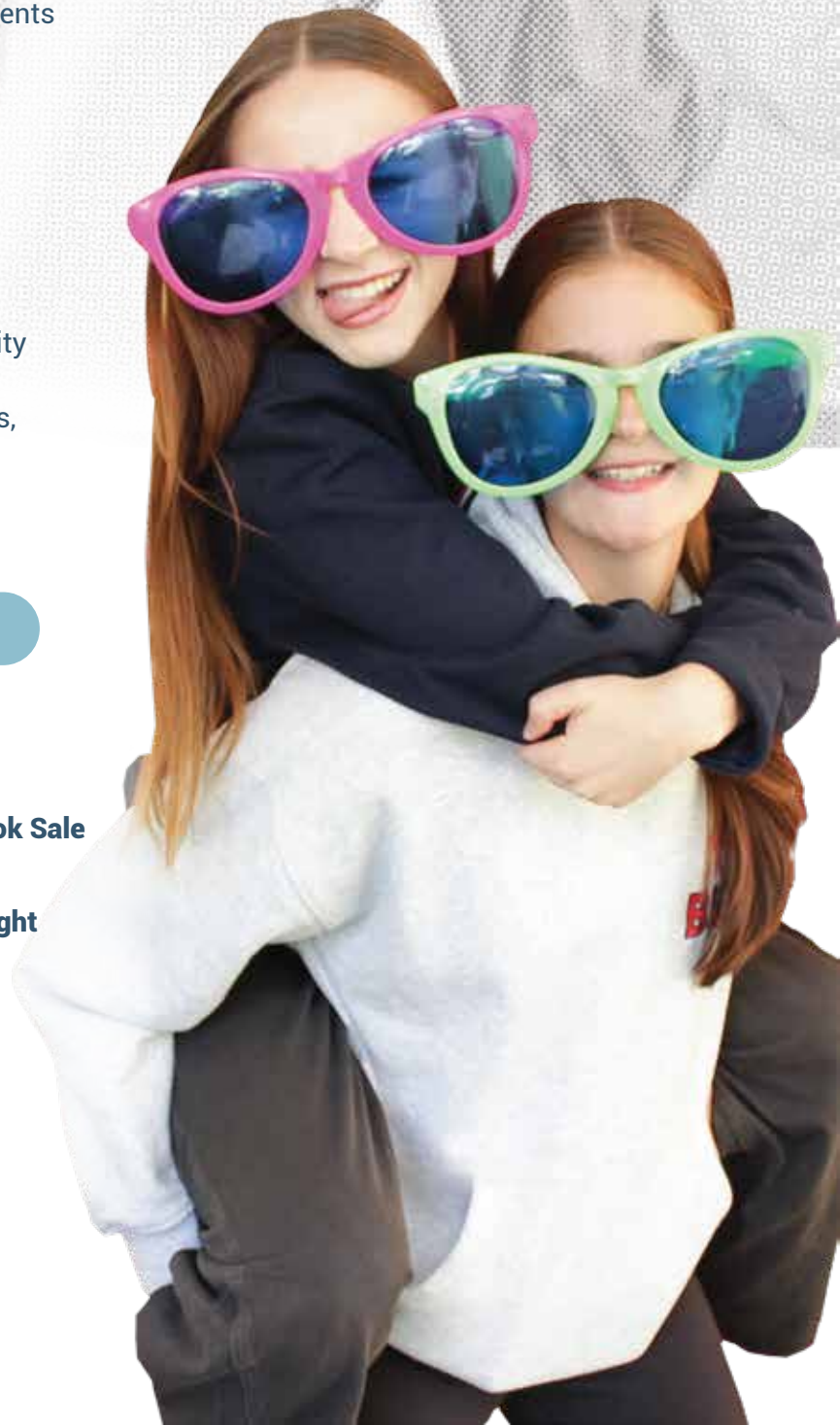
Club Collaboration Events

The events team collaborated with several BUSU clubs this year. Some of the club collaborations included:

- **Night Market**
BIPOC Collective, Caribbean Association, Chinese Students and Scholars' Association, East African Students Community, Filipino Students Association, Ghanaian Association, Global Bites, Pakistani Students Association, South Asian Women's Society, Sri Lankan Students Association and Tamil Students Association
- **Ice Skating**
Winter Club
- **LEGO-Gram: Flower Building Event**
LEGO Club
- **Mat Pilates & Matcha**
Women in Self Defense
- **March Free Hot Breakfast**
Nigerian Student Association at Brock University
- **BUSU Comic Con**
Pokémon Club, Horror Club, Esports, Miniatures, BrockU MtG, and Clash Club

BUSU Events Continued

- **BUSU goes to the Blue Jays**
- **Poster Fair**
- **Food First "Read 'Em to Feed 'Em" Mystery Book Sale**
- **Games Night at MIWSFPA**
- **Karaoke Night: Halloween Night and Disney Night**
- **Drag Brunch with Macy Manolo**
- **Pizza and Politicians**
- **Drag Makeup Workshop**
- **Fashion and Drag Show**





BUSU CLUBS

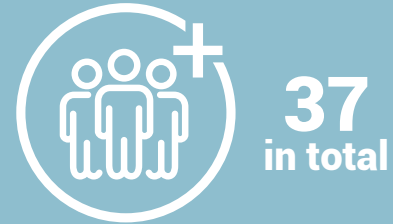


BUSU CLUBS HAS GROWN 15% IN 2026!

The clubs have truly outdone themselves in creating inclusive spaces and events for all Brock students. This year, there were 164 BUSU ratified clubs, with 37 new additions, such as the Brock Women in Self Defense, Brock Pre Dental Club and Brock Global Bites. For the fourth year in a row, the Clubs team, in partnership with BUSU Events, organized and hosted both Carnival and the Night Market. Additionally, this year introduced a brand-new event, Comic Con. These events not only provided a fun experience but also highlighted the incredible clubs we have on campus.



NEW CLUBS



- Brock Accessibility Association
- Brock Averroes Discourse Society
- Brock BIPOC Law Society
- Black Future Lawyers Brock Chapter
- Brock's Black Nursing Students' Association
- Brock Serbs
- Brock University Chinese Students' and Scholars Association
- Brock Clash Club
- Brock Colouring Kettle Club
- Brock University Creators Club
- Brock Dermatology Society
- Brock Diyan Herran
- Brock Economics Students' Association
- Brock Engineering Society
- Brock Global Bites
- Brock Global Medical Brigades
- Brock Golden Badgers
- Brock's Hispanic and Latin American Club
- Indus BrockU
- Brock Medical Ethics
- Medicine4Youth – BrockU Chapter
- Brock Needle and Thread Society
- Brock Outdoors Club
- Brock University Poetry Society
- Brock Pre Dental Club
- Brock Punjabi Association
- Brock U Run Club
- Brock University Sanatan Student Association
- Student Christian Movement at Brock
- Students for Justice in Kashmir Brock
- The Brock University Chapter of Catholic Christian Outreach Canada
- The Citizens Foundation Brock
- Brock University Urban Development Club
- Women in Science and Engineering Club at Brock
- Brock Women in Computer Science
- Brock University Women in Self Defense
- BrockU Young Liberals

CLUB EVENTS

Throughout the year, student clubs hosted approximately 1,600 meetings and events, providing students with opportunities to connect with peers, explore their interests, build new skills, and enjoy campus life. The BUSU Clubs Team also organized events such as Subs and Clubs, allowing students to learn about the 164 active clubs and meeting the executives and members in them.





CLUB AWARDS

Clubs team was excited to host the Clubs Year End Dinner this year at Residence 8 Atrium. It was a night to celebrate all the amazing work each club has achieved throughout the academic year!



Clubs nominate themselves or other clubs for awards and the winners were picked by the Clubs Advisory Committee (CAC). The awards and winners for the 2025/26 school year were:

- **Best New Club - Women in Self Defense**
- **Best Marketing Award - Black Students' Association**
- **Community Engagement Award - Relay for Life**
- **Community Impact Award - Accessibility Association**
- **Academic / Well-Being Award - Concurrent Education Student Association**
- **FUNdraising - Brock Dance**
- **BUSU Spirit Award - LEGO Club**
- **Inclusion Award - Colouring Kettle Club**
- **Event of the Year - Taste Film - Global Bites**
- **Club of the Year - Filipino Students Association**

Congratulations to all the nominees and winners!!



BROCKTV

In 2025/26, working alongside BUSU's marketing team, BrockTV created diverse marketing content, including event promotional videos, recaps, and informative pieces about BUSU's various initiatives. To promote BUSU clubs, BrockTV produced event recap videos, club promos and clubs training materials.

In addition to this, BrockTV continued to produce original content. Noteworthy productions included Kitchen Scramble, a new series that focuses on giving students budget-friendly recipe suggestions, and Hideaways, an engaging game of hide-and-seek that showcases the BUSU bus pass initiative to help students get comfortable with the Niagara Transit system. BrockTV also produced a variety of short form original content such as Hallway Holdups, Clubs with Cam, Name Drops at Brock, Summer in Niagara and You Gotta Know.



The team also elevated its partnership with Brock Sports, creating over 50 videos to feature Brock student athletes and their home games. Furthermore, BrockTV continued to upgrade its broadcasting of Brock Badgers home games, enhancing production quality with improved graphics and in-game video content. With over 100 broadcasts this year, the team covered signature events like the Steel Blade Classic and Paint the Meridian Red, as well as the Quigley Cup OUA women's volleyball championship game.

2025/26 was BrockTV's 20th anniversary, so the 'Season 20' initiative was created to showcase its interesting history of content and successful alumni. One element of this campaign, the Season 20 Throwback series, was incredibly successful with one video gaining over 3.1 million views, and another over 50k views.

BrockTV's annual Render This Film Festival was a resounding success yet again, featuring an expert judging panel and over \$950 in prizes for student film makers. A total of nine student films were screened at The Film House at the First Ontario Performing Arts Centre in Downtown St. Catharines.

Throughout the year, BrockTV provided invaluable hands-on experience to its 19 student staff members with support from over 30 student volunteers who assisted on sports broadcasts.



BrockTV Honoured for Best Webcast Production at OUA Banquet

BrockTV Media was recognized with the C.H.A.M.P. Award for Best Webcast Production at the 2024–25 Ontario University Athletics (OUA) Honour Awards banquet, held May 14 at Queen's Landing in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

BUSU's student-run media team produced over 100 broadcasts this semester, continuing to elevate the quality of live university sports coverage. Their efforts included multicamera setups, instant replay, sideline reporting, and sport-specific graphics, which significantly improved the viewer experience.

"This is a huge honour for our team at BrockTV," said video manager Joel Antony. "We're incredibly proud of our student staff and volunteers for their continuous effort and dedication."

Among this season's highlights were the OUA Women's Lacrosse Championship, streamed with multiple camera angles and a top-down view, and the Wrestling Canada Lutte U SPORTS Invitational Championships, where BrockTV streamed four mats simultaneously on CBC Sports' YouTube channel.

BROCK TV BY NUMBERS



19

Student Staff



30+

Student Volunteers



200+

Videos Created



100+

Livestreams

SERVICES & PARTNERSHIPS

BUSU recognizes that students have unique needs while navigating their tertiary years. For the 2025/26 year, BUSU and its partners provided students with services, support, savings, resources, and information to ensure they have the best student experience possible.



Community Fair

Each September BUSU hosts Community Fair as part of BadgerFest. The two-day fair hosted over 5,000 Brock community members. With more than 130 clubs and over 40 vendors, including BUSU and Brock services, the fair was a chance for new and returning students to connect with student clubs and learn about the student union, Brock, and community resources that are available to them while attending university. This year, we brought back live music and special performances from Misty City Music Festival, as well as a BBQ hosted by Isaac's.

Food First

BUSU's Food First program aims to address the growing issue of food insecurity among Canadian post-secondary students. In 2025/26, BUSU provided over \$79k+ in grocery gift cards to students in need. They also provided 66 free Grab-n-Go Snack Stations and six free hot breakfast events that supplied 7,700 meals to students. BUSU continues to work with the Brock Graduate Student Association, as well as other Brock community and external partners, to provide free food resources to students.

SERVICES CONTINUED...



Drive Home Program

Each fall and winter semester, the Brock Library provides late night study hours for additional exam preparation and finalization of assignments. As buses are not available at this time, BUSU provides a courtesy drive home program to students staying late. The program is in partnership with transportation company Zoom Zoom. In Fall 2025, BUSU provided rides to 2,608 students, and in Winter 2026 2,475 student rides.

Graduation Photos

Graduation photos continue to thrive as a service students look forward to at the end of their time at Brock University. Studio Nostalgia provides beautiful professional photos for Brock graduates with a focus on a fun and positive experience for students. In January, Studio Nostalgia provided graduation photos at the new Burlington campus in addition to the main campus to accommodate all students. Over 2,300 graduating students had their graduation photos taken with Studio Nostalgia this year. They will continue to provide service to students as we head into the Spring convocation and beyond.

Pop-Up Market

New this year is the BUSU Pop-Up Market, an event hosted monthly in Rankin Family Pavilion. This event provides students the chance to discover and support local small businesses, including fellow student vendors. With over 1,000 students passing through each event, the market creates meaningful opportunities to shop local and connect with the campus community. Proceeds from vendor fees also support the continued growth of the Food First program.

Our Partners

BUSU had 60 community partners visit in 2025/26. These organizations helped fund student events and provided services and discounts exclusively for Brock students. BUSU would like to thank all their sponsors, including the following:

- Parkway Lofts
- TD Insurance
- Student VIP
- Zoom Zoom
- Foundry Lofts
- Niagara Community Legal Clinic
- Brick charging stations
- Studio Nostalgia

Transit

It has been a successful year in student transit.

UPass sticker distribution grew from 9,000 to 10,000 UPass stickers being handed out during the 2025/26 academic year, marking an approximate 11% increase from last year. This totals nearly 1.5 million student public transit rides in the Niagara Region. The increased number of UPass stickers shows the importance for student access to affordable transportation. Students rely on Niagara Transit for getting to classes, attending placements, and easy access to their surrounding community. BUSU's UPass saves students a total of \$452.44 a year on transit rides alone.

Looking ahead, BUSU will fund the same level of NRT service for the spring and summer as last year, despite increased costs. This decision was made in response to strong student feedback emphasizing the importance of consistent transit service year-round. These efforts reflect BUSU's ongoing commitment to making transit more accessible, responsive, and student focused.



EXTENDED HEALTH & DENTAL PLAN

BUSU's health and dental plan, through StudentVIP, offers Brock undergraduate students comprehensive coverage for extended health including prescription medications and dental benefits from Sept. 1 to Aug. 31. Students who already have comparable coverage have the opportunity to opt-out of this fee during the annual opt-out period in September.

During the 2025-26 year, BUSU has been hard at work improving the user experience for students. One of the things students are most pleased with is the digital benefits card, which can be used to save time and money at pharmacies, dental offices, and eligible practitioner's offices. BUSU also improved practitioner coverage by adding Registered Dietitians to the plan. The mental health benefit was also increased to a combined maximum of \$1,000 per year for clinical counsellors, psychologists, psychotherapists and MSW's.

Available through the Medavie Blue Cross app, the digital benefits card stores all the information contained on the user profile and can be downloaded onto any smartphone. Each year after Sept. 1, students can log in and register to gain access to claims history, eligible benefits information, practitioner search, among other tools. The app can also be used in place of the physical card for direct billing to Medavie Blue Cross.



DOWNLOAD THE APP TO:

- 01 View and manage your digital benefits card
- 02 Track your claims history
- 03 Search for eligible practitioners
- 04 Access all your benefit details



FIND MORE INFORMATION AT

brockbusu.ca/healthplan





Niagara Regional Transit underwent major rebranding in 2025! Natalia acquired brand new, updated signs for each of the bus stops in the Brock bus loop at zero cost!

BUS LOOP CHANGES TO ACCOMMODATE NEW STUDENT CENTRE CONSTRUCTION

Natalia reassessed and coordinated adjustments to the main campus bus terminal to accommodate the construction and permanent location of the up-and-coming Student Centre, ultimately motivated to enhance student safety and accessibility. In preparation of the move of the current bus loop, concrete pads have been poured to ensure students have a smooth transition, with zero transportation interruptions.

TRANSPORTATION MADE EASY FOR NEW BURLINGTON CAMPUS STUDENTS!

Brock University opened its new Burlington Campus (BUBC), for in-person classes in September 2025. This new learning facility opened its doors to Brock's Teacher Education and Applied Disability Studies students and faculty. BUBC students can access state-of-the-art instructional science labs, active learning spaces in the arts, and bookable study/research rooms. Natalia Rodrigues-Rana, BUSU Vice-President, University Affairs proactively anticipated Burlington Campus student transit needs, and propose a plan that would benefit BUBC students.

Burlington Transit agreed to provide a significantly discounted Presto pass to all full-time students enrolled at the Brock University Burlington Campus. This opportunity enhanced Brock University student transit accessibility. BUBC students now have unlimited access to local Burlington public transit, making trips between and within Burlington, Hamilton, and St. Catharines more seamless and simpler than ever.



ADVOCACY

BUSU's team of student advocates proudly represents Brock undergraduates on key issues impacting post-secondary education – both within the university and across all levels of government: municipal, regional, and federal.

In the 2025/26 academic year, the advocacy team included:

- Aaditya Gupta, Vice-President, External Affairs
- Natalia Rodrigues-Rana, Vice-President, University Affairs
- Kayleigh Rossetto, Director of Advocacy, Governance and Clubs
- Tinashe Buckenmham Dziva, BUSU Policy Writer

BUSU is also a founding member of the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) – a provincial organization that represents over 150,000 post-secondary students across Ontario. In collaboration with OUSA, BUSU's advocacy team develops strong, student-driven, evidence-based policy recommendations. Every recommendation is thoroughly researched, written, edited, and approved by students – ensuring real student voices are at the centre of every decision.



OUSA WRAP UP



As the academic year comes to a close, The Brock University Students' Union (BUSU) is reflecting on the advocacy work accomplished over the past year with the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) and BUSU Vice-President, External Affairs (VPEA), Aaditya Gupta.

The year kicked off with Aaditya attending the WelCon and StratCon retreat where connections with student leaders from across the province were made and shaped the direction of the year.

Early in the year, the introduction of Bill 33 became a central focus. Aaditya and the Steering Committee began working immediately with OUSA Home Office to respond and ensure student voices were represented. By fall, OUSA launched an email tool enabling students to contact their MPPs about Bill 33, while also conducting campus outreach.

Aaditya contributed to OUSA's Educated Solutions publication on bridging post-secondary education and the workforce, which was shared with MPPs across Ontario. Participating in Steering Committee meetings and governance work, supporting the Annual Action Plan focused on improving advocacy processes, strengthening outreach, and long-term planning.

In November, student leaders met with over 25 MPPs at Queen's Park during the Student Advocacy Conference, advancing priorities such as post-secondary funding, housing, safety, and work-integrated learning.

In January, OUSA submitted pre-budget recommendations calling for increased support for work-integrated learning and measures to maintain affordability, including limiting tuition increases and adjusting OSAP accordingly. This period also included leadership transitions within OUSA, alongside continued advocacy on significant provincial changes, including a \$6.4 billion sector investment and major OSAP reforms. OUSA responded with raising student concerns about affordability and rising debt.

OUSA holds two General Assembly's (GA) each year. One in the Fall and another during the Spring semester. Between the two GA's the following policy papers were passed; Indigenous students, accountability and system vision and mature students, Tuition, ancillary, and incidental fees (BUSU, MSU, and OTSU authored), Student mobility and transfer credits and Artificial intelligence.

While much of this work happens behind the scenes, advocacy and systemic change take time. Progress does not always happen in a day, or even a year. As the academic year concludes, BUSU looks forward to continuing advocacy efforts alongside OUSA.

SEED LIBRARY ANNOUNCEMENT GREEN LEVY

In early 2026, BUSU was happy to join several Brock partners in re-launching the Seed Library. Students, staff and community members will now have access to various fruit, veggie and herb seeds to grow their own produce for free. Participants are encouraged to collect seeds from their produce and donate back to the Seed Library. Happy planting Badgers!

COFFEE CUP RECYCLING

In January 2025, BUSU collaborated with Brock Sustainability to launch the coffee cup recycling stations on campus. Funded by BUSU's Green Levy, 50 recycling stations are now located across campus. From September 1, 2025 – May 1, 2026 we estimate that 3,648lbs of coffee cups will have been diverted from landfills! This is in addition to 710lbs that was diverted during Spring/Summer 2025. Thank you to everyone who uses the stations and properly recycles their coffee cups!



REFUGEE STUDENTS FIND HOME AT BROCK



BUSU is a proud supporter of the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) refugee program. Each academic year, BUSU sponsors one refugee who becomes a Canadian permanent residence and student at Brock.

"Education is a powerful tool," said BUSU Clubs Manager, Chloe Hagemans. "Supporting refugee students in their pursuit of higher education can transform their lives and shape a brighter future."

Hagemans, who coordinates the WUSC program, works alongside each student to better prepare them for their time here in Canada, creating a home for them, and ensuring they feel settled and ready for their new academic journey.

“ Brock University opened the door for me, BUSU made sure that I never walked alone”

-Fatuma Halane

OUSA TEACHING AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE



The Brock University Students' Union (BUSU) is proud to announce Dr. Jianbo Gao, Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry has been named a recipient of the 2026 Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) Teaching Award of Excellence.

Dr. Gao was nominated numerous times by Brock University Students. Students voiced praise for his strong commitment to student success, passion and enthusiasm for teaching, while going above and beyond for students creating a connection that exceeds students' expectations.

"Dr. Gao has inspired me to not just be great but to become one of the best and do something great with my career. He enhances my learning by encouraging me to ask questions and do my own research."
– Anonymous student nomination.

Dr. Gao has voiced a strong and consistent teaching philosophy over his years at Brock University.

"I believe that beyond bridging the gap between textbook knowledge and real-world technologies, I see education as a sincere caring of students and creating all possible opportunities that empower students to grow, to lead, and to innovate. Because our students are not only learners today, but the future leaders and changemakers who will shape our world," said Dr. Jianbo Gao. "It is truly an honor to receive this teaching award –our students deserve just as much credit, as they inspire me every day."

Dr. Jianbo Gao is an Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry and a Chancellor's Chair for Research Excellence at Brock University. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Alberta, after which he conducted postdoctoral research at the U.S. National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). He subsequently served as a Research Associate in the Department of Chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to joining Brock University, Dr. Gao was an Assistant Professor at Clemson University (South Carolina, USA), where he led the Ultrafast Photophysics of Quantum Devices research program.

Dr. Gao's research focuses on renewable energy such as highly efficient and low-cost solar cell development, and novel quantum technology for next generation communications. His work is highly interdisciplinary, operating at the interface of materials physics, materials science and engineering, electrical engineering, and chemistry, with strong emphasis on bridging fundamental ultrafast photophysics to real-world quantum and renewable technologies.

Dr. Gao received his award at OUSA's Partners in Higher Education Dinner (PiHED) Awards Ceremony on April 15, 2026, at Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto.

BUSU extends its congratulations to Dr. Jianbo Gao on this well-deserved honour and recognition.



Praise for Dr. Jianbo Gao

"Dr. Gao has done everything he can to help his students. He brings donuts to the beginning of class almost every day for those students who are hungry, showing that he truly cares about the well-being of his students. He also motivated us to do well on the midterm by providing a Brock hoodie to the top two students who received the highest marks on it!"

"I am nominating this professor because he is a very kind and dedicated teacher who truly cares about his students' success. He shows a lot of determination in the way he teaches and always takes the time to explain concepts clearly. He makes sure that every student understands the material before moving forward. What makes him stand out is his commitment to helping students succeed. He is always willing to answer questions and provide additional support when needed. His encouragement and patience create a positive learning environment where students feel comfortable asking for help. Because of his dedication and the effort he puts into making sure everyone understands the course, he has greatly enhanced my educational experience at Brock."

"Dr. Gao approaches education through a passionate lens, he uses real world examples to explain difficult concepts. What stands out most is that he fosters a truly respectful, student centred learning environment; students are encouraged to participate and ask questions to receive meaningful answers. Not many professors will give students the opportunity to visit their lab, to see how theory is put to practice, however, Dr Gao, hosted a lab tour for students who were interested in growing their understanding of chemistry and academia. Another way Dr. Gao goes above and beyond is by bringing snacks for students during late night lectures who might have had a long day, or not have been able to eat yet. Dr Gao is an excellent educator and well deserving of the OUSA Teaching of Excellence Award."



Fiona Seabrook BUSU President Executive Priorities

At the beginning of my term, I established a set of priorities that were directly informed by student needs and areas where I saw opportunities for growth within BUSU. These priorities included increasing club visibility, improving awareness of student support services, and strengthening transition processes for both club executives and BUSU leadership.

Club visibility was a key focus because of the important role clubs play in fostering community and belonging on campus. I wanted to ensure that clubs were not only active, but also visible and accessible to the broader student body. Similarly, increasing awareness of student support services was critical. Many students are unaware of the resources available to them or unsure of how to access them, which can create unnecessary barriers during already challenging times. I conducted a series of interviews with various support staff to further educate students on the supports available to them. In addition to support services, affordability remained a key concern raised by students. In response, work began on the Student Deals initiative: a pilot project aimed at increasing access to discounts and partnerships for Brock students. This initiative is intended to help reduce everyday costs and improve the overall student experience. While it will officially launch in the upcoming academic year, foundational work completed this year will allow it to move forward and be expanded by future student leadership. Finally, I prioritized improving transition processes to ensure that future student leaders are better equipped with the knowledge and resources needed to succeed in their roles.

These priorities guided my work throughout the year and served as a foundation for many of the initiatives and decisions I was involved in.

Student Engagement

Throughout my term, I made it a priority to be present and engaged within the student community. I addressed students at key moments throughout the year, including Smart Start, Brock Cares Day, and New Student Welcome and Academic Orientation, using these opportunities to share messages about BUSU and the student experience as a whole.

Beyond formal speaking engagements, I remained actively involved in campus events through volunteering and attending BUSU initiatives. Events like BadgerFest and Frost Week created opportunities for students to connect, and being present in these spaces allowed me to engage more informally, listen to student experiences, and better understand their needs.

The President Advisory Committee also provided a dedicated space to hear directly from students. Common themes included affordability, awareness of support services, and a desire for greater transparency, all of which helped shape my priorities throughout the year.

These interactions were some of the most valuable aspects of my role, that reinforced the importance of visibility and approachability in leadership.

Advocacy & Government Relations

Advocacy played a significant role in my presidency, both at the institutional and government levels. I attended the Student Advocacy Conference at Queen's Park and participated in ongoing meetings with over a dozen elected officials, where I brought forward student concerns related to affordability, access to education, student safety, and broader student issues. These experiences allowed me to grow as an advocate and better understand how to effectively represent student voices in political spaces.

Through this work, I contributed to ongoing conversations that will continue beyond my term, helping to build momentum for future advocacy efforts.

Governance, Transparency & Accountability

This year presented challenges within the BUSU Board of Directors, including concerns related to fiduciary responsibilities. These challenges required direct attention and highlighted the importance of strong governance structures and accountability. In response, the Board initiated a governance review, which is currently underway and will continue into the next term. This process includes engaging an external consultant to assess current practices and recommend improvements, with the goal of strengthening governance and rebuilding trust both internally and externally.

Transparency was also a key focus throughout my term. Students expressed a strong desire to better understand where their fees go and how funding decisions are made. In response, I prioritized improving transparency in student fees and club funding so students could better understand where their money is going and how it supports services, programming, and campus initiatives.

Closing Thoughts

Throughout the year, I stood firm on my belief that leadership is about showing up, listening, and acting on what you hear. This role challenged me in ways I didn't expect and pushed me to grow not just as a leader, but as a person. There were moments that were difficult, moments that required me to step outside of my comfort zone, and moments that reminded me why this work matters so much. While there is always more work to be done, I'm proud of the foundation we've built and the progress we've made. I'm confident that the work started this year will continue to grow and support future student leaders in making meaningful change for the Brock student community.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP



BUSU Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is the highest governing body at BUSU. It consists of 13 elected students plus the BUSU President and General Manager who have non-voting seats. The Board received training from industry experts in non-profit governance, legal, and insurance/risk.

Thank you to BUSU's elected Board members:

- Tomas Oviedo
- Irene Leela Charley
- Olivia Rose Gillespie
- Mariam Ben Omrane
- Abdulrahman Al-Naqeb
- Kira Simmons
- Bella Bai
- Kelela Dennis
- Ian Bhimani
- Mentalla Elgerf
- Omar Rasheed
- Yasmin Elgerf
- Fiona Seabrook (non-voting)
- Robert Hilson (non-voting)



THE A TEAM

Our newly re-branded student council, the BUSU Advisory Council, or A-Team, met three times in the 2025/26 year to hear updates from BUSU Executives.

In previous years, the Council was made up of up to 30 elected students. With the new structure, the Council was open for any student to join – the more the better! BUSU spent time recruiting students during Smart Start, BadgerFest, and throughout the year resulting in over 100 students signing up.



The students who attended the Council meetings had an opportunity to join one of five BUSU committees:

- Clubs Advisory Committee
- Elections and Referenda Committee
- President's Advisory Committee
- Vice-President, Student Services, Advisory Committee
- Vice-President, External Affairs, Advisory Committee
- Vice-President, University Affairs, Advisory Committee

The student executive team this year also introduced the Advocacy Volunteer Working Group where members of all advisory committees gathered to catch up on BUSU advocacy efforts and share their feedback on various topics pertaining to student life.

Furthermore, the Council had the opportunity to hear updates on the progress of BUSU's new building project.

BUSU would like to thank all students that took the time to attend meetings.



“This award reflects not just my journey, but the support of mentors, the co-op team, and every opportunity that pushed me out of my comfort zone to grow,” said Aadiya Gupta, BUSU Vice-President, External Affairs.

BROCK UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION VICE-PRESIDENT AADITYA GUPTA NAMED 2025 CO-OP STUDENT OF THE YEAR

The Brock University Students' Union (BUSU) is proud to announce that Vice-President of External Affairs (VPEA), Aadiya Gupta has been selected as one of two recipients of the 2025 Co-op Student of the Year (Undergraduate Category) at Brock University.

Brock University's Co-op Student of the Year Award is the recognition of excellence in job performance, contribution to the Co-op community, academic achievements, and extra-curriculum involvement. The award is based on a student's impact on their co-op employers, co-op education at Brock, and the community at large. Ideal candidates demonstrate passion for their work, perseverance, and a commitment not only to achieving expectations, but to surpassing them, while confronting challenges with a positive attitude.

“Saying that working with Aadi this year as my VPEA has been a pleasure feels like an understatement. His incredible work ethic, paired with a genuine passion for the students he represents, makes him both a powerful advocate and a true champion for student rights. I am honoured to have worked alongside him this year,” said Fiona Seabrook, BUSU President.

“Aadi's dedication to enhancing the student experience is matched by his professionalism, and for that I believe he is very deserving of this award. He has been an exceptional colleague and a true friend to the Brock student community.”

BUSU congratulates Aadi on this well-deserved recognition. Aadiya has shown dedication, perseverance, and hard work throughout his career with BUSU, and has led to this outstanding accomplishment.



SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

General Brock (GB)

General Brock (GB) has continued its upward momentum this year, building on previous successes and once again becoming a vibrant hub for students on campus. The space has seen steady foot traffic throughout the year, with countless students relying on GB as a convenient and welcoming destination between classes. The dedicated student staff have played a key role in this success, consistently delivering high-quality service, maintaining a friendly atmosphere, and ensuring that the Brock community can depend on GB for both great products and a positive experience.

The student-operated Badgers Café and Lounge remains one of the most valued components of the space. It has become a go-to spot where students can settle into study, meet with friends, or take a moment to recharge during busy school days. Over the year, the café has expanded its offerings to better meet student preferences, introducing new specialty beverages and rotating seasonal favourites. With the addition of cappuccinos, espressos, and other staple coffee-house options, the café has further established itself as an essential part of daily life for many students who depend on these options to fuel their academic routines.

Complementing the café, Booster Juice continues to deliver quick, nutritious, and reliable options for students on the go. Its reputation for value and convenience ensures it remains a popular choice throughout the year. Meanwhile, the GB Convenience Store has broadened its selection to include a more diverse range of snacks, reasonably priced treats, and healthier grab-and-go items. These additions help meet the varied needs of students looking for everything from an energy boost to a full quick meal. New features such as a ramen station and ice cream treats have added even more variety, giving students fresh, enjoyable options throughout the school day.

Union Station

Union Station has also had a vibrant year, bolstering its reputation as a multicultural food hub on campus. Bowl'd Up, Ah-So Korea, and Ah-So Sushi offers an impressive mix of international cuisines that appeal both to students seeking adventurous flavours and to those looking for comfort foods that remind them of home. These options support Brock's diverse student body, giving international students familiar tastes while allowing others to explore new dishes in an accessible way. Throughout the year, student staff across these venues have maintained a high standard of service, contributing to an inclusive and welcoming environment for all visitors.

Long-standing favourite Harvey's continues to anchor Union Station with its classic Canadian comfort foods—burgers, poutine, and customizable meals that students rely on for a satisfying, dependable dining experience. The introduction of Union Sammies has added another layer of convenience, providing affordable, freshly prepared sandwiches that quickly became a hit with students who want simple, budget-friendly options. Looking ahead, plans to expand the deli selection promise even greater variety and value for students in the coming year.

Isaac's

This year was one of significant transition for Isaac's, as the venue prepared for its move into the new building. While the traditional restaurant space was closed due to construction, the Isaac's team demonstrated adaptability and commitment by operating a fully functional kiosk within Union Station. Despite the change in environment, the kiosk successfully delivered freshly prepared meals directly from the Chef, ensuring that students could continue enjoying Isaac's quality offerings.

The student staff managed this transition with professionalism and resilience, maintaining strong service while adjusting to a new operational model. Their efforts ensured that Isaac's remained present and accessible during the construction phase. Now, anticipation is high as the team looks forward to moving into a brand-new, modernized space—one that will allow Isaac's to continue its legacy of creating memorable experiences and serving the Brock community for years to come.

Sustainability

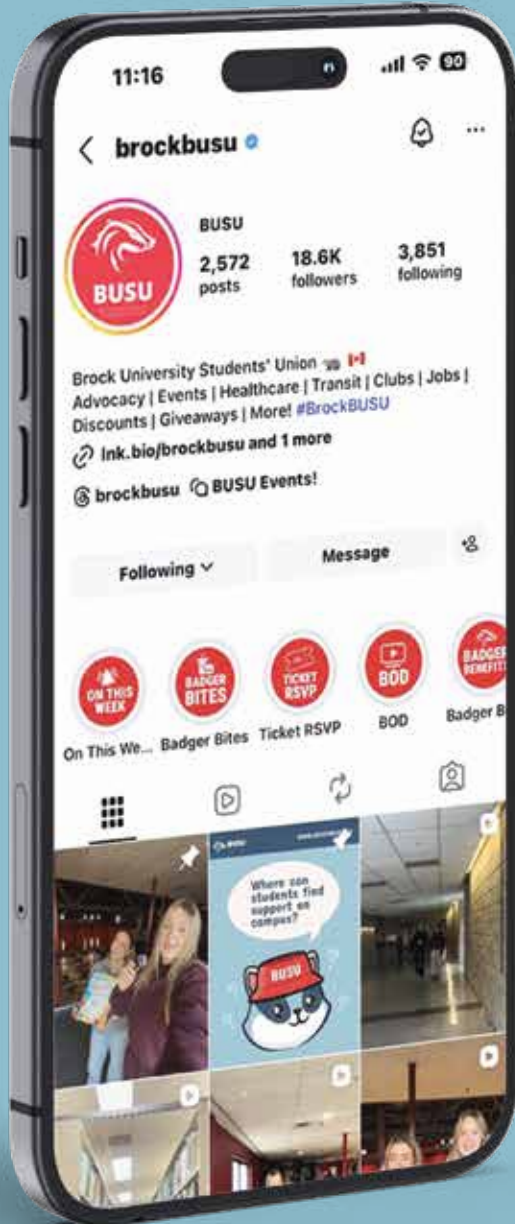
Across all operations, BUSU businesses have continued to prioritize leadership in environmental responsibility. This year's sustainability efforts focused on improving waste-sorting practices across student-run spaces, ensuring that recyclable and compostable materials are properly diverted and reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill. Attention has been given to decreasing coffee cup waste, an ongoing campus challenge. Additionally, BUSU has strengthened its commitment to sustainable events by ensuring all food-service materials—from packaging to utensils—are recyclable or compostable. These steps demonstrate BUSU's dedication to supporting a greener campus and contributing positively to Brock's long-term environmental goals.



MARKETING WRAP UP

BUSU's Marketing team continued this year with strong communications, emphasizing the organization's mission to provide the best possible student experience.

Focusing on listening to students' needs, BUSU created more interactive reels on their social media platforms to start conversations and direct interactions with students.



BUSU's Marketing & Events Team worked to achieve these goals in 2025/26 in the following ways.

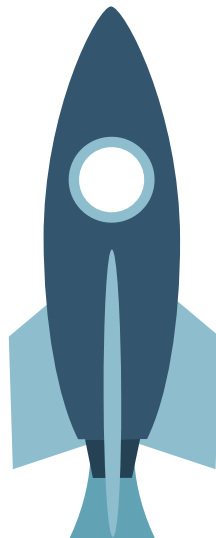
- BUSU's Instagram following grew this year to 18.6K. This is a 14.8 per cent increase from last year.
- BUSU continued to run the first-year engagement campaign to provide valuable information for new students at Brock and connect with them on social media.
- BUSU created stronger community relationships to provide more discounts for students across Niagara.
- BUSU Marketing and events team worked closely with student clubs, providing a chance to participate in BUSU events while offering more engagement across BUSU social channels and website.
- Weekly open office hours continued this year to provide an opportunity for students to connect with their representatives in person.
- 20 news articles were posted to BUSU website about the work of student executives and the student union.
- Bi-Weekly email newsletters were sent to Brock students with events and news updates.
- BUSU created a new series on their YouTube Page to focus on more informative videos to keep students up to date on support services available to them on campus. These videos interact directly with Brock Departments.
- BUSU posted monthly Executive updates to keep the students informed on what their student representatives have been working on.
- BUSU Marketing and Clubs team started working together in ways BUSU Clubs can gain more access and engagement on BUSU social media platforms. This will continue into the 2026/27 school year with the goal of providing Clubs with a platform to market themselves to students.
- BUSU Marketing created more informative reels with the help of BrockTV to ask students questions directly about where their student dollars go and provide insight if they were not aware. These videos will continue and increase over the 2026/27 school year.
- BUSU Marketing created a new job on campus for students. The role of Graphic Design Coordinator will work close with the marketing team providing additional campus jobs, as well as providing a space for students to learn skills outside of their academic responsibilities.

GROWTH IN DIGITAL IMPACT

Between Sept and April, Marketing changed the way we shared content, focusing on quality over quantity. @brockbusu Instagram account, focused on more detailed advertising, making it easier for students to find what they were looking for throughout the year. BUSU Instagram page remains a vital source of information about services, events, and support.

@brockBUSU Numbers

Sept. 1, 2025 – April 1, 2026



Instagram followers 18.6K grew by over 14.8%

Views 5.7M up 1.1k%

Reach 105.5K up 5.3%

Interactions 57.2K up 815.5%

Clicks 15.2K up 76.4%

Tiktok – 1,317 followers up .05%

LinkedIn 877 Followers

BROCKTV'S RENDER THIS FESTIVAL A HUGE SUCCESS!



BrockTV's Render This Film Festival took over the First Ontario Performing Arts Centre last week, November 5 during BUSU's Wellness Week. The event celebrated student creativity and filmmaking, offering Brock students a chance to see their work showcased on the big screen.

This year's festival was one of the most successful yet, with over 150 students in attendance and 14 short films screened.

A panel of Judges including Adrian Thiessen, Interactive Arts & Sciences Professor, Cathy van Ingen, Kinesiology Professor and former BrockTV Video Manager, Matthew Scott selected the top two films of the night with the audience also voting for their favourite film from the evening.

1st Place, Vikktor the Vegetarian Vampire

2nd Place, The Gang Has an Idea

Audience Choice Award, The Haunting of My Heart

The festival continues to serve as a platform for emerging student filmmakers to share their voices, connect with peers, and celebrate the art of storytelling on screen.





STUDENT CENTRE UPDATE

BUSU MOVING FORWARD WITH CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION

BUSU has been working hard this semester to ensure the new Student Centre project continues to move forward. The Brock University Students' Union was proud to announce the new centre back in 2024, marking a significant investment in the future of Brock students experience on campus.

This project thrived on student involvement. BUSU was committed to ensuring that student voices are heard throughout the planning and development process, designing spaces to serve as a hub for student life, services, and the home to a new and improved Isaac's restaurant. This centre has been designed around the students' needs and wants for a new space on campus.

Demolition and Building Permits from the City of St. Catharines have been obtained, and BUSU is actively working with Brock University to develop a legal agreement for the Student Centre project. This mirrors the process that Brock University Students' Union undertook in 1988 for the current Student-Alumni Centre, currently home to BUSU today.

With a total budget of 49.3 million, BUSU is optimistic to launch the next phase this summer.

CONSTRUCTION PHASES

Once the Brock University Students' Union and Brock University can come to a legal agreement, BUSU will ask the Brock University Board of Trustees to approve the project. Once approved, Phase One will begin.

Phase one

Phase One of the project is set to begin this summer, following the successful demolition of the current space. 47,576 sq. ft of new space will serve as social, dining, and gathering spaces for generations of Badgers, with more versatile and modern study spaces, social hubs, and inclusive environments.

Phase two

Phase Two construction will consist of renovating the current BUSU office space. A total of 11,550 sq. ft of space will be renovated into a new club house for students to meet and grow as club leaders.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Once phase one and two are complete, students will enjoy a **total of 59,126 sq. ft** designed to redefine campus life and become a home for Brock's students.

As Brock University continues to grow, this new student centre stands as a testament to the evolving needs of its community. It's a bold step forward; one that promises to shape the future of student life at Brock for generations to come.





FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROJECT, VISIT

www.brockbusu.ca/new-building



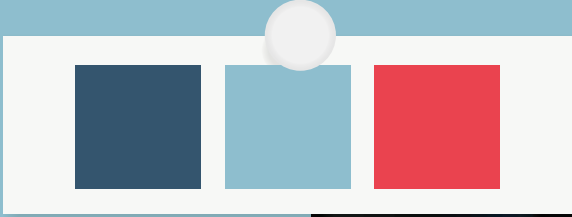


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**STUDENT
POWERED**



*Go
Badgers!*

2025/26



Thank You for a Great Year!



WE ARE YOUR STUDENT UNION











ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

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