

ANNUAL REPORT

24/25

Find Out How
Students Drove
Real Change
This Year

Next-Gen
Student Centre:
What's Coming
& Why it Matters


**STUDENT
POWERED**



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Badgers,

As we approach the final stretch of the academic year, I find myself reflecting on what an incredible journey it's been, and I couldn't be more grateful to have shared it with all of you. With just a few weeks left in my term, I'm still energized by everything we've accomplished together and everything still in motion.

Whether you shared your voice at a student open house, attended an event that brought our campus to life, connected with a club, or simply engaged with BUSU in your own way, your involvement helped shape a year filled with progress, passion, and possibility. From day one, we committed to keeping students at the heart of everything we do, and this year, you showed up.

We kicked things off with an electric BadgerFest and hosted the 60th General Assembly of the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance, welcoming student leaders from across the province. One of the most exciting milestones was accelerating the Student Alumni Centre project, with an architect secured, designs underway, and your feedback front and centre, this long-standing vision is finally taking shape. We also made space for meaningful goodbyes — like our “see you later” to Isaac's. More than just a venue, it's been a home for memories, laughter, and connection. We celebrated it with the send-off it deserved, bringing students and alumni together in true Brock spirit.

Of course, not everything went according to plan. When parking changes were announced just days before the semester started, we adapted quickly and advocated strong. That same drive carried through in our conversations with leaders at all levels of government, pushing for real support on food insecurity, affordable housing, and sector sustainability.

Internally, we stayed focused on making sure student voices were present where they mattered most from participating in policy discussions to sitting on key hiring committees. Thanks to the work of our student senators and campus partners, we saw meaningful wins, including long-overdue updates to the Student Absence Self-Declaration form. The Food First program also grew stronger this year, continuing to support students in need, and we explored new service partnerships to improve the day-to-day student experience.

Academically, Open Educational Resources (OERs) remained a major focus of our advocacy. It was a proud moment to see one of our VPs recognized for their leadership in this space, a reflection of our shared commitment to accessible and affordable education.

And throughout it all, our executive team remained united, driven by trust, care, and the kind of collaboration that makes great things possible. I'm so proud of what we built together, and how we built it.

This year wasn't just about accomplishments, it was about momentum, it was about the energy we created the voices we amplified, and the foundation we laid for what's still to come. Leadership, to me, has never been about being in the spotlight. It's about showing up, doing the work, leaving things better than you found them, and making space for others to rise, even if you're not around to see it all unfold. That's the legacy I've tried to leave behind, not perfection, but progress.

To every Badger who spoke up, showed up, or simply cared: thank you. You've made this year unforgettable. And while my time as your President is almost up, I'm still here — still working — and still grateful, every single day, for the chance to serve you.

With gratitude, pride, and so much Badger love,

Anusha Pahuja

President, Brock University Students' Union



GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Dear Brock Undergraduate Students,

As the 2024/25 year comes to a close, I'm excited to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly impactful year for the Brock University Students' Union (BUSU). From long-term projects to everyday wins, everything we do is driven by one goal: making your student experience the best it can be.

One of the biggest steps forward this year was the continued progress on your new student centre. Thanks to the incredible support from students in the 2023 referendum – where 79.9 per cent voted in favour – we've been hard at work finalizing plans for a state-of-the-art, 45,000 sq. ft. space. With a brand-new Isaac's restaurant and bar, dedicated study and club spaces, and new areas for games and events, this centre will truly be a home for students and a hub for campus life. Construction kicks off this Fall, pending final approval from Brock's Board of Trustees. You can learn more about what's coming on page 41.

We also strengthened our connection with you, growing our digital community to over 17,000 Instagram followers. From major updates to event reminders and student services, our communications helped keep you in the loop – engaged, informed, and involved (more on that on page 39).

Food insecurity continues to be a concern for many students, and this year, we made it a top priority. Together with the Graduate Students' Association, we expanded our Food First program, hosted more free food events, and increased support through grocery gift cards. We also provided more opportunities for alumni, staff, and community members to give back and support students in need.

And that's just scratching the surface. This year, BUSU:

- Employed over 120 students across departments
- Hosted more than 100 events – from returning favourites like Glow Party, Fall Carnival, Night Market and Brock's Got Talent, to new additions like LEGO-Gram, Puppy Social, and Connections Café
- Ratified over 140 clubs and supported more than 1,875 student-led events – the highest clubs' numbers ever!
- Saw BrockTV broadcast over 100 sports games, including playoff games on CBC Sports and the Canada vs. USA Para Hockey Series for Hockey Canada
- Provided over 1.6M rides through the U-Pass transit program
- Continued services like the free Drive Home program, tax clinics, and legal help
- Installed 50 new coffee cup recycling stations in collaboration with Brock Sustainability to support sustainability efforts on campus.

We also celebrated moments of academic and advocacy excellence. Our own Carleigh Charlton, Vice-President, University Affairs, received a prestigious global 2024 Open Education Award for Excellence (p. 31), and Professor Lee Martin was honoured with the 2025 OUSA Teaching Award of Excellence (p. 29).

Each of these accomplishments speaks to what's possible when students lead and BUSU supports with purpose. I'm proud of what we've achieved together and deeply grateful to our student leaders, Board of Directors, and staff for their hard work and dedication.

Here's to another year of growth, connection, and student-driven success.

Warm regards,
Robert S. Hilson
General Manager
Brock University Students' Union



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 100+ student-run clubs – creating countless opportunities to connect, grow, and thrive.

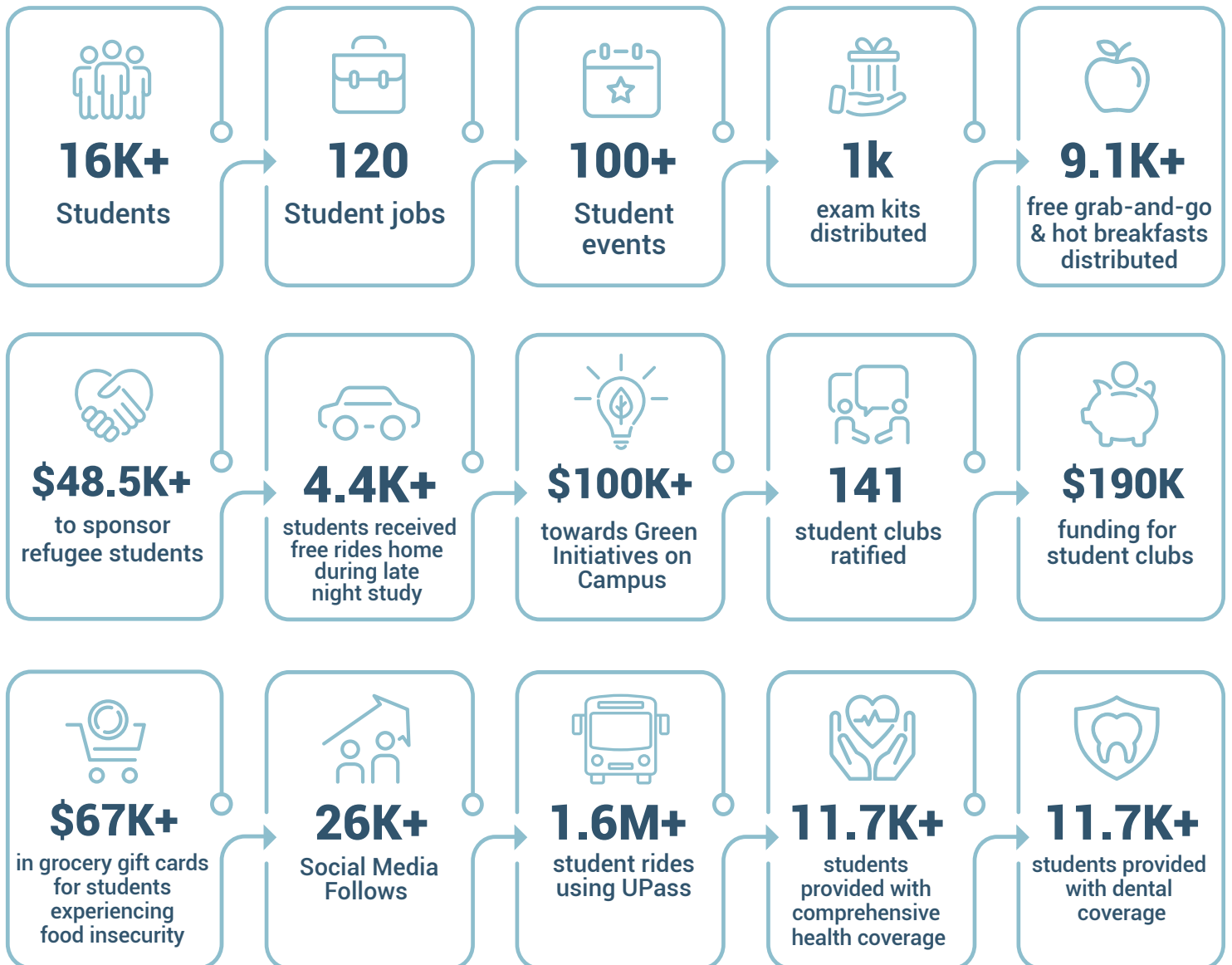
WHO IS BUSU?

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 over 100 student 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



24 25 BUSU EVENTS

The BUSU Events Team continued to deliver innovative and inclusive programming tailored to the evolving needs of students. This year saw the return of beloved traditions like Clubs Carnival, the Night Market, and Ice Skating, alongside exciting new additions such as Connections Café, New Year New Me, and Drag Brunch and Learn. With over 100 events hosted throughout the year, there was truly something for every Badger to enjoy, connect with, and remember.



BADGERFEST

BadgerFest is BUSU's signature welcome week – an exciting, weeklong kickoff to the academic year designed to bring together new and returning students. From Sept. 1 to 6, campus came alive with vibrant events like the Glow Party, Sexy Bingo, the All-Star Entertainment Showcase, and more, hosted in various campus locations.



- **Sunday, Sept. 1**
Glow Party
- **Monday, Sept. 2**
All-Star Entertainment Showcase
- **Tuesday, Sept. 3**
Community Fair & Sexy Bingo
- **Wednesday, Sept. 4**
Community Fair
- **Thursday, Sept. 5**
Karaoke Night
- **Friday, Sept. 6**
Colour Your Calm & Movie Night Under the Stars

FALL WELLNESS WEEK

BUSU's Wellness Week is all about helping students unwind, recharge, and enjoy a break from the mid-semester stress. The Fall edition ran from Nov. 4 to 7, featuring chill, feel-good activities to promote mental wellness and connection.



- **Monday, Nov. 4**
Puppy Yoga
- **Tuesday, Nov. 5**
Tuesday Trivia
- **Wednesday, Nov. 6**
Free Sandwich Bar at MIWSPA
- **Thursday, Nov. 7**
Hot Breakfast, Render This Film Festival, & Brews & Board Games

FROST WEEK

Frost Week marked the start of the Winter semester with cozy, creative, and high-energy events from Jan. 13 to 16. From ice skating to pottery painting, students had tons of ways to reconnect and warm up the cold days.



- **Monday, Jan. 13**
Pottery Painting & Pizza
- **Tuesday, Jan. 14**
Sexy Bingo & Tuesday Trivia
- **Wednesday, Jan. 15**
Ice Skating & New Year, New Me
- **Thursday, Jan. 16**
Hot Breakfast

WINTER WELLNESS WEEK

From March 3 to 7, Wellness Week returned with another round of events focused on helping students relax and thrive during a busy time in the semester. In partnership with various Brock departments, the week offered physical, mental, and social wellness boosts.



- **Monday, March 3**
Puppy Social & Free Poutine
- **Tuesday, March 4**
Tuesday Trivia
- **Wednesday, March 5**
Unwind Wednesday
- **Thursday, March 6**
Hot Breakfast

FREE FOOD EVENTS

Throughout the year, BUSU hosted 18 free food events as part of our commitment to food accessibility through the Food First program. These events brought the campus community together with warm meals and good vibes. Some delicious highlights included:



- **Wednesday Sept. 25**
Free Hot Dogs
- **Wednesday Oct. 30**
Free Ice Cream
- **Monday Nov. 11**
Free Taco Bar
- **Thursday Nov. 14**
Free Mac 'n' Cheese
- **Monday Jan. 27**
Free Waffles
- **Wednesday Jan. 29**
Free Sandwich Bar
- **Wednesday March 12**
Free Nacho Bar
- **Monday March 31**
Free Pasta Bar

ISAAC'S THE LAST CALL



On March 27, BUSU threw one final party at Isaac's before the beloved venue closed its doors for some major changes— and it was one for the books.

Isaac's Last Call brought Brock students together for a night packed with energy, nostalgia, and celebration. Headlined by special guest DJ Migz, the dance floor lit up with high-energy tracks and an electric vibe that kept the crowd going all night long.

Eager students lined up early, with the first 100 guests scoring an exclusive "I was at Isaac's Last Call" t-shirt, making them part of a moment in Brock history. From swag giveaways to Bloom photobooth, students had plenty of ways to make memories and celebrate everything Isaac's has meant to the campus community.

Communication of the event also offered a glimpse into the future, with info about the new BUSU Student Centre (p. 41) — a huge project that will reimagine student spaces, including a brand-new Isaac's.

Isaac's Last Call wasn't just a goodbye — it was a celebration of legacy and a toast to what's coming next.



BUSU EVENTS CONTINUED...

- BUSU goes to the Blue Jays
- Poster Fair
- Paint it your Way
- Halloween: Movie Night and Karaoke Night
- Comic Con
- The Grocery Game
- Money Savers Bingo
- Brock's Got Talent: Heats and Finale
- LEGO-Gram: Flower Building Event
- Connections Cafe
- Drag Brunch & Learn
- Pizza and Politicians
- Drag Show & Pasta Bar
- Plant it your Way
- Tuesday Trivia
- Brews & Board Games





BUSU CLUBS



This year, Brock's student clubs have gone above and beyond in building inclusive, welcoming spaces and hosting vibrant events for the entire campus community. A total of 141 clubs were ratified by BUSU – including 56 exciting new additions like Brock, Paper, Scissors: Journaling Club, BIPOC Sisters in STEM, and the Henna Club. For the third year in a row, the Clubs team partnered with BUSU Events to bring back two of the most anticipated events on campus: Carnival and the Night Market. These events weren't just fun – they showcased the passion, diversity, and creativity of our incredible club community.

NEW CLUBS



- Aviation Enthusiasts
- Badger Cap
- Bangladeshi Students' Association
- BIPOC Sisters in STEM
- Brock Students for Circular Economy
- Brock, Paper, Scissors: Journaling Club
- BrockU NDP
- Cam's Kids: Brock University Chapter
- Caribbean Association
- Chemistry Club
- Christian Orthodox Campus Ministry Association
- Computer Science Club
- Debate Society
- Destiny Group
- Early Childhood Education Student's Association
- East African Student Community
- Electronic Dance Music Club
- Ethics Club
- Future Health Professionals Club
- General Science Student Success Network
- Girls Club
- Henna Club
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship Club
- Islamic Relief Brock
- Japan Society
- Labour Studies Students' Association
- Brock Learner's Association
- LIFT Church
- Masters of Pixels Game Development Club
- Medicine, Education, and Development, for Low Income Families Everywhere (MEDLIFE)
- Miniatures Club
- motionball Brock
- Moving Image Society
- Nigerian Student Association at Brock University
- Organization of Latin American Students
- Photography Club
- Physics Club
- Pickleball Club
- Pokémon Go Club
- Pony Brock
- Psychology and Beyond
- Quizbowl Club
- SARV - Iranian Graduate Association
- Seva at Brock
- Skateboarding Club
- Smash Club
- Sociology and Criminology Students' Association
- Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights
- Strength Club
- Tea and Culture Club
- The Apostolic Fellowship
- Travel Association
- Vision Health Network
- Womens Health Associates
- World Cultures Club



CLUB EVENTS

Over the past year, student clubs hosted an impressive 1,875 events – offering endless opportunities for students to connect, discover new interests, build skills, and just have fun. BUSU's Clubs Team also organized dedicated events to help students explore the 141 active clubs on campus and connect with passionate club members from every corner of the community.





CLUB AWARDS

The Clubs Team was thrilled to host this year's Clubs Year-End Dinner at Union Station – a special evening dedicated to celebrating the incredible accomplishments of our clubs throughout the academic year.

Clubs had the chance to nominate themselves or others for a variety of awards, with winners selected by the Clubs Advisory Committee (CAC). It was a night filled with recognition, reflection, and community spirit!



The awards and winners for the 2024/25 school year were:

- Rising Star - Travel Association
- Community Engagement Award - Best Buddies
- Best Marketing Award - Winter Club
- Fundraising Award - Relay for Life
- BUSU Spirit Award - Lego Club
- Community Impact Award - Muslim Students' Association
- Diversity and Inclusion Award – Pride
- Religious and Faith Award - Intervarsity Christian Fellowship
- Academic and Well being Award - Black Students' Association
- General Interest and Arts Award - Brock, Paper, Scissors: Journaling Club
- Most Active Club - Japan Society
- Club Event of the Year - Grand Iftar
- Club of the year - Filipino Students' Association

Pop up – New Awards for this year

- Best Marketing Award
- Community Impact Award
- Diversity and Inclusion Award
- Religious and Faith Award
- Academic and Well being Award
- General Interest and Arts Award



Congratulations to all the nominees and winners!!



BROCKTV

In 2024/25, working alongside BUSU's marketing team, BrockTV created diverse marketing content, including event promotional videos, recaps, and informative pieces about BUSU's various initiatives. In addition to this, BrockTV continued to produce original content. Noteworthy productions included the return of The Brock Bachelor for its fifth season, alongside engaging documentaries like *Against All Odds*, which showcases the unique stories that are found in the Brock Badgers community with themes surrounding diversity and inclusion. BrockTV also produced a variety of short form original content such as Hallway Holdups, Sport Spotlights, Clubs with Cam, Badgers Day in the Life and BrockTV Live. BrockTV also worked with BUSU Clubs to produce various event recap videos, club promos and clubs training materials.



BrockTV continued to elevate 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. This year BrockTV also broadcast 19 events at the national and international level, including the Baggataway Cup (Men's Lacrosse), OUA Women's Lacrosse Championships, and the USPORTS Wrestling Championships, some of which were broadcast to CBC Sports. BrockTV was also hired to broadcast the Men's and Women's Para Hockey Series for Hockey Canada against Team USA.

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 FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre in Downtown St. Catharines.

Throughout the year, BrockTV provided invaluable hands-on experience to its 14 student staff members with support from over 40 student volunteers who assisted on sports broadcasts.



14

Student Staff



40+

Student Volunteers



200+

Videos Created



100+

Livestreams

SERVICES & PARTNERSHIPS

BUSU recognizes that students have unique needs while navigating their tertiary years. For the 2024/25 year, BUSU and its partners provided students with services, support, saving, 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 100 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 introduced live music and performances, as well as food vendors.

Food First

BUSU's Food First program aims to address the growing issue of food insecurity among Canadian post-secondary students. In 2024/25, BUSU provided over \$67,000 in grocery gift cards to students in need. They also provided 60 free Grab-n-Go Snack Stations and seven free hot breakfast events that supplied 9,100 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 ZoomZoom. In fall 2024, BUSU provided rides to 1,953 students, and in winter 2025 2,476 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. 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.

Tax Clinic

The BUSU Tax Clinic is a free service for students to help them with their income tax preparation and submission. This year's clinic was supported by Brock University volunteers, who were registered through the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) for income tax submissions. The service supported over 120 students this year.

Our Partners

BUSU had 45 community partners visit in 2024/25. 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:

- TD Insurance
- Parkway Lofts
- Student VIP
- ZoomZoom
- Foundry Lofts
- Niagara Community Legal Clinic
- Brick Powerbank Stations
- Studio Nostalgia



Transit

It has been a successful year in student transit, highlighted by the launch of a streamlined Universal Bus Pass (U-Pass) opt-in/out system that significantly improved operations and service delivery.

The introduction of a more automated system for the U-Pass allowed BUSU to serve students faster and more efficiently. Over 9,000 U-Pass stickers were distributed this year to Brock students, supporting nearly 2 million student public transit rides in the Niagara Region.

Beyond campus, BUSU also played a regional role in shaping transit policy, with BUSU's Vice-President, University Affairs, Carleigh Charlton serving as Vice-Chair of the Niagara Region Transit (NRT) Public Advisory Committee. "We've had very productive conversations around transit accessibility, strategy, and regional needs for students," Charlton said.

Looking ahead, BUSU is working closely with NRT to support their fare unification plans set for mid-summer, which will have an impact on the price of transit fares for the general public. However, BUSU has confirmed it 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.



FlixBus Service Launched at Brock

Students looking for transportation to and from Toronto gained a new on-campus option thanks to a partnership between the Brock University Students' Union (BUSU), FlixBus and Brock University. FlixBus service from Brock's main campus to Toronto officially launched on July 4, operating seven days a week.

"This new service is the result of student leaders and senior administrators working together to improve the campus experience," said BUSU Vice-President, University Affairs, Carleigh Charlton. "Whether heading home to see family in the GTA or to the airport to catch a flight, students at Brock can now enjoy improved accessibility, greater choice and flexibility."



EXTENDED HEALTH & DENTAL PLAN

Brock University students are automatically enrolled in BUSU's health and dental plan through StudentVIP – providing comprehensive extended health coverage from Sept. 1 to Aug. 31. This includes prescription medications, dental care, mental health services, and more. If students already have comparable coverage, they can opt out during the September opt-out period each year.

For 2024/25, BUSU made several improvements to enhance the student experience:

- Increased mental health support: coverage has been raised to \$1,000 per year for services provided by clinical counsellors, psychologists, psychotherapists, and social workers.
- New coverage: registered dietitians are now included under practitioner benefits.
- Digital benefits card: quickly access coverage at pharmacies, dental clinics, and other practitioner offices through the Medavie Blue Cross app – no physical card required.



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

LEARN MORE AT

brockbusu.ca/healthplan



⏻
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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 2024/25 academic year, the advocacy team included:

- Mark Chrabalowski, Vice-President, External Affairs
- Carleigh Charlton, Vice-President, University Affairs
- Kayleigh Rossetto, Director of Advocacy, Governance and Clubs
- Isabella McLaughlin, BUSU Policy Writer

BUSU is also a founding member of the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) – a provincial organization that represents over 160,000 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 draws to a close, the Brock University Students' Union (BUSU) is reflecting on a successful year of advocacy through the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA). From co-authoring impactful policy papers to hosting a major provincial conference right here at Brock, BUSU has played a leading role in championing the student voice across Ontario.

OUSA, a coalition of nine student associations representing over 160,000 undergraduates, holds two General Assemblies (GA) each year where student-authored policy papers are debated, revised, and voted on to shape the organization's official policy library. These policies form the foundation for OUSA's lobbying efforts with Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) at Queen's Park.

In October, BUSU had the honour of hosting OUSA's 60th GA at Brock – coinciding with the University's own 60th anniversary. BUSU's delegation, including Vice-President, External Affairs, Mark Chrabalowski, and Vice-President, University Affairs, Carleigh Charlton, joined peers from across the province to review three critical policy papers: Student Financial Aid, Blue Ribbon Panel Report, and Environmental Sustainability. Through breakout sessions, feedback forums, and formal amendment processes, Brock students helped shape the final versions of these papers, which all successfully passed and were added to OUSA's policy library.

Isabella McLaughlin, BUSU's Policy Writer and a four-time GA delegate, shared her experience from both the fall and spring conferences. "Attending GA is such a unique opportunity to collaborate with student leaders from across Ontario," said McLaughlin. "We're not just discussing student issues – we're writing real policy that will help guide advocacy efforts at the provincial level."

McLaughlin also co-authored the Tech-Enabled Learning policy paper, which passed during the March GA. The paper explores how Ontario's post-secondary institutions can better support students in digital learning environments. "We began working on this policy back in August," she said. "It was incredibly rewarding to see months of research and collaboration culminate in a paper that's now part of OUSA's official library."

Leading up to each GA, BUSU runs an open application process to select student delegates who then participate in intensive training to familiarize themselves with policy topics and develop the skills needed for effective collaboration and debate. During GA, delegates contribute feedback in breakout rooms, propose amendments, and vote in plenary sessions to finalize the policy documents.

In addition to policy work, the GAs featured community-building activities such as a themed karaoke night and a semi-formal dinner to celebrate both OUSA and Brock's milestone anniversaries.

With the passing of four new policies this year and continued engagement in provincial advocacy efforts, BUSU's involvement in OUSA remains a cornerstone of its mission to elevate the student voice.

Students interested in joining next year's delegation or learning more about OUSA are encouraged to visit www.ousa.ca or reach out to BUSU's Vice-President, External Affairs, at vpea@brockbusu.ca.

BREWING A GREENER CAMPUS



Students, staff, and faculty at Brock now have a greener way to dispose of their daily coffee cups thanks to a collaborative effort between Brock University Students' Union (BUSU) and Brock's Sustainability office.

In a major win for student-led sustainability efforts, BUSU's green levy has funded the installation of specialized coffee cup disposal bins at key locations across campus. These new bins are designed to reduce coffee cup waste and support Brock's commitment to waste diversion and environmental stewardship.

Instead of tossing used coffee cups in the trash or mistakenly into recycling bins, campus community members are encouraged to use the new units. Each bin includes three distinct compartments: one for lidless empty cups, another for recyclable plastic lids, and a third chute for any remaining liquids. This system makes it easier than ever to dispose of coffee cups responsibly.

While coffee cups can't be recycled conventionally due to their plastic linings, they can be processed as part of Brock's organic waste stream. Davidson Environmental, the University's waste collection partner, collects the used cups and uses a contamination separator to remove non-organic materials.

The result is a nutrient-rich organic slurry that's sent to Escarpment Renewables, where it undergoes anaerobic digestion. This eco-friendly process breaks the material down into a fertilizer for local farms and creates renewable energy by generating electricity from excess natural gas produced during decomposition.

“BUSU is proud to support initiatives like this that reflect our students' values and help build a more sustainable campus,” said BUSU President, Anusha Pahuja. “This project is a testament to the power of how student-led funding can directly improve and create a lasting impact for both the Brock community and the environment. So next time you finish your latte or tea, don’t toss your cup in the trash – look for one of the new disposal bins and help turn your coffee break into a cleaner, greener future.”

REFUGEE STUDENTS FIND HOME AT BROCK



The Brock University Students' Union (BUSU) is proud to continue its strong support for the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) Student Refugee Program – an initiative that changes lives through access to higher education.

Each academic year, BUSU sponsors one refugee student, welcoming them into the Brock community and supporting their journey as they become permanent residents of Canada and full-time students at Brock University.

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

Villers coordinates the WUSC program at Brock and works closely with each sponsored student. From preparing for their arrival to helping them adjust to life in Canada, her goal is to ensure every student feels supported, welcomed, and ready to succeed in their new academic home.

Over the past two years, three students – John Chol, Patrick Dhol, and Sallah Willson Kenedy – have been sponsored through the WUSC program at Brock. Each brings a powerful story of hope, determination, and transformation.

“My life in Canada has been a profound transformation. The sense of safety and stability here is a stark contrast to the challenges I faced in my home country,” said Ahmed Ibrahim Sheik, a 2022 WUSC student. “During my time at Brock University, I found a welcoming community that celebrates diversity, providing not only top-tier education but also unique employment opportunities.”

OUSA TEACHING AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE



The Brock University Students' Union (BUSU) is proud to announce that Faculty of Education Professor Lee Martin has been named a recipient of the 2025 Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) Teaching Award of Excellence.

"Teaching is not about filling minds with information but about igniting curiosity, nurturing confidence, and empowering students to believe in their own potential," said Martin.

Professor Martin was nominated multiple times by his students, with submissions highlighting his dedication, inspiration, kindness, and humour in the classroom. His impact extends beyond academics, shaping students both personally and as future educators. Known for his engaging teaching style, Martin consistently finds innovative ways to make learning enjoyable.

"This award is not just a recognition of my work – it is a testament to the brilliance, resilience, and passion of the students who inspire me every day. Through them, I am able to support and empower children across the country. I am forever thankful for this," he said.

A Brock alumnus, Martin graduated from the Faculty of Education in 2012. After spending 13 years teaching with the District School Board of Niagara (DSBN), he returned to Brock as a professor. Throughout his career, he has received several accolades, including the OTIP Beginning Teacher Award (2016), the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence in STEM (2018), and the Brock Faculty of Education Distinguished Graduate Award (2020).

Beyond his teaching career, Martin is also the founder of Computers4Change, a charity that has raised over \$250,000 to provide resources for schools across Canada.

OUSA formally recognized the 2025 award recipients at the Partners in Higher Education Dinner on April 8 in Toronto.

BUSU extends its congratulations to Professor Martin on this well-deserved honour.





Praise for Professor Martin

"He truly cares about every student, loves what he does, available whenever to talk and offers gift cards/treats during his class for those who need it. Such an inspiration to me as a future teacher!"
- Nomination, Brock University Student.

"He is the best professor I have ever had at Brock. He goes above and beyond for our class and ensures he's engaging while he's teaching. He goes above and beyond to demonstrate how he can teach subjects while dressing up and giving us a laugh. He cares about our wellbeing and brings in food and Tim Horton's gift cards every class in case we are hungry or don't have money to afford dinner. He even attempts to build a positive rapport with us by connecting with our parents and explaining how well we're doing in class. He offers us volunteer opportunities within his schooling community. He details stories about his classroom in elementary school and shares stories where he is continuously going above and beyond to create a safe and welcoming environment for everyone full of inclusion. He's the best!" - Nomination, Brock University Student.

"Lee goes above and beyond. There are not enough words to explain how amazing he is and how much he has positively impacted me both personally and as a future educator. His teaching teaches more than the curriculum that we are mandated to learn. He finds ways to make the content engaging in a way that makes three hours seem like 10 minutes. Not only did my time in his class benefit my level of engagement and overall understanding of various topics surrounding education and the curriculum but being in his class I was able to learn what it truly meant to be a teacher. That while life may not be easy, there is a reason why teachers are so important. From showing up to class dressed like Willy Wonka to teach us about the math curriculum (I still have my golden ticket), to having us try to figure out how many Costco-sized cakes it would take to fill our classroom in Welch Hall, or even having us use paper and tape to build classrooms that would best suit students' needs to teach us the importance of creating a safe space of care, respect, belonging, discovery, and safety for our future students. This was the class environment he created; one where I could be myself without fear of judgement, where we all got along, enjoyed ourselves and gained so much knowledge enhancing our overall educational experience at Brock. Being in Lee's class, I was able to understand the education system and curriculum in ways that I never thought were possible." - Nomination, Brock University Student.



“

This award reflects the incredible collaboration I've had with my BUSU colleagues, my predecessor Andrea Lepage, Vice-Provost Rajiv Jhangiani, and the entire Open Education Working Group," Charlton said. "This is only the beginning for the OER Grant program, and I'm so excited to see the projects that will come out of it and the student savings that will continue to grow for years to come."

BUSU LEADER WINS GLOBAL AWARD FOR CHAMPIONING OPEN EDUCATION

Brock University Students' Union (BUSU) is proud to celebrate a major achievement in student leadership and advocacy: Carleigh Charlton, BUSU's Vice-President, University Affairs, has been recognized on the global stage for her outstanding work in advancing open educational practices.

Charlton, a fifth-year Political Science student, received the prestigious 2024 Open Education Award for Excellence in the People in Open: Student Category. The award, presented by Open Education Global, was announced during a virtual celebration on Wednesday, Sept. 18.

This global recognition shines a spotlight not only on Charlton's dedication, but also on BUSU's broader commitment to empowering students and making education more accessible and affordable.

In its official statement, Open Education Global praised Charlton's impact, saying:

"Carleigh's leadership and advocacy for open education as a student-powered effort is a model for how open education can be advanced within a large institution."

As a founding member of Brock's Open Education Working Group, Charlton played a key role in launching Brock's Open Educational Resources (OER) Grant program – a groundbreaking initiative that has since become a model for other post-secondary institutions across Ontario. The program supports faculty in replacing expensive textbooks with free, open educational resources, helping students save money while accessing high-quality learning materials.

Charlton called it "an honour to even be nominated," and said she was grateful to see the work at Brock – and through BUSU – receive international recognition.

Charlton's achievement marks a proud moment for BUSU and Brock, proving that student leadership can drive powerful, systemic change in higher education.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP



BUSU Board of Directors

The BUSU Board of Directors is the highest governing body within the organization, made up of 13 elected student representatives. The BUSU President and General Manager also sit on the Board as non-voting members. Throughout the year, Board members received expert training in non-profit governance, legal responsibilities, and risk management to ensure informed, strategic leadership.

The Board met monthly to review and approve key organizational matters including budgets, policy updates, and strategic initiatives. Here are a few highlights from the year:

Investing in a More Sustainable Campus

The Board approved funding for multiple sustainability projects through BUSU's Green Levy. These included:

- Ongoing waste-sorting stations in Isaac's and Union Station
- Eco-friendly student swag
- Energy-efficient lighting upgrades in the Student Alumni Centre
- New coffee cup recycling units across campus
- Continued support for free menstrual products in campus washrooms

Clubs Policy Improvements

The Board updated and introduced several policies to better support student clubs, including:

- A new Clubs Code of Conduct
- An updated Clubs Funding Policy
- Revisions to the overall Clubs Policy to enhance clarity and accessibility

Financial Oversight & Strategic Planning

The Board approved BUSU's Division One Budget, which funds the core operations of the organization. They also:

- Received the 2023/2024 audit presentation from Grant Thornton
- Reviewed design plans for the new Student Centre
- Approved the priorities of BUSU four Executives, guiding BUSU's work for the year

Thank You

—— TO BUSU'S ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS ——

Brielle Kaminsky (Board Chair)

Charlie Martin (Board Vice-Chair)

Charles Liao

Dina Ibrahim

Hinkal Patel

Ian Bhimani

Irene Charley

Mohamed Ahmed

Mohiz Imtiaz

Rajat Agrawal

Randa Joatar

Ritik Mistry

Tomas Oviedo

Anusha Pahuja (BUSU President non-voting board Member)

Robert Hilson (BUSU General Manager non-voting Board Member)

THE A TEAM

This year, BUSU's newly rebranded Advisory Council – The A Team – took a bold new direction by opening its doors to all students, moving away from a capped, elected group to a more inclusive and dynamic model. The result? An incredible 140 students signed up to be part of the conversation.



Throughout the 2024/25 year, the Council met three times, connecting students directly with BUSU Executives, the General Manager, and the Chair of BUSU's Board of Directors. These meetings provided a platform for open dialogue, updates, and student input on key BUSU initiatives.

Council members also had the opportunity to dive deeper by joining one of six 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



A highlight of this year's meetings included exclusive updates on the exciting progress of BUSU's new student building project (p. 41).

BUSU extends a huge thank you to every A Team member who showed up, spoke up, and helped shape the future of student life at Brock.



Senate Approves Absence Form Update

Thanks to the efforts of student leaders, Brock University Senate has approved impactful updates to the Student Absence Self-Declaration Form – marking a significant step forward in student advocacy this year.

The revised form now guarantees students at least one use per term, with professors having the discretion to allow additional uses. For the first time, the form also explicitly recognizes mental health, housing crises, gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV), and food insecurity as valid reasons for academic absence.

This change reflects an ongoing commitment to supporting student well-being and ensuring compassionate academic policies.





SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

BUSU's Social Enterprises – Isaac's restaurant and bar, Union Station food court, and General Brock convenience store and café – are more than just campus eateries; they are student-driven, not-for-profit ventures designed to reinvest in the Brock student community. These enterprises not only aim to provide cost-effective food solutions but also create numerous student employment opportunities and support sustainability initiatives on campus.



GENERAL BROCK

General Brock (GB) had another exceptional year, continuing to serve as a welcoming hub for students. The dedicated student staff consistently deliver excellent service and quality products that support the daily routines of the Brock community.

GB's student-operated Badgers Café and Lounge has remained a go-to destination for students looking to relax, study, or connect with friends over a coffee or bagel. The café continues to evolve its offerings with the addition of new products and popular seasonal favourites.

Booster Juice remains a top choice for students on the move, providing refreshing, nutritious options at great value. Meanwhile, the GB Convenience Store continues to offer an array of affordable snacks, treats, and healthy grab-and-go meals, perfect for students needing an energy boost throughout their day.

UNION STATION

Union Station continues to be a vibrant and diverse food hub on campus. Our international vendors – CK Wraps & Bowls, Ah-So Sushi, and Ah-So Korea – deliver flavourful dishes and warm, friendly service, offering students the opportunity to try something new or enjoy a comforting favourite.

Longtime staples Harvey's and Subway remain popular choices, ensuring that students have access to a wide range of food options that reflect their evolving tastes and dietary needs. Across the board, our student team at Union Station continues to provide fast, friendly service that makes the space feel welcoming to all.

ISAAC'S

This past year was both a celebration and a turning point for Isaac's, as we hosted a full lineup of successful events while preparing for a new chapter. From Tuesday Trivia and Unwind Wednesday to Drag Shows, Karaoke Nights, Brews and Board Games, and more – Isaac's has continued to be a dynamic space where students gather, connect, and create lasting memories.

As part of the upcoming Student Centre redevelopment (p. 41), Isaac's will undergo significant changes. While construction is underway, Isaac's Lounge will remain open to students, with takeout options continuing to be available.

We marked the end of this era with two unforgettable send-off events:

- The End of an Era Party welcomed Brock alumni back to campus for one last celebration of Isaac's history. The night was filled with nostalgia, laughter, and reconnection, as past students and BUSU staff revisited the place where so many memories were made.
- Our final student pub night, The Last Call, featuring special guest DJ Migz, gave current students one last chance to dance, connect, and celebrate the legacy of Isaac's before its transformation. The event was a resounding success, with an incredible turnout that brought together students of all years.

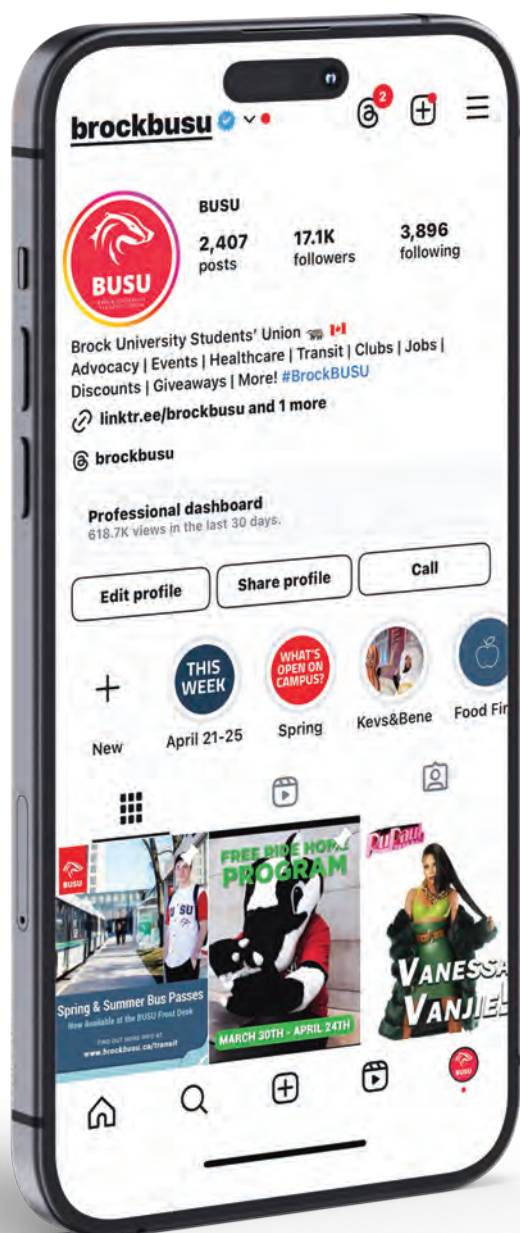
SUSTAINABILITY

BUSU's Social Enterprises continued to lead sustainability efforts on campus this year. BUSU proudly supplied Brock with 50 coffee cup recycling stations, helping to reduce waste and environmental impact (read more on page 27). In addition, BUSU events have become more eco-conscious – all food and serving supplies are now provided in recyclable or compostable containers, significantly lowering BUSU's environmental footprint. These initiatives reflect an ongoing commitment to sustainability and responsible campus leadership.

BUSU'S MARKETING STRATEGY IN ACTION

In 2022, BUSU launched a new Marketing and Communications Strategy aimed at delivering on its mission to provide the best possible student experience. This strategy outlined three key goals:

- Consistent, on-brand communications
- Improved coordination of messaging
- Building and maintaining student trust through effective communication



Throughout the 2024/25 year, BUSU's Marketing Team worked to bring this strategy to life in the following ways:

Brand Consistency & Visual Identity

- Rebrands have now been completed for BUSU Clubs, General Brock, Isaac's, and BrockTV to ensure a cohesive look and feel across all BUSU channels.
- A new, consistent visual campaign tied together all of BUSU's free food events, making them instantly recognizable to students.
- BUSU's Video Manager took the lead on brand photography, producing eye-catching and engaging visuals used across all platforms.

Student-Centered Engagement

- A refreshed swag strategy prioritized high-quality, sustainable, and useful items. These were distributed through new engagement strategies at tables in the hallways, sparking more conversations with students and increasing feedback opportunities.
- A first-year engagement campaign provided essential information to new students and helped them connect with BUSU on social media.
- Student-generated content and ideas were featured more than ever before, bringing authentic voices to BUSU's platforms.
- Feedback on BUSU services, support, events, and communications was collected from over 2.5K Brock students via surveys throughout the year.

Strengthening Connections

- Weekly open office hours with BUSU's student executives were hosted at Isaac's Lounge, offering students an accessible way to connect with their representatives.
- Instagram posts and stories highlighted student executives, putting a face to student leadership.
- Regular Instagram Live sessions with executives were held each Monday to increase real-time interaction.

Expanding Communication Channels

- Bi-weekly email newsletters were sent to Brock students with updates on events, services, and news.
- Updates and articles about the work of BUSU and its student executives were consistently posted on the BUSU website and shared via Brock News.
- Every BUSU Board Meeting was uploaded to YouTube and linked via BUSU's Instagram Stories and the website for transparent and accessible governance.

Improved Tools & Data

- Door entry software was implemented for all BUSU events, providing valuable data on attendance and student demographics.
- New third-party elections software was integrated directly into BUSU's website, making it easier than ever for students to nominate and vote.

Growth in Digital Impact

- Between September and April, BUSU shared 1,245 pieces of content on the @brockbusu Instagram account, making it a vital source of information about services, events, and support.
- BUSU's Instagram following grew by over 5%, reaching 17.1K by March 2025.
- Instagram reach rose over 10% to 150.6K, with total content views hitting 5 million.
- Engagement tools like polls, surveys, and question stickers were used more than ever to foster two-way communication with students.
- BUSU also expanded its reach on TikTok and LinkedIn, continuing to build presence across multiple platforms.



A NEW ERA FOR BROCK STUDENTS: BUSU'S NEW STUDENT CENTRE

For years, BUSU's Student-Alumni Centre and Isaac's restaurant and bar have been the heart of student life at Brock University – a place where friendships were formed, celebrations took place, and countless memories were made. But as Brock's student community continues to grow and evolve, so do its needs. Recognizing this, BUSU has embarked on an ambitious project: a brand-new 45,000-square-foot student centre designed to redefine campus life and become a home for Brock's students.





THE NEED FOR CHANGE

The existing Student-Alumni Centre and Isaac's have long been staples of Brock's student culture, serving as social, dining, and gathering spaces for generations of Badgers. However, the demand for a more versatile and modern facility has been increasing. With students seeking more study spaces, social hubs, and inclusive environments, BUSU saw an opportunity to create something transformative.

"We're not just building a student centre; we're building the place to be on campus," said BUSU President, Anusha Pahuja. "Think study spaces that don't feel like a library, hangout spots that ignite connections, and a reimagined Isaac's that keeps the good vibes going. This is about creating a space where students are supported in every way – from academic success to social connections to overall well-being. It's fun, it's fresh, and it's 100 per cent for the students!"

WHAT'S COMING

Slated to open in Fall 2027, the new student centre will be a game-changer for Brock students. The facility is expected to house a modernized Isaac's restaurant and bar, state-of-the-art recreational and gaming areas, expanded event spaces, study and meeting rooms, and dedicated club spaces. With a focus on accessibility, sustainability, and student engagement, the design aims to be both functional and inspiring.

The newly released renderings of the Student Centre showcase an innovative and student-friendly design. Featuring an open-concept layout with abundant natural light, the space is designed to foster both collaboration and relaxation. Modern furniture, multi-purpose study areas, and lounge areas create an inviting atmosphere, while the integration of sustainable building practices ensures an environmentally conscious footprint.

Other highlights include a vibrant entertainment zone and dynamic event spaces. The new Isaac's will boast a refreshed, contemporary look while preserving its social and community-driven spirit.





NEXT STEPS

This summer will mark a significant milestone, as BUSU presents the final plans to Brock's Board of Trustees for official sign-off. Once approved, construction is set to begin in September 2025. The highly anticipated new Student Centre is scheduled to open in Fall 2027, ushering in a new era of student life at Brock University.



A STUDENT-CENTRIC FUTURE

What sets this project apart is the emphasis on student involvement. BUSU has committed to ensuring that student voices are heard throughout the planning and development process. The goal is to create a home for students that reflects the needs and aspirations of the Brock student body – a true hub of campus life for years to come.

"This project is about more than just bricks and mortar," said BUSU Vice-President, University Affairs, Carleigh Charlton. "It's about creating a space where students feel at home, where they can connect, unwind, and thrive."

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.





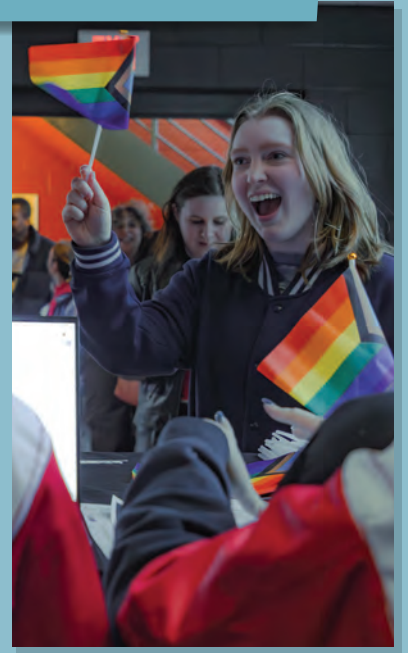
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROJECT, VISIT

www.brockbusu.ca/new-building



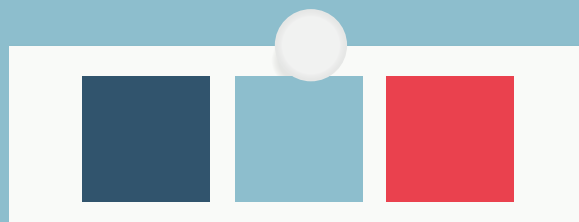


STUDENT
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2024/25





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