

Upcoming Events



JOIN US

21st Annual Confederation College Community Partners' Evening

Presented by **tbaytel**

Featuring Chef **Steven Khor**

Presented by **sodexo**

Join us on Thursday, September 22nd for our 21st Annual Community Partners' Evening. Tickets are now available at: www.partnersevening.eventbrite.com.

Get Involved!

Volunteer at one of our many events or become a member of our Alumni Community Group. Interested in learning more? Contact alumni@confederationnc.on.ca.



Premier's Award Gala

Monday, November 21, 2016 at the Sheraton Centre, Toronto



EMPLOYER SATISFACTION

Survey of employers who have hired 2014/15 college graduates.

Cover featured photo :

Reeni Susan Rajan | Concurrent Disorders, June 2015 | Critical Care Nursing, June 2016

Past Events



The 24th Annual Confederation College Scholarship Golf Tournament was held on Thursday, June 16th at Whitewater Golf Club. With 34 teams, 29 volunteers and many great sponsors, this event raised more than \$30,000 towards student awards and bursaries. Thank you to everyone who golfed, volunteered and supported this event. Because of you, students at Confederation College will have better access to education. To find out how you can support students, contact advancement@confederationnc.on.ca.

Alumni Benefits

As a member of Confederation's Alumni, you are eligible for a number of benefits and services.

- Alumni Wearables
Go to www.confederationnc.on.ca/wearables
- Preferred CAA membership rates
- Manulife Financial - life, health and dental insurance
- TD Insurance Meloche Monnex - group rates on home and auto insurance
- Career and Employment Services
- Fitness Centre | Paterson Library
- Special Events

Visit: www.confederationnc.on.ca/alumni/benefits

Are you an alumni with a benefit or service to offer members? Please email your suggestions to: alumni@confederationnc.on.ca.

Confederation **ALUMNI**

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"I love Lake Superior. It changes colours every season, so it's so beautiful to see. We never get tired of her." Reeni Rajan

Inside:

International Students Credit Confederation
College for New Lives in Canada

Alumni Hamza Zakari, Chahat Desai and Reeni Rajan Loving their Careers after Graduation

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Many of the stories you hear from international student graduates are what you'd expect: challenges adjusting to a new culture, living so far away from home, and of course getting used to the cold. For many though, Canadian winters start as a curiosity.

"I chose to go to school in Canada over Australia because I wanted to see snow," said Hamza Zakari, who came from Ghana to enrol in the Human Resources Management program. Predictably, the novelty of living in the land of ice and snow was short lived. "It didn't take long before I had too much of it in my first year."

But talk with these alumni long enough and another strong narrative is revealed; namely how Confederation College helped them succeed in their dreams of living and working in Canada.

Hamza secured a position at the North West LHIN before graduation. He worked there for seven months prior to being offered his current job in Red Lake, where he now works as Assistant Health Director for the Northern Chiefs Tribal Council.

If Thunder Bay was a culture shock, Red Lake was an earthquake. But less than a year into the job, Hamza said he's loving the position – one that he likely wouldn't have gotten without Confederation College.

"Choosing Confederation College was the best decision I made in my adult life," he said.

Chahat Desai is another Confederation College success story. Originally from Mumbai, India, Chahat always dreamed of moving to Canada. It was a struggle at first, adjusting to life in a country so different and so far from her family.

"I was getting very lonely and I was homesick for a while," Chahat said. Getting more involved in SUCCI activities helped, and eventually she ran the Mixed Culture Club. Reaching her goal certainly wasn't easy, but now she is working in three different departments at the CBC in Toronto and hopes to soon become a news editor.

Chahat Desai credits her experiences at Confederation College for her success after graduation

"I've met people from other broadcasting programs and they're struggling, working jobs in other fields. But all my friends who took the Confederation College program are working in TV," Chahat said. "Every new contact that I made and every manager that has hired me is because of Confederation College."

Reeni Rajan also travelled from India. Despite the extreme differences from her own hometown of Pathanamthitta, she has readily embraced Thunder Bay as home.

"I love Thunder Bay," Reeni said. "More than that, I love Lake Superior. It changes colours every season, so it's so beautiful to see. We never get tired of her."

Reeni is currently working at VON and Shelter House after graduating from Practical Nursing and, most recently, the Concurrent Disorders program. She hopes to eventually get into mental health nursing, a speciality she practised in India, and applied for a position at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre this past summer.

Confederation College helped her get her Canadian credentials and launch her new life. "I thought it would be easy to transfer my credentials from India, but it's been two long years," Reeni said. "Now, I'm happy!"



Where Are They Now?

"Where Are They Now" is a regular feature of our alumni newsletter that highlights the success of our Alumni members. If you would like to recommend an alumnus for this feature please contact us at alumni@confederationnc.on.ca

Ronald Monias



1989 Alumnus

Native Child & Family Services

Chief Executive Officer, First Nations of Northern Manitoba Child & Family Services Authority

As CEO of the First Nations of Northern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority, Ronald Monias's biggest challenge is to bring about the child welfare reform that would allow more children to stay in their home communities. It was much easier when Ronald was growing up to allow children who needed foster care to stay within their own communities. Recent changes to the regulations have excluded many homes in First Nations from being approved.

Ronald moved from the remote first nation of Garden Hill to Winnipeg, and then Sioux Lookout, a town that is a health care hub for over 30 First Nations in Ontario. Living in both worlds gave him the opportunity to learn English as well as his own language Oji-Cree. In Sioux Lookout, he had a part-time job building a resource library for social workers working with child welfare. Ronald himself took full advantage of the library, voraciously reading as much as he could. That prompted him to enroll in the Native Child and Family Services program at Confederation College. After graduation, he worked briefly in Sioux Lookout again before moving back to Garden Hill First Nation. Eventually, he moved up the ladder – and back to Winnipeg – to take various management positions. In 2009, he became interim CEO of the Northern Authority for 18 months before taking the position officially.

Learning from the ground up has helped him understand every level of care provided. His contacts with the seven agencies under the Northern Authority, and his ability to bring together all levels of government have helped him move towards a more culturally appropriate model of childcare for Indigenous children.

Be Part of the Legacy: 50th Anniversary Update!

Hosting a reunion? Let us help you celebrate with a Reunion-in-a-Box Celebration Kit. Kits will be available starting in early 2017.

Volunteers are needed for planning committees and event day celebrations. Stay tuned for exciting information on Homecoming 2017.

Contact 50@confederationnc.on.ca for more information.

