



Confederation ALUMNI

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Confederation Alumni Are Helping
Children and Families to Thrive

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Over 40 per cent of the staff at Dilico Anishinabek Family Care share at least one thing in common – they're all graduates of Confederation College. Why so many? Executive Director Darcia Borg and Manager of Human Resources Ann Czepky point to a connection to Indigenous cultures.

"Confederation graduates come with a cultural competency that's so important in working with our people," said Czepky. "The College really values that piece."

Borg added her appreciation for Confederation's commitment to providing access to post-secondary education for Indigenous populations and for incorporating information about Indigenous history and culture into the curriculum.

"Seeing students coming from northwestern Ontario is huge for an Indigenous organization such as ourselves," she said. "We do promote the recruitment and retention of Anishinabek people, but also look for individuals who share our values. Confederation College has always had that Aboriginal component and support for students, which means we can count on a level of understanding about our culture."

It's more than that piece alone that makes Confederation alumni stand out. Borg and Czepky also highlighted the hands-on experience graduates of the College come with, their tendency to think outside of the box, and the higher level of performance and productivity Dilico can expect of them.

"They are able to think critically and problem solve, work well within a team environment, be creative and innovative, and demonstrate a strong sense of ethics and integrity," said Czepky. "They are leaders and become role models for the people we work with."

Dilico hires graduates from a variety of programs including Native Child and Family Services, Child and Youth Worker, Social Service Worker, Practical Nursing, Aboriginal Community Advocacy, Personal Support Worker, Developmental Service Worker, Computer Programming and Business.

One dedicated employee is Rhonda Braun, a Kinship Service Worker for Dilico and a 2002 graduate of Confederation's Social Service Worker program. Braun works directly with families, performing home assessments and collaborating

with Case Managers to help children in need of support. As much as possible, Dilico believes in finding family before foster parents and that is a key reason why she loves where she works.



*Rhonda Braun
Kinship Service Worker, Dilico
Social Service Worker graduate (2002)*

"I like working here because keeping children with family is at the heart of what our agency does," said Braun. "We know that it's what's best for children and we do what we can to keep them out of foster care. Meeting so many great people and having respect for the people that you work for, and the difficult jobs we all have, it's great to be a part of that."

Prior to joining the Dilico team, Braun also worked for Our Kids Count and Namaygoosisagagun First Nation in their respective Healthy Babies, Healthy Children programs. Throughout all of her work, Braun credits Confederation College with helping her to succeed. A specific example is how the College supported her when she had a baby before graduation. Confederation adapted her placement experience so she could take her baby with her and be able to finish the program. Overall, Braun appreciated the opportunity to try out different areas and skills through placements and practice.

"The placement experience was very helpful," she said. "With the Social Service Worker program you can do so many different things. You were able to find out what you really liked, or didn't, through the placements. There was a lot of theory, which taught me many important things, like about residential schools, and there were a lot of practical skills we learned too, like when we would practice counselling each other. My time in the program was very valuable in preparing me to work in this field."

Dilico understands the value of a placement experience and Borg explained that they partner with Confederation to offer placements across multiple programs. She can't wait to meet the future students and alumni who will join the Dilico team.

Does your organization employ many Confederation College alumni? Are the alumni you have doing unique and exciting things to help your business succeed and grow? We'd love to know about it. Contact us to share your Confederation story:

alumni@confederationnc.on.ca | (807) 475-6509 | www.confederationnc.on.ca/alumni

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

Read the extended (full) profiles of the featured alumni online at confederationnc.on.ca/alumni

Emily Crombez, Aviation – Flight Management (2007)



*Premier's Award Nominee
and Confederation College
President's Award Winner
2012*

Emily Crombez recently made history as the first female pilot type rated to fly the CL-415 waterbomber in North America.

Emily has won numerous national and international awards in her short career, including the prestigious Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship for Women Pilots and the Garfield Weston Merit Scholarship.

Gary Mack, Social Service Worker (1993)



Gary Mack has worked extensively in the fields of poverty, mental health and addictions since graduating in 1993. Most recently, Gary landed the Executive Director position at Shelter House Thunder Bay and he couldn't be more excited.

Luke Grandmont, Film Production (2009)



Having been involved in a variety of projects since graduation, Luke Grandmont is currently working as a Camera Assistant in Toronto and across Ontario as a member of the International Cinematographers Guild IATSE

667. Working on shows like *Orphan Black*, *Shadowhunters*, and a History Channel series called *Gangland Undercover*, he has also participated in the shooting of several films including *Sleeping Giant*.

Todd Patterson, Civil Engineering Technology (2012)



Todd Patterson appreciates the variety and constant change his career provides. Currently working as a Senior Inspector, Todd has been a Civil Engineering Technologist for Hatch Mott MacDonald since graduation. In his role,

he does contract administration and inspection work for the Ministry of Transportation, which takes him anywhere from Kenora to Wawa, Ontario.



Come celebrate with us! In 2017 Confederation College will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary.

Know where your classmates are? Put them in touch with us for our upcoming celebrations. Want to get involved? Help plan or volunteer at one of our anniversary events. Have something interesting to share? We are looking for photos and memorabilia from our 50-year history. Please contact 50@confederationnc.on.ca

Upcoming Events



Thunder Bay Convocation

Friday, June 3, 2016 | Thunder Bay Auditorium
Visit: www.confederationc.on.ca/alumni/convocation

Regional Convocations

June 6 - 20, 2016 | Various locations
Visit: www.confederationc.on.ca/convocation/dates

Welcome to our New Alumni!

In June we will be celebrating convocation for the 2016 graduating class and the alumni couldn't be more excited to celebrate this great accomplishment.

Are you a graduate? Show your college pride by purchasing some alumni swag at www.confederationc.on.ca/wearables. Additional products will also be for sale at Convocation.



EMPLOYER SATISFACTION

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

Cover photo - left to right:

Donna Happonen (Computer Programmer Analyst, 1995) | **Ann Magiskan** (College Vocational, 1991) | **Ann Czepky** (Health Record Technician, 1997) | **John Dulude** (Indigenous Wellness and Addictions Prevention, 2003) | **Natalie Paavola** (Native Mental Health Worker and Indigenous Wellness and Addictions Prevention, 1997) | **Rhonda Braun** (Social Service Worker, 2002) | **Todd Genno** (Native Child and Family Services, 2013)

JOIN US
THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2016

SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT
20 16

Confederation
TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL
SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT
WHITTEWATER GOLF CLUB

To become a sponsor or to register to play, visit
www.confederationc.on.ca/alumni/golf

Alumni Benefits

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

- Alumni Wearables
Go to www.confederationc.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.confederationc.on.ca/alumni/benefits

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

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