

# DEAN'S CIRCLE

EDWARDS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS



2024-2025 Annual Report



# A Letter from Acting Dean Marjorie Delbaere – Spring

As my year as Acting Dean comes to an end, I find myself reflecting with gratitude and pride on what a remarkable year this has been for me, for our college, and for the incredible community that surrounds and supports the Edwards School of Business. It has been an honor to serve in this role.

When I stepped into this role, I had three goals in mind: to engage more deeply with our alumni community, to advance our strategic priorities, and to continue elevating Edwards within the university and across the province and beyond. Looking back, I'm proud of what we've accomplished together.

One of the real privileges of serving in this role has been the chance to connect with the alumni community, especially those on the Dean's Circle. The conversations and connections have been a real highlight of the year.

It has been a momentous year.

We hosted the inaugural Prairie Business Summit, an event that brought Saskatchewan to the world and the world to Saskatchewan. Helping to put Edwards on the map as the hub for business innovation in Canada.

This spirit drove the advancement of the BRIDGECentre, which moved towards full centre approval, and the early planning of a new proposed Center for Entrepreneurship, a project I'm especially passionate about.

We saw major progress in our graduate programming, with the launch of the Master of Science in Management program and a new Graduate Certificate in Financial Management, as well as enhancing our MBA with courses in Data Analytics and Indigenous Business in Canada.

We appointed the college's first Director of Indigenous Business Education and Engagement and welcomed our first-ever Canada Research Chair in Community-Based Entrepreneurship and Innovation, milestones that reflect our research mission and commitment to community impact.

Shelly Lowe (B.Comm. 1988) brings invaluable industry experience and insight into the role of Executive in Residence. Appointed this year, she becomes the first

woman to serve in that role at Edwards, alongside Marvin Romanow (MBA 1980) and Scott McCreath (B.Comm. 1969).

Edwards was again named to the Financial Times Executive Education global rankings. We moved up in our placement and now ranked ahead of several major Canadian business schools, including UBC's Sauder School of Business, in open enrolment programs. A testament to the quality of our programming and the dedication of our faculty and staff.

Looking ahead, I believe there are even more exciting developments on the horizon. The proposed Center for Entrepreneurship is one initiative I think will truly shape the next chapter for Edwards, creating new ways for students, alumni, and community partners to connect and collaborate.

Of course, none of this happens without the support of people like you. To our Dean's Circle members: thank you. You play an essential role, not only as donors, but as mentors, speakers, advisors, and champions for our mission. Your involvement brings the Edwards experience to life in meaningful and lasting ways.

It's hard to choose just one thing I'm most proud of this year. Overall, I'm proud of the energy, collaboration, and shared purpose that's fueling Edwards right now. We're advancing our research mission, creating transformative experiences for students, deepening our connections with the community, and we're doing it together.

As I step away for a one-year sabbatical, I will return to my role as Associate Dean with excitement for what's to come. The future is bright at Edwards, and I can't wait to see where we go next.

With gratitude and thanks,

Marjorie Delbaere  
Acting Dean  
Edwards School of Business | University of Saskatchewan



# A Letter from Dean Keith Willoughby

Dear Dean's Circle Members,

It's good to be back.

After a year away on administrative leave, I'm pleased to return to my role as Dean of the Edwards School of Business. I would be remiss if I didn't admit how much I missed this place, especially the people. There is no substitute for the camaraderie of our community.

During my sabbatical, I approached time differently. Freed from the structure of daily meetings and deadlines, I learned to navigate the paradox of choice, focusing intentionally rather than spreading myself too thin. That shift allowed me to co-author two research papers and contribute to an op-ed. I also chaired accreditation reviews at Université Laval and the University of Windsor, and served on a global committee, gaining valuable insight into the evolving demands of business education. On a lighter note, I learned to solve a Rubik's Cube and I managed to break 100 in golf!

I returned to find Edwards thriving. Watching from the outside, I saw incredible momentum, from the Prairie Business Summit to the growth of our Centre for Entrepreneurship and the continued success of our graduates. These stories reflect the impact of our work and the strength of our community.

As I return to the role of Dean, I do so with a broader perspective. One of the most important lessons I've learned over the past year is the value of trusting others to lead, to collaborate, and to deliver. I saw, from a distance, how much can be accomplished when our people are empowered to take the reins. That clarity will guide me through the remainder of my term.

As I look ahead to the remainder of my deanship, there are a few things I'm especially excited about:

- Advancing our accreditation as a catalyst for innovation.
- Expanding Edwards' physical and intellectual footprint.
- Delivering on the promise of the BRIDGE Centre, connecting academic insight with industry expertise.
- Relocating the Rawlinson Centre for Indigenous Engagement to a central, visible space, a move that symbolizes our commitment to reconciliation and Indigenous leadership.

Over the past year, I've been reflecting on what success looks like and I've found my own definition of success evolving. Probably because of my background as a quantitative researcher, when I first became Dean, I measured success in terms of numbers on a spreadsheet. While the metrics still matter, I've come to see success in the stories behind the numbers: a first-generation student who finds their place here, or in the graduate who wins a national award, or in the alumni making meaningful change in their communities.

To that end, I often return to a single question: what's our "why"? We've always been clear about the what and the how, but now we need to define the deeper reason behind the work we do. What does it mean to be the business school the world needs? When we can answer that then I know we've succeeded.

To our Dean's Circle members, I'll close with three messages.

First, thank you. Thank you for paying it forward and paying it back. Thank you for helping us fulfill our mission, and for supporting transformative learning experiences and student successes. Your generosity, whether it comes in the form of financial support, sharing your talent, or giving your time, matters deeply.

Second, stay tuned. We have an exciting year ahead, with opportunities to come together and celebrate what makes this place special. I hope you'll join us as we continue to build meaningful connections between students, alumni, and our broader community.

And third, be proud. Be proud of who you are and what you've helped us achieve. Edwards is over 100 years old; we're standing on the shoulders of those who came before us and helping pave the way of those who will come after.

Thank you for helping fulfill the mission of the Edwards School of Business. Your support makes a difference and I'm incredibly proud of what we're building, together.

All the best,

Keith Willoughby

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Ryan Townend  
Wayne Ulrich  
Basil & Cheryl Walsen  
Cliff Wiegers  
Colton Wiegers  
Keith Willoughby  
Greg Yuel

# Student and Experiential Impact



My name is Baylie White, and I grew up in a rural farming community in Saskatchewan. I graduated from my high school with a 98.4% average, the highest in its' history, and was always heavily involved in extra-curriculars.

Attending Edwards School of Business has provided me with amazing opportunities, introduced me to some of my best friends, and importantly, allowed me to remain close to my family. I look forward to the last two years of my degree, as I pursue the honours and study abroad programs, and continue in the position of Vice President of Finance for the Accounting Club of Edwards, which has allowed me to give back to the student community.

I am currently finishing my co-op work term as an accountant with the valuations team at MNP, working towards my ultimate career goal of becoming a forensic accountant. In my spare time, I love to read, volunteer, and travel whenever I have the opportunity. Although I would be able to attend school without this scholarship, it has lessened the financial burden that I feel I place on my parents, who have always been my biggest supporters in every way. Additionally, it means I can attend school without having to hold a part-time job, allowing me to put 100% of my effort into an academic career I can be proud of. I hold myself to very high standards, and struggle with anxiety, so pushing myself to the point of burnout is familiar to me. Therefore, receiving this scholarship helps reinforce my confidence and encourages me to be proud of my accomplishments, no matter how small. Donors make a difference in so many areas of recipients' lives, providing relief from relentless financial burdens, improving our educational experience through program and expansion funding, and by acting as extensions of our support networks. Even though you may not know us personally, it is a voice saying "I believe in you" even when we sometimes struggle to believe in ourselves.

I thoroughly enjoy my degree and am grateful for every experience I have gotten to be a part of at Edwards, and donors have played a large part in my ability to do so. You have inspired me to continue to put everything I have into Edwards and my academic career, and I one day hope to be able to give back as much as you have given to me. Thank you.

**Baylie White – Accounting (International Business)**

Year 4 – Graduating Class of 2026



My name is Nathaniel Desjarlais, and I am honored to accept this generous award. I am an Indigenous student from Yellow Quill First Nation, and I am proud to share that I speak Nakawe, which textbooks often refer to as Saulteaux.

I find fulfillment in advocating for my peers through the Indigenous Student's Union, practicing martial arts, and immersing myself in traditional Culture. Every morning, I smudge in the Gordon Oakes' Student Centre. Each of these activities is a part of who I am and helps keep me focused on the things that truly matter.

The impact of this award is immense and will be pivotal in allowing me to remain a full-time student. The financial burden I am currently facing has made this journey challenging, and deciding to return to school meant making the difficult choice of stepping away from a full-time job. This support alleviates a significant portion of that pressure, enabling me to continue pursuing my education with much needed focus.

I feel deeply grateful for the generosity of The Edwards' School of Business Dean's Circle donors, whose contributions make a meaningful difference in the lives of students like myself. This award is more than just financial aid; it is an empowering gift that brings hope and opportunity. I am truly blessed to receive such support, and I am committed to making the most of this chance.

Thank you for believing in me and my journey.

**Nathaniel Desjarlais**

Recipient of the Dean's Circle Indigenous Undergraduate Student Award





To the wonderful Dean's Circle donors,

My name is Jared Mana, and I am incredibly grateful to have been chosen as the recipient of this generous award. I was born in the Philippines and later moved to Canada, where I grew up in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. This transition has shaped my perspective in so many ways, teaching me about resilience, community, and the importance of kindness. I'm currently a first-year student, diving into my studies with the same energy and dedication I put into my passion for sports, such as basketball, volleyball, and track and field.

Receiving this award has had a meaningful impact on my life, not only by alleviating some of the financial pressures of pursuing higher

education but also by boosting my confidence in reaching my goals. With your support, I am able to focus more fully on my studies and my extracurricular pursuits without as much worry about balancing a part-time job and academic responsibilities. This relief means the world to me and my family as we work together to support my ambitions.

I want to thank you deeply for your generosity and for investing in students like me. Donors like you have an immense impact, helping students build better lives, pursue their passions, and achieve dreams they might not otherwise could follow. Your support has motivated me to work even harder and, one day, to pay it forward in my community.

With heartfelt gratitude,

**Jared Mana**

**Year 1 – Graduating Class of 2028**

# Financials

	Actual	Actual
Commitments	2023-2024	2024-2025
Student Awards, Prizes & Bursaries	\$ 231,749	\$ 173,000
Student Experiential Learning & Professional Development	\$ 109,798	\$ 104,738
Rapid Response Fund	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ 341,547	\$ 277,738

## Approved Spending for 2025-2026

Student Awards, Prizes & Bursaries	\$ 260,000
Student Experiential Learning & Professional Development	\$ 62,000
New Initiatives	\$ 54,000
Rapid Response Fund	\$ -
Total 2025-2026 expenditures	\$ 376,000

\* If you want more financial information than what is showcased above, please reach out to Carlee Snow - [snow@edwards.usask.ca](mailto:snow@edwards.usask.ca)

Thank you to the Dean's Circle Approval Committee:



**Shelley Brown**

Partner (Retired),  
Deloitte LLP



**R. Scott McCreath**

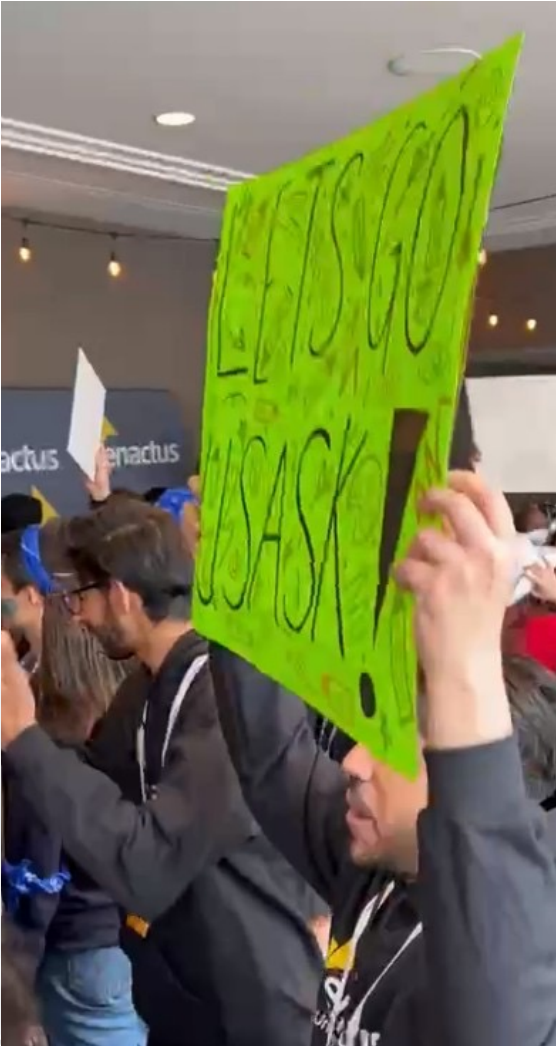
Senior Investment Advisor (Retired),  
BMO Nesbitt Burns  
Edwards Executive in Residence



**Steve Flynn**

Senior Investment Advisor,  
BMO Nesbitt Burns

# Dean's Circle Funding



The Dean's Circle for co-curricular funding is incredibly meaningful to me and my club members for our educational journey as it enables our Enactus team to attend the Western Canada Regional Exposition. An event that is not only a competition, but an incredible learning experience. This funding support directly impacts our ability to travel and participate, allowing the organization to focus entirely on delivering high-impact presentations, refining entrepreneurial skills, and demonstrating the community impact of our projects on a competitive stage. The exposition is a catalyst for growth, it strengthens our teamwork, builds leadership capacity, and inspires innovation as we engage with students and industry leaders from across Western Canada. Last year, this very experience motivated our members to take on executive roles and led to our team placing in the top three in all three of the challenge categories. Funding from the Deans Circle is not just an investment in a trip, it is an investment in the development of future leaders who are passionate about creating real social change through entrepreneurship and collaboration.

## Enactus University of Saskatchewan

Recipient of group funding for the Edwards Dean's Circle Co-Curricular Funding

EDWARDS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS  
NUTRIEN CENTRE  
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