

2022-2023
**DONOR
IMPACT
REPORT**



ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

DREAM IT. BELIEVE IT. ACHIEVE IT.

The Achievement Program is Lakehead University's commitment to supporting access to post-secondary education by providing an opportunity to potential future students who experience socioeconomic barriers to obtaining post-secondary education.

Achievement Program to assist in program facilitation and be role models to younger students in the program. We look forward to continuing to grow the peer mentorship in this school year.

Your support has continued our work to remove barriers for our students. The impact of this support to our students is huge. Thank you for impacting the lives of our participating students and encouraging them to dream, believe and achieve throughout their journey to post-secondary education.

OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE TO OUR DONORS

Lakehead University's Achievement Program has been able to deliver programming to 304 active participants across five school boards in Thunder Bay and the surrounding region: Lakehead Public Schools, Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board, Superior-Greenstone District School Board, Superior North Catholic District School Board and Keewatin-Patricia District School Board. A highlight of 2022/2023 was getting back to our in-person programming as well as hosting our summer camp and first high school conference. This programming and staffing support would not have been possible without the funds provided by our generous donors.

This year was the second year we offered a mentorship element to our program. Three of our Achievement Program alumni who are in first and second years, were employed part-time by the



“ The Achievement Program has been like a family to me, everyone is so inclusive. It helped me as a high school student to become more involved with the university, having friendly faces that work with the university have been very helpful for navigating the new campus and courses. Being a part of the Achievement Program has encouraged me to partake in events around the university as a current university student.”

Nevaeh - Completed the Indigenous Transition Year Program at Lakehead University and is now enrolled in Honours Bachelor of Education, Indigenous Teacher Education

**EXCEPTIONAL.
UNCONVENTIONAL.**



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMMING

PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

Your support this year helped us achieve the following:

- Approximately 70 Achievement Program families enjoyed the **Thunderwolves Basketball Indigenous Cultural Celebration Night**
- Approximately 87 campers took part in two, one-week camping experiences as part of our **Summer Camp** program. Campers also participated in daily swimming lessons, hosted by Learn to Swim
- Our **Student Speaker Series** offered ten separate learning and education opportunities for students between grades four and twelve
- Our partnership with Lakehead University's Indigenous Access Programs (IAP) allowed us to host our **5th Annual Career & Undergraduate Exploration Day** for students between grades nine and twelve
- The Athletics ActiveU Team led hands-on learning experiences via a **Day on Campus** for students in grades four to twelve. Exploring Nursing, Engineering, Science, Natural Resources Management, Indigenous Initiatives, and more allowed students' hands-on learning experiences to see the possibilities of post-secondary education.
- A two-day **high school conference** enabled eight youth to learn about leadership development, financial planning, goal setting and career planning. Participants also earned their Emergency First Aid certification.



THUNDERWOLVES BASKETBALL INDIGENOUS CULTURAL CELEBRATION NIGHT



In February 2023, Achievement Program students and their families were invited to a very special Indigenous Cultural Celebration Night hosted by the Achievement Program, featuring our Men's and Women's basketball teams.

The event celebrated our Achievement Program families as well as Indigenous culture with half time drumming and dancing, an Elder, a children's choir singing in Ojibway, and featured a special jersey

created by a local Indigenous artist, Jacenia Desmoulin. The event also featured Ojibway speaking broadcasters on OUATV. Families were provided with complimentary tickets to the game along with food vouchers and transportation.

This event was a great way to connect and celebrate our families, bring them to campus in a fun and exciting atmosphere, as well as to be able to showcase our program to members in the community. We had approximately 70 Achievement Program families attend.



The Achievement Program has allowed me to reach my fullest potential and has been by my side throughout my academic career. During high school, I was given the opportunity to have lunches with current Lakehead students, receive financial advice, and have one-on-one interviews with professors of my interested programs. This helped me discover what career path I wanted to pursue, and I learned how the university works before I was even a student.

I am currently a third-year nursing student at Lakehead. The Achievement Program continues to assist me in my academic studies by organizing study groups with other program alumni, allowing me to use my funds for school supplies, and hiring me as a staff member to earn some extra money to help me get through school. University can be overwhelming sometimes, but the continuous support from the Achievement Program is helping me get through it."

Camryn - Currently in third year Nursing at Lakehead

EXPLORING INTERESTS & DEVELOPING SKILLS



ACHIEVEMENT SUMMER CAMP

Students in Thunder Bay and the region experienced in-person summer camps this year due to the wonderful support of our donors. Two, one-week camps were offered in collaboration with the Athletics ActiveU program. Campers were provided with meals and access to transportation to and from camp. We held a family feast celebration to welcome student's families to campus. There were approximately 230 family members who attended the family feast over the two weeks.



Our Lakehead faculty and staff provided hands-on programming which included Lakehead Ingenuity, Lakehead Engineering, Indigenous Transition Year and Indigenous Initiatives. Through these activities they gained important skills that will help with their future academics and respect of our land. Students had the opportunity to participate in daily swimming lessons through Learn to Swim, building an important life skill that many did not have previous access to. The students and staff had a fantastic week exploring our campus and building connections with friends at Lakehead University.



STUDENT SPEAKER SERIES

Our Student Speaker Series delivers educational learning experiences for students in grades 4 to 12, intended to provide exploration and spark interest in exploring these topics in a future post secondary setting. Topics were appropriately scheduled for students in grades 4 to 12 and included building planetariums, learning about Indigenous practices associated with the celestial sky and building financial literacy skills. Students at 32 different schools across five school boards received exceptional learning and exploration opportunities.



CAREER & UNDERGRADUATE EXPLORATION DAY

In February 2023, the Achievement Program continued their partnership with Lakehead University's Indigenous Access Programs (IAP) to host the 5th Annual Career & Undergraduate Exploration Day for IAP students and Achievement Program students in grades 9 and 12. From a smudging ceremony and songs from Elder Linklater to interactive sessions with faculty and a financial literacy session, the day highlighted the personal connections and educational pathways available at Lakehead University.

PROGRAM
GROWTH

In 2022/2023, the number of student participants was

304

In 2022/2023, student participation grew by **60 students**, or

25%

In 2022/2023, there was participation from

32 Schools across 5 School Boards

In the past 3 years (2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022), **18 students** have graduated from the Achievement Program

5 Students are attending Lakehead University

4 Students attending Confederation College

9 Students are employed or pursuing other experiences

SUPPORTING EXPLORATION & ENGAGEMENT

DAY ON CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Our Day on Campus events provide opportunities for students to explore Lakehead's campus through unique educational activities, and recreational and cultural programming.



NURSING AND YOUR HEALTH

Students in grade four toured the Nursing Lab and tested oxygen levels, blood pressure, heart rate and interacted with the teaching manikins.



EXPLORING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

Grade 11 and 12 students toured the Natural Resources Management department, learned about plants, and planted their own seeds.



CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Students participated in cultural activities with the Nijiji Mentorship Program. Grade six students learned about Indigenous Cartography and used Ozbots to create cultural maps.



ACTIVE U ATHLETICS AND RECREATION

Students discovered how sports can break down barriers and build confidence. Lakehead Athletics provided recreational games and activities.



HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE

The Achievement Program hosted a two-day conference for our high school students thanks to the Peter Gilgan Foundation. The conference focused on leadership development activities, career and pathway planning, goal setting and financial planning. Students participated in recreational fitness activities hosted by ActiveU followed by grade appropriate educational and cultural programming with Lakehead faculty and staff. Students earned their Emergency First Aid Certification and were provided with meals and transportation.

“The Achievement Program is opening doors to post-secondary education for equity deserving students and building relationships with youth and their families in our community. Our **program has grown to support 304 students** from five school boards and **we are aiming for 400 in 2023/2024**. Our program is going to see our **largest groups of high school students in the coming year** with 52 grade 9 students and 40 grade 8 students.

With continuous year-round programming initially through athletics and recreation, **we connect with youth in a welcoming environment** to build their self confidence. I'm so incredibly proud of all our students. A heartfelt **thank you** to all of our donors for your support in helping us to increase access to post-secondary education and making a difference in these students' lives.”

Amanda Stefanile, Achievement Program Coordinator



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