



How your support helps students begin, continue, and complete their education.

Paving new paths: How a young alumnus is paying your generosity forward

Eli was drawn to York University by its welcoming community, but he wasn't sure what academic direction he wanted to take. In the Communications Program, he discovered Urban Studies. He was hooked and decided to pursue a career in city planning.

While completing his Master of Environmental Studies, Eli realized how his program stood out compared to other universities. "My professors really put people first. Now when it comes to development and planning, my interest is thinking first of people and engaging with the public."

Looking around his classes, Eli couldn't help but notice that he was one of only a few racialized people. Fortunately, his unique "people first" approach and passion for fair representation within a field he's passionate about, drove Eli to co-found MIIPOC, the Mentoring Initiative for Indigenous and Planners of Colour committee. The committee is focused on establishing a national network between experienced planners and emerging planners from marginalized communities. By inviting diverse speakers, students feel the impact of being represented. "We could see there were racialized people working in our field. It gave us hope," says Eli.

Eli also sits on the City of Toronto's 2SLGBTQ+ Council Advisory Body. "I feel huge passion in understanding how we can create more spaces for queer racialized folks to feel safer and have a better sense of connection," he explains.

None of this would have been possible without the generosity of York alumni like you. It's through your support that Eli was able to access financial assistance, like scholarships and bursaries, that enabled him to complete his education at York.



"School gets overwhelming. It's very important to have that community you know you can lean on when it's a little rough."

– Eli, York alumnus

Today, Eli is paying your generosity forward and building a world that's safer and more welcoming for racialized and queer communities. Thank you for helping to break down barriers.



➤ Mentorship matters: Your impact in action

by Anika Holder, BA '98, Vice President, Human Resources at Penguin Random House Canada

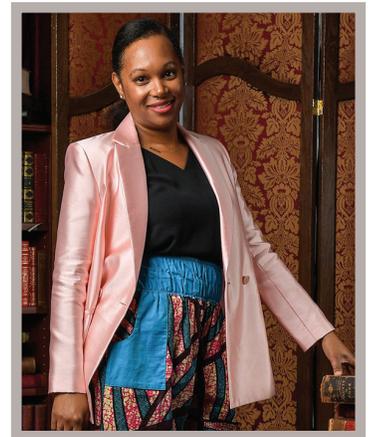
Mrs. Bernice Blackman was my high school Vice Principal. Her direction and guidance changed my life. She provided a vision of what was possible for me.

She was the first Black woman I had seen who was in a professional position of authority. The second was a visiting professor I had for an African Studies course in my first year at York. She *saw me* – and I'll never forget how that felt.

That's why I'm passionate about the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies Advancing YU Program – which offers two streams; Advancing Black Students and Advancing Women Students, designed to provide mentorship and career prep resources for Black and women LA&PS students in their third or fourth year.

I want to be part of a future where students and young professionals can easily access mentors who have similar lived experiences, where they can see examples of success, and create a bigger vision for themselves.

When you support this program, you provide scholarships that help with the cost of essentials like housing, food, tuition, and outfits for job interviews.



Your generosity gives students the necessary tools, skills, and resources to prepare for life and a career after graduation. Thank you for investing in the next generation of leaders!

➤ Inclusive innovation: You are unlocking the potential of emerging women scientists

Alumni generosity towards the Women in Science Program supports the training and development of women scientists in York's Faculty of Science.

The Dean's Scholarship for Women in Science recognizes women doctoral and master's students who demonstrate leadership skills, academic excellence, and research potential. Together, we are supporting and empowering more women students to achieve their goals within science and research.

Meet the graduate students whose passion is fueled by your partnership.



Emily Anacleto
- Chemistry, who is developing of a novel method of mRNA display technology to discover new drugs;



Kyra Dougherty
- Biology, who is exploring the mechanisms of pokeweed antiviral protein and its potential applications to crop plants; and



Tibisay Diaz
- Math and Stats, who is interested in the application of statistical methods to analyze biological data;



Sunna Withers
- Physics and Astronomy, who is hunting for early galaxies using the James Webb Space Telescope.

Thank you for creating more opportunities for women to engage in research and support a culture of equity, diversity, and inclusion in science!



➤ Set up for success: How you keep student athletes in the game

by Katie Robinson, York University Athlete Services Coordinator

When our varsity athletes step onto the court, they know what they're doing. The plays, the strategies, the effort – it's all familiar territory.

But all too often, the rest of their university experience isn't as certain. Student athletes have the pressure of training and competing to represent York at the provincial and national levels while keeping up with demanding academic schedules, part-time jobs, and long commutes to and from campus.

In the past, these factors combined resulted in a high dropout rate among student athletes at York. But through generous alumni support of our student athletes, PAWS (Providing Athletes with Winning Strategies) changes the game.

The PAWS peer mentor program provides first-year student athletes with tools to successfully navigate their transition into university.



PAWS also offers guidance in fundamental learning skills, study strategies, and time management tips. We connect student athletes with campus resources and services, including mental health counselling and academic advising.

The program even goes beyond academic success, engaging York students with the community through initiatives like Reading Buddies, Adopt a Family, and Bell Let's Talk.

As PAWS grows, it's rewarding to see our varsity alumni returning to foster meaningful relationships with new student athletes, giving back to the program that was there for them.

Thank you for supporting our student athletes both on and off the field!

**Thank you for being a York University donor.
You've made these stories, and many more, possible.**

Your support has transformed student lives, and has helped our students thrive.

If you have any questions about your donation, or other ways to support York, please contact us at 416-650-8210 or contact@yorku.ca

