

2021 - 22

# Youth Amplified

**HIGHER EDUCATION CAN CHANGE LIVES...  
WHEN IT IS ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL.**



Youth Amplified is a suite of community-focused initiatives rooted in Sheridan's mission to unlock the transformative power of education – helping young people in our campus communities forge a path to postsecondary studies.

# Sheridan

Since 2020, in partnership with youth-serving organizations across Halton and Peel, Sheridan's Youth Amplified programs intentionally forge pathways to postsecondary education for equity-deserving groups (first-generation students, racialized youth, newcomers, those with dependents or people from lower-income households). These programs offer youth mentorship, connections to financial aid and other resources, a hands-on experience learning within our disciplines of strength such as STEM

(Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and the Arts, guidance through the postsecondary application process, a window into student life and engagement with our exceptional students, faculty and staff.

With Sheridan's long-established presence in Peel and Halton Regions – home to some of Canada's youngest, most culturally diverse and growing communities – we are well-positioned to reduce barriers and unlock the transformative power of higher education for all.

## Desired Outcomes and Impact

### For the youth participants from our local communities:

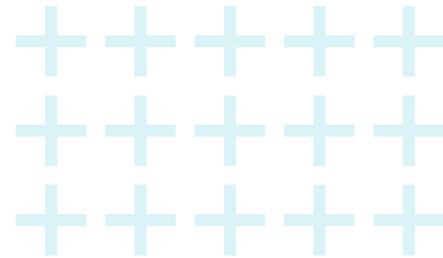
- Exposure to a wide variety of educational and career options
- Improved confidence and motivation to pursue postsecondary education
- Raised social capital through interactions with positive role models
- Heightened parental engagement and encouragement
- Development of leadership, problem-solving and interpersonal skills
- Increased awareness of financial and non-financial supports

### For Sheridan students engaged in program delivery:

- Excellent paid work and volunteer opportunities
- Reinforcement of Sheridan-attained skills and learning
- Development of 21st-century employment-readiness skills such as collaboration, creativity, communication, cross-cultural awareness and increased understanding of our campus communities

### For our community partners:

- Visibility as community champions for positive youth development and engagement alongside Sheridan
- Amplification of collective community impact through meaningful partnerships



# 2021-22 IMPACT

2021-22 was a significant year of continued program delivery, as well as the forging of new partnerships to help the Youth Amplified Strategy grow and strengthen.



**11 partnerships** with youth-serving organizations across Peel and Halton



**371 youth reached** through the programs across Peel and Halton



**52 Sheridan students and staff** engaged as mentors and/or guest speakers

## Our Community Partners

Art House

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Peel-York

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halton-Hamilton

Black Youth Student Success Initiative (BYSSI)

Eclipse Youth Centre

Home Suite Hope

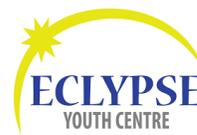
Oakville Parent Child Centre (OPCC)

Ontario Education Championship Team (OECT)

Peel Regional Police

Reach Out Centre for Kids (ROCK)

YMCA Oakville



# Program Highlights

## **BIGS on Campus and the Black Youth Mentorship Program (BYMP)**

*Big Brothers Big Sisters of Peel-York and Halton-Hamilton*

These programs pair Sheridan student mentors with youth mentees from the community for weekly group activities. Many of the participants have had multiple adverse childhood experiences, and therefore mentorship can be a critical source of support for their life trajectory.

The purpose of the programs is to build confidence and inter-personal skills for the mentees, fueling their full potential and broadening their horizons while building capacity to attend postsecondary education in the future.

### **Impact**

- 100% of the youth participants said they often or almost always felt valued by their mentors, they felt improved confidence, they felt listened to and they learned valuable lessons for the future.
- 100% of youth participants felt more comfortable and confident exploring their Black identity as a result of participating in the BYMP.

“Anabya considered this one of her favourite things to do every week. She enjoyed meeting her mentor, who is 'the best gaming partner,' as well as a great person who listens! She was very eager to keep in contact with some of the participants to continue their friendship beyond the BIGS mentorship.”

### ***Parent of a Youth Mentee***

“I feel like I managed to inspire my mentee to go into science or math.”

***Steve, Sheridan Student Mentor***



## Home Suite Hope (HSH) Partnership

Home Suite Hope provides a network of vital wrap-around supports to single-parent families experiencing homelessness or who are precariously housed in Halton Region.

Part of this support includes access to a postsecondary education at Sheridan. With targeted, meaningful resources - including mentorship from Sheridan staff - HSH and Sheridan give these single parents the education and skills to secure a job and establish self-sustainability.

## Supporting Youth in Extended Society Care

In March 2022, Sheridan joined the Child Welfare Political Action Committee to launch a bursary that enables up to 20 eligible students who are currently or formerly in extended society care access to tuition-free postsecondary education for each year of their program.

In partnership with the Peel-Halton Ontario Education Championship Team (OECT), Sheridan delivered a workshop for 26 youth through the Peel and Halton Children's Aid Societies. It focused on the supports and services available to help them pursue postsecondary education.

## Sheridan-Eclipse Postsecondary Readiness Program

Sheridan collaborated with the Eclipse Youth Centre in Peel to deliver a four-week Postsecondary Readiness Series, engaging 27 youth in interactive sessions about career and education pathways, financing education, the postsecondary application process and thriving in college or university.

## Impact

- There were 22 mentor-mentee matches for the 2021-22 academic year, with HSH clients/mentees enrolled in Academic Upgrading or various diploma programs across Sheridan such as Computer Programming, Visual Merchandising Arts, Business and the Skilled Trades.
- Eight HSH clients completed Academic Upgrading to progress to enroll in a Diploma program; three clients formally graduated from a Diploma program as planned in 2022 to move into the workforce; and ten continue to work through their Diploma with anticipated graduation in 2023.



“I really enjoyed being able to talk about different opportunities to get involved in college, like clubs and the Student Union. I also really enjoyed learning about the different grants and scholarships I may be able to receive. Knowing more on these topics will allow me to be better prepared for postsecondary in the future!”

*Program Participant, Brampton, ON*



## Computer Science Camp

Sheridan's School of Applied Computing within the Faculty of Applied Science and Technology (FAST) delivered its first in-person Computer Science Camp for youth ages 11-14 years at the Davis Campus in Brampton during the summer of 2022.

A total of 24 youth attended the camp over a two-week period and learned about app development with Professor Harsh Thakkar.

Thank you for including our youth who otherwise would not have been able to participate in such programs. Feedback has been positive from caregivers who have shared their child enjoyed the learning, felt inspired for their futures and are so happy to make new friends!

*Sue, Program Manager at Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Peel – York*



## Impact

- 100% of the youth participants reported that they learned or did new things in STEM.
- 94% of the youth participants reported that they had a good, very good or amazing camp experience.



## Skills Ontario Summer Trades Camp

Sheridan's Magna School for the Skilled Trades hosted a Skilled Trades Camp for youth between the ages of 11 -14 years at the Davis Campus in Brampton.

A total of 50 youth took part in hands-on workshops led by industry/college professionals that introduced them to a variety of topics such as stamping, machining, woodworking, welding, electrical and plumbing. Through hands-on activities relevant to the skilled trades, campers developed communication, problem-solving and teamwork skills, and they were exposed to a variety of educational and career opportunities in the skilled trades.

The Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, the Minister of Colleges and Universities, Jill Dunlop, and the Associate Minister for Women's Social and Economic Opportunity, Charmaine Williams, alongside staff and partners of Skills Ontario, were welcomed to campus for a visit that demonstrated a commitment to building up the benefits of skilled trades careers for future generations.



## Canada Day Early Years STEAM Kit

Oakville Parent Child Centre (OPCC)

Sheridan's Youth Amplified STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) Team created and distributed 100 STEAM Kits for the Early Years to families at a Canada Day celebration in one of the OPCC's neighbourhood centres.

Families were thrilled to receive these kits that their children could use to complete a hands-on STEAM activity such as building a rocket car, making an abacus or learning about symmetry.



## Summer 2022 STEAM Team - Go Where Kids Are!

The Youth Amplified STEAM Team was made up of Sheridan students from various program areas including Interaction Design, Computer Engineering, Chemistry and Early Childhood Education. With the leadership of Julia Catalano, Community Engagement Specialist, and Professor Anthony Fox from the School of Architecture, 10 new workshops were developed that will be delivered to youth for the 2022-23 program year with existing and new community partners in our "Go Where Kids Are!" model of engagement. Our Sheridan student STEAM instructors will deliver these workshops to youth participants across Peel and Halton with community partners.

We congratulate our first group of STEAM Team members - Andreja Morrison, Shweta Patel, Raine Yuan and Shara Suarez - on their creativity, teamwork and setting the program up for future success!



### Youth in Policing Initiative (YIPI)

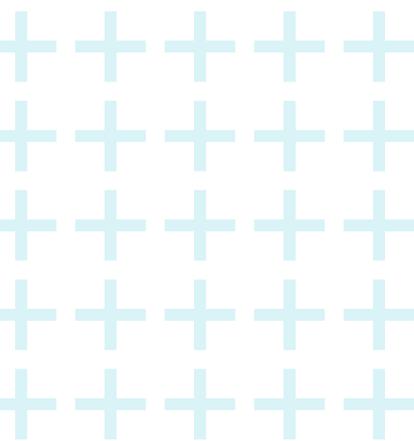
Peel Regional Police (PRP)

Since 2009, PRP has delivered the YIPI program, which provides employment opportunities to 25 youth (between the ages of 15 and 18 years) from priority populations across Peel Region. The goal is to provide opportunities for these youth to develop life, job and leadership skills through a teamwork and mentorship approach.

In collaboration with Sheridan in summer 2022, the youth were also given direct sightline and exposure to postsecondary options. They had the opportunity to spend time on campus engaging in lectures and activities such as Police Fitness Tests and forensics experiments.

### Impact

- 75% of participants reported that they learned more about the educational pathways available to them from Sheridan staff and faculty.
- 92% of participants reported that they learned more about the different types of financial assistance available to them for when they apply to postsecondary education in the future.



## Camp ArtHouse

ArtHouse serves the Halton community and provides free arts-based programs for vulnerable children and youth ages 7-17 who could not otherwise access such programming. ArtHouse operates with the intention of enhancing creativity, resilience, self-discovery, confidence and skills.

In the summer of 2022, Sheridan was thrilled to bring back Camp ArtHouse in-person at our Trafalgar Road Campus, which saw 20 youth from the Oakville community engage in a week-long camp led by a Sheridan alumnus, Steven Botelho (Illustration '05), focused on puppetry.

The youth spent the week in our craft workshops and studio space to put together a script, set and the actual puppets for a theatre show presented to staff and parents.



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# THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS

Sheridan College is a proud network member of Actua, a national network of like-minded programs.

Actua provides training, resources and support to its national network of members located at universities and colleges across Canada in the delivery of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education outreach programming. Each year, these members engage over 350,000 youth in 500 communities nationwide. Please visit Actua at [www.actua.ca](http://www.actua.ca).

Additionally, we would like to recognize Actua's National funders whose support also benefits our programs.

## 2022-23 Actua National Funders



In 2021 Sheridan received funding from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities through the Ontario Postsecondary Access and Inclusion Program (OPAIP) to – in part – support youth outreach and access programming in STEM for the next three years.



In 2022, Sheridan received funding through Skills Ontario to support youth outreach and access to programming in the Skilled Trades.

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Sheridan