

// W.W. SMITH DIRECTS ITS INVESTMENT TOWARD FUTURE EMPLOYEES

W.W. Smith is a professional, independent, locally owned insurance brokerage with more than 100 years of experience. William Wensley Smith opened the brokerage in 1913 and has been on Centre Street in Swift Current ever since. Chuck Audette is currently one of four owners of W.W. Smith Insurance Ltd.

W. W. Smith has 15 licensed brokers with access to major insurance companies, allowing the ability to provide insurance solutions and options for all clients for Home, Auto or Farm, Commercial or Business, Oilfield Contractors and Consultants, Trucking Firms or Professional E and O insurance.

When the college started their sponsorship program funds to provide students with Entrance Scholarships and explained how the program would work, W.W. Smith immediately became involved. The scholarship program allows youth to stay in the community, making education much more accessible and less expensive.

Great Plains offers practical programs to meet the needs of the work place. Chuck stated "It is very appealing for a business owner to have the college not only bring in dollars for the area, as it helps our local economy, but also grow and educate our youth. The college provides recent graduates work placements and opportunities for businesses to grow together. Our company tapped into the work placement partnerships early, when the program first started, and ended up hiring the person that was working on their placement at the office.

"This reinforces my belief that practical work experience is invaluable," Chuck asserted.

"At W.W. Smith, we believe it is important to directly assist first year students in education. It helps to boost and direct our investment targeting outreach to potential future employees. We appreciate the college and believe in developing our existing and new programs by supporting all we can through independently giving to the college," stated Audette.

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W.W. Smith

Make it *Merry*

// BUSSE GIVES BACK

Busse Law Professional Corp. Barristers and Solicitors office has been a long standing business in the community of Biggar.

The business opened its doors in 1972. Since this time, the Busse Law team has created a firm dedicated to service in many aspects of law. Their office has provided legal services in the areas of commercial, personal corporate, litigation, family, wills, trust wills, estates, criminal defense, real estate, debt collection and tax enforcement to name a few. As a rural, general practice firm, Busse Law provides services to many areas of Saskatchewan including, Rosetown, Kindersley, North Battleford, Lloydminster, Saskatoon and Swift Current.

The business began to look for opportunities to give back and Great Plains College presented an opportunity to reach out to younger members of the community.

Colleen Ostoforoff had an opportunity to chat with Blair Slowski about Busse Law's philanthropic goals. He mentioned that he had the pleasure to present scholarship cheques at the Biggar Campus' recent scholarship reception.

"My first impression of Great Plains College was that it provided an opportunity to work with people who are taking classes to enhance their level of knowledge. This knowledge enables them to obtain employment and to be productive members of the workforce.

"Working with the college is a great way to deliver knowledge at a local level. It is a pleasant surprise knowing that the college's diversity of the training that is available."

Colleen asked what motivates and inspires Busse to stay involved with Great Plains College. Blair stated, "It is a way to support people who are working toward goals in their lives. These people also make for a better

community and make life better for everyone. One of the most important things that the college does is deliver educational programs that are easily accessed. We know that the financial assistance is appreciated by the recipients."

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// BUILDING A CAREER PATH THROUGH FLEXIBLE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Plans change. Sometimes because of family commitment, sometimes because of the economy, sometimes because it is just time to take a new direction. For Kaci MacCallum, an Administrative Assistant alumna, the flexibility of the program allowed for her to change plans and move to a new community without compromising her education goals.

Since she lived in Kerrobert when she first enrolled, MacCallum had planned to study at the Great Plains College Kindersley Campus. By enrolling as a full-time Administrative Assistant student with a secondary average over ninety-five percent, she was awarded a \$5,000 entrance scholarship. This meant she could complete the program without any student debt.

When the decision was made to move to Saskatoon she very easily transferred to the Warman Campus.

"I knew I wanted to work in an office, but I didn't want to go to university and have to wait four years to start a career," explained MacCallum when asked why the program appealed to her.

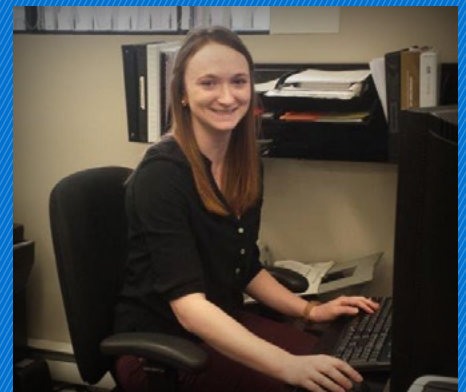
The Administrative Assistant program is an independent learning program with various intake points throughout the year. The next program intake is scheduled for the beginning of March.

"I liked the independent learning aspect of the program because it allowed me the flexibility to work while going to school," she noted.

MacCallum is now working at the Saskatchewan Construction Association as their construction information coordinator, a position that requires a balanced skill set of exceptional people and technical attributes. Many of her skills from the program, such as computer skills, office procedures and customer relations have transferred into the position.

"Kaci's skill set and work ethic are a perfect fit for the Saskatoon Construction Association," says Deb Labersweiler, the association's executive director.

"I really do love this job and everyone I work with. If I hadn't taken the certificate, I wouldn't be here," MacCallum said. She began working soon after completing her program, which included a practicum placement at a construction site in an office trailer.



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// YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Thank you for supporting our students—your contributions are making a difference and I'd like to share how.

During the 2015-16 academic year, a student decided to come to Great Plains College to study welding and was faced with a deep challenge. Hayden had limited hearing. Unsure about how the instructor and fellow students would communicate with him and how could he succeed, Hayden, along with his family members, talked to a student adviser to see how he could fulfil his dream of becoming a welder.



Together, we can make students' post-secondary experiences a little brighter.



It was through the support of heroes like you--scholarship donors--that helped Hayden overcome his challenge and attend college. The college provided a sign language interpreter so that Hayden could learn and excel. The Entrance Scholarship program assisted Hayden and many of his fellow students in providing the financial means to achieve their academic dreams. Thanks, in large, to your support, Hayden graduated from the Welding program in Spring 2016.

In 2015-16, approximately \$198,900 in Entrance Scholarships was provided for 216 students attending Great Plains College. Please consider helping us again by providing an increase to your annual gift. Every dollar we continue to raise is matched by the provincial government's Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunity Scholarships program. In other words, your donation is worth twice the amount to a student entering one of our full-time, student loan-eligible programs!

Every \$500 potentially creates one Entrance Scholarship for a student. Your commitment to post-secondary education in our region has a positive impact on the lives of students and our local economy.

Together, we can make students' post-secondary experiences a little brighter. The offering of peace and good-will during the holiday season can go even further as students decide to embark on a new educational journey. Please consider making a difference in our student community and contribute to their success by donating today.

May you and your loved ones have a wonderful, safe and prosperous holiday season! Thank you for your continued support to the Entrance Scholarship fund.

Sincerely,

David Keast

President & CEO



P.S. Don't forget to send in your annual gift donation before December 31, in order to receive a charitable tax receipt for 2016. Thank you for brightening students' lives in our community!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT

- ACT/UCT Dominion Council #1032
- AGI Swift Current (BATCO Manufacturing)
- AGI-Envirotank
- Anthea & Ralph Loran and Family Endowment Fund
- Biggar & District Credit Union
- Biggar Shop Easy
- Busse Law Professional Corp Barristers and Solicitors
- City of Swift Current
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- Town of Kindersley
- Town of Maple Creek
- Town of Morse
- Town of Ponteix
- Town of Rosetown
- Town of Shaunavon
- Village of Marengo
- Village of Webb
- Viterra Inc.
- Warman Home Centre
- Warman Campus Student Association
- W.W. Smith Insurance Ltd.

// SCHOLARSHIP DONORS CELEBRATE WITH RECIPIENTS

Students, parents and staff attended this year's celebrations of scholarship recipients and valued donors. These events were established to provide an opportunity to thank scholarship donors and bring them together with the students who are benefiting from their generosity.

This October, Great Plains College offered approximately \$140,000 in scholarships throughout its service region to 157 deserving students.



// SAVE THE DATE

Great Plains College would like to spark your interest in its upcoming fundraiser, the 5th Annual Carhartts and Caviar Welding Showcase & Auction, on March 2, 2017.

SAVE THE DATE AND JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FOOD, DRINK AND METAL ART.

Early bird tickets go on sale January 9, 2017, and are \$35 each.

After February 17, 2017, tickets are \$45 each.

For more information, or to reserve your tickets today, contact Director of Communications and Development, Carrie Voysey, at carriev@greatplainscollege.ca or 306-778-5499.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

What would you like to see in a future Momentum issue? We want to know!

Email development@greatplainscollege.ca or call us at 306-778-5499.

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