

MEDIA RELEASE

Mohawk College launches 5-year initiative to address poverty through education Challenge 2025 Taskforce to set course for greater employment, prosperity

Hamilton, ON – May 23, 2019 – Mohawk College president Ron McKerlie this evening announced an ambitious new five-year initiative, called Challenge 2025, committing intensified college resources to address the ongoing issues of poverty, under-education and labour shortages in the Greater Hamilton Area.

“People are still being left behind as our city moves forward,” said McKerlie, in an announcement made at the 5th Annual Mohawk College Partnership Dinner. “Through Challenge 2025, we intend to build on the success of our City School model and Mohawk’s extensive partnerships in the Hamilton area. We are convinced we can and must do more, and be more, for the people in our community.”

To guide Challenge 2025, a taskforce was formed with 15 key partners and community leaders, who share the belief that education and training can lead to generational change and community prosperity. The taskforce is co-chaired by McKerlie and community leader, Bill Young, president of Social Capital Partners, along with leaders from the corporate, community, education, healthcare and municipal sectors. By fall 2019, the group will develop recommendations on how Mohawk can do more, including aggressive targets. The college will release its action plan in late autumn.

“With Challenge 2025, we have a good map for success and, with the help of our taskforce, we will chart the right course. But we can’t get there alone,” McKerlie told the audience of nearly 400 guests at Hamilton’s LIUNA Station. “Working together, I am confident we will see real improvement in those neighbourhoods that need us most – thanks to a strong, vibrant citizenship working together for generational change. And a community college true to its mission.”

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Since October 2015, City School by Mohawk has provided an intentional strategy to deliver accessible post-secondary education through community-based classrooms and mobile classrooms at the neighbourhood level. The goal of City School is to create a welcome, open space for learning, community engagement and partnership, collaboration and experiential learning.

Mohawk currently runs City School locations in North Hamilton at the Eva Rothwell Resource Centre, in Downtown Hamilton at the Central Public Library, and in pop-up locations throughout the region, including the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre and Mission Services of Hamilton.

Mohawk College has been providing a quality, higher education experience to students in Hamilton, Ontario and the surrounding area since 1967. The college educates and serves more than 31,700 full-time, part-time, apprenticeship and international students at three main campuses in Hamilton, at learning hubs across Hamilton through City School by Mohawk, and at the college's Aerospace Facility at Hamilton International Airport. Mohawk is among the leading colleges in Canada for applied research. It has been named one of Canada's greenest employers for six years in a row, and is home to the country's largest net zero energy institutional building. More than 120,000 people have graduated from Mohawk since it was founded.

Digital Media Kit –

<https://www.mohawknewsdesk.ca/digital-media-kit---mohawk-college-challenge-2025/>

Audio clips of President McKerlie's speech

- Raw audio/video of President McKerlie's full speech, Partnership Dinner 2019
- Full text of speech
- List, bios and photos of Challenge 2025 Taskforce
- Backgrounder – Challenge 2025
- Backgrounder – City School

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