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The Brock Leaders Citizenship Society

The Leader's Link



Brock Leaders Citizenship Society

Who We Are

The Brock Leaders Citizenship Society (BLCS) is a group of exceptional students, recognized for a combination of high academic achievement and personal leadership abilities prior to attending Brock University. As Brock students, members of the BLCS maintain a high standard of academic excellence while producing ongoing opportunities for meaningful engagement with the Brock, local, and global communities.

Our Vision

We envision a group of passionate Brock University students channeling their strengths to inspire themselves and others to invoke positive change within the Brock, local, and global communities.

Our Mission

The mission of the Brock Leaders Citizenship Society is to unite exceptional students, and nurture their growth into the leaders of tomorrow by fostering their desire to learn, strengthening their character, and encouraging fellowship. An emphasis on academic excellence, leadership development, and philanthropic community service will help us achieve this objective.

Our Motto

Lead the change!



Message from the President

As I write this message, the winter term has ended and the Brock Leaders Citizenship Society (BLCS) has elected our new set of executive members. The executive election process is reflective of the themes of continuity and change the BLCS faces each year, and they are the themes on which I would like to reflect.

The transition from one executive to another is not the only change the BLCS goes through each year. Each April, we say goodbye to our fourth year members as they start the next chapter in their lives. Each September, we welcome a new set of first year members with diverse experiences, likewise embarking on a new, shared chapter in theirs.

In the BLCS, we talk a lot about change. The emphasis on invoking positive change appears in our Society's vision statement. Implicitly, it is present in our mission, when it speaks about nurturing the growth of our members. Most pronouncedly, it is embodied by our motto: "Lead the Change!"

I think this focus on change is a good one; nevertheless, change is not the least intimidating of concepts. Change stands in contrast to the concept of continuity, the latter often related to experience and stability. Thus, change is a departure from the known, and a venture into the new.

The balance of continuity and change is certainly represented in our membership. It is also reflected in the initiatives our members are working on this year: some initiatives are new, whereas others are built upon the foundations laid by members in past.

It is my hope for the Brock Leaders Citizenship Society that it can harness the powers of both continuity and change. It is by doing so that our leaders' strengths will best be felt in our communities, be they Brock, local, or global.

Eleni Nicolaidis
3rd year, Political Sciences



Shinerama: Give Change to Make Change

Shinerama is Canada's largest post-secondary fundraiser that raises money for cystic fibrosis research. On September 7th 2013, over 40 dedicated Brock Leaders participated in this year's fundraiser and raised the most money out of all of the contributing Brock University groups. Way to go leaders!



Relive, Reunite, & Return to Celebrate Brock!



Homecoming is an event to relive, reunite, and return to Brock University. On September 21, 2013, the Brock Leaders Citizenship Society hosted the Alumni Social as part of the 50th anniversary of Brock University. It was fantastic to see Taia Spencer-Yap, a Brock National Leaders award recipient, meet this year's current BLCS members.

A special thank you for the hard work of our Event's Coordinator, Adam Zoccoli.

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Words from our Members

Elizabeth Angotti

Third year, Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures

Being a Brock Leader means to set an example, lead a change. As a fourth year member, I have had the opportunity to meet amazingly gifted and inspirational individuals. There is nothing more beautiful than seeing people sacrifice their time to lend a hand to those in need. This year, I turned one of my ideas into a charitable initiative: Brock Teens for Jeans. What better way to recycle your old jeans than to donate them to local and global homeless youth? Thank you to the committee members and the BLCS for making this possible. Also, thank you to everyone who donated jeans! The success of this initiative could not have happened if it were not for your generosity and support.



David Nguyen

Second year, Biomedical Sciences

The Brock Leaders Citizenship Society is one of the greatest opportunities an undergraduate student can be exposed to. For me, BLCS is a place where learning beyond academics is measured and taken with a sense of pride. BLCS has made university a place where I can explore different facets of living, new experiences, and meet some of the brightest, motivated, and talented students at Brock University. On my first day at Brock, the BLCS immediately fostered an environment of fellowship and friendship. As a united society of leaders, we have achieved amazing things because we consistently push each other to live on our growing edge. The BLCS has taught me to not only push my limits, but also to strive, thrive, and aspire. Lastly, the BLCS is fantastic because it takes motivation, inspiration, and ideas and turns it into servant leadership.

Leading the Change!

This year, the Student Leadership and Innovation Commons, BUSU, Brock Residence and the Brock Leaders Citizenship Society hosted the Brock Student Leadership Summit. On November 9, 2013, the campus community, alumni, and community leaders were brought together in order to inspire attendees to embrace their authentic leadership style at Brock University. It was a successful event with fantastic guest speakers and over 100 participants.



Celebrating Success & Dedication

On January 7th, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice President, Student Services, Kim Meade invited the Brock Leaders Citizenship Society to an appreciation luncheon with the President at Alphie's Bistro, Brock University. Provost and Vice-President, Academic, Neil McCartney joined in celebrating the Brock Leaders for their ongoing dedication, achievements, and contributions to the Brock University community.

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Tom and Linda Goldspink Scholarship for Excellence and Leadership in the Humanities

The Tom and Linda Goldspink Scholarship for Excellence and Leadership in the Humanities recognizes incoming Brock students who have shown excellent leadership skills, academics, and aspire to pursue a degree in the Humanities.

Miranda Wayland was student council President, where she led countless initiatives that benefitted her school's social climate. As well, she was a Big Brothers Big Sisters tutor and mentor, where she assisted students in achieving academic success. Her efforts as Simcoe Outreach Society Leader addressed important social issues in both her local and global communities. Alongside her leadership skills, she was a cheerleader, soccer player, dance choreographer, and rower.



Helping homeless youth, one pair at a time



This year, the BLCS organized “Teens for Jeans,” a jean drive that supports homeless youth. As a result, the BLCS successfully collected over 200 jeans that would be donated to homeless youth in Niagara. Teens for Jeans is a National campaign in both Canada and the United States organized by DoSomething.org, an organization for young people creating social change. Nationally, the campaign collected 802,488 pairs of jeans. Brock University was one of the first Universities to participate in this initiative.

A big thanks for Elizabeth Angotti, Charissa DiMarco, Michael Dube, and Aniqah Zowmi for organizing this initiative.

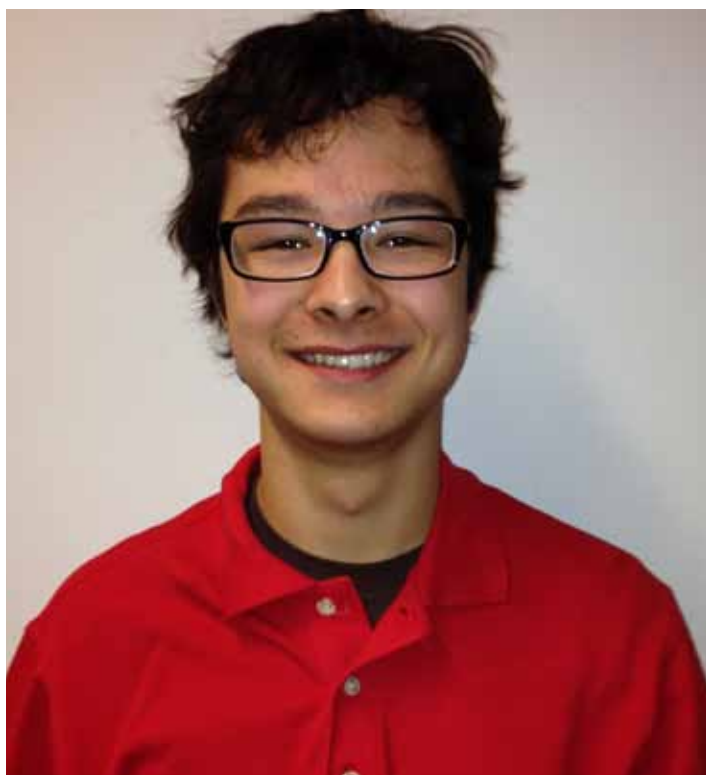
BLCS Spreading Love & Care

As part of our annual Senior Prom initiative, 15 dedicated BLCS members filled West Park Health Centre with balloons, roses, non-alcoholic champagne, and live music in celebration of Valentine's Day. BLCS members in formal wear mingled, danced, and joked with residents of West Park Health Centre, which is home to 85 residents. Residents were excited and enjoyed a night filled with fun, excitement, and nostalgia. It was a great opportunity for our members to learn and reminisce with the residents. The BLCS is glad to have engaged the West Park community, especially when we have residents saying "When are you coming back?"

A big thanks for Amanda Slamka, a BLCS alumni, for organizing the event along with our current members!



CIBC Brock Leaders Citizenship Society Award



The CIBC Brock Leaders Award was made possible through an endowed gift to the university by CIBC. The award recognizes incoming Brock students who have achieved exceptional academic success and demonstrated outstanding community involvement.

Rob Chung was highly involved in both sports and academics during his high school career. Rob participated in competitive fencing at the provincial level, the curling club, and the track team where he attended OFSAA Cross Country Championships. As well, he was highly involved in the DECA business team where he participated in provincial competitions and placed third in the ICAO COIN competition. Additionally, he is passionate about music as he received his First Class Honours with Distinction in Grade 8 Piano and volunteers as a church organist.



Leader Spotlight: Ellie Donohue-Miller

Ellie Donohue-Miller is a second year women's and gender studies student and Brock Leader. Ellie is a dedicated and passionate advocate for social justice. As a Grade 12 student, Ellie partnered with OPRIG-Brock with hopes of establishing a support centre on campus for victims of sexual assault. Her perseverance and motivation eventually became the non-profit "A Safer Brock." Regardless of just beginning her studies at Brock, she created a referendum in the fall of 2012, which was unfortunately voted down. Still, Ellie did not give up and continued lobbying for a centre and was successful in February 2013. As a result, the Brock Student Sexual Violence Support Centre has been secured, consisting of hired staff and volunteers.

Her efforts in this cause were recognized as she was chosen as the recipient of the prestigious Fessenden-Trott Scholarship, an award that is only granted to four Canadian university students across Canada.



Undergraduate Research

The Natural Science and Engineering Research Council Undergraduate Student Research Award program is intended to stimulate undergraduate students' interest in pursuing research, while gaining research work experience.

This year, Aniqah Zowmi and David Nguyen will be researching under the supervision of Dr. Adonis Skandalis and Dr. Hongbin Yan respectively.

Aniqah is pursuing research in the Department of Biology. Her research project will be the effects of antioxidants on apoptic rate of cells undergoing oxidative stress.

David is pursuing research in the Department of Chemistry. His research project will be investigating the nature of DNA-ligand binding in highly stereoselective reactions.

Brock Leaders Citizenship Society Recipients 2013-2014



Eve Ameen

In high school, Eve always kept herself busy by participating in various activities. Eve is a passionate individual who is highly driven and motivated. Whether she is participating as a scorekeeper for school games, volunteering internationally as part of humanitarian projects, or even opera singing, Eve consistently puts in 100% effort and dedication. Eve hopes to work with the Brock community to continue making positive change.



Megan Brown

Megan has always enjoyed being part of groups and clubs that provided her with the opportunity to help others. As president of the Interact club, a service leadership project of Rotary International, she initiated, oversaw, and partook in group initiatives such as the annual Christmas toy drive, vows of silence, Teens for Jeans, and fundraisers for natural disaster relief. She enjoyed spending time peer tutoring students, and using her teamwork skills to lead group initiatives. As a Brock Leader, she hopes to strive to better the lives of others in the Brock community and the world.



Rob Chung

Rob has a passion for sports, volunteerism, fundraising, and business events. During his high school career, Rob placed third in the ICAOs' COIN competition, competed in the OFSAA Cross-Country Championships and the Ontario games. His current goals for Brock are to excel in his academics, participate in student leadership, and continue his passion for fencing.



Rachel Easterbrook

Rachel has a passion for social justice. In high school, she co-founded and acted as president of the Gay-Straight Alliance, which allowed her to initiate the development of a safe and positive social climate in her school. Her efforts as president allowed her to make positive changes in her school and local community. At Brock, she hopes to continue to fight for social justice, while speaking up and speaking out in the fight against discrimination.

Brock Leaders Citizenship Society Recipients 2013-2014



Casey Lawrence

Casey explored many opportunities high school had to offer. She was Editor of her school's yearbook and a member of several teams and clubs. Casey's motivation and initiative led her to co-found the volunteer oriented Gay Straight Alliance, where she acted as Vice-President. At Brock, Casey hopes to receive a well-rounded education while continuing her dedication in improving the community and advocating for social justice.



Daniel Mariella

Dan is passionate about promoting community spirit and inclusivity. In high school, he acted as student trustee for over 56 schools, which included over 30,000 students. As well, he acted as a member of the Ontario Student Trustee Association and Student Council President at his high school. Volunteering has always been important for Dan. He was a peer mentor, as well as a volunteer soccer coach. During his four years, he gained over 3,000 hours of community service. At Brock, he looks forward to sharing his ideas of inclusivity and hopes to make positive changes.



Evan Nohara

During Evan's four years of high school, he was able to participate in a variety of activities. He was the president of his school's Student Council, where he initiated and facilitated many activities such as the school's annual semi-formal. As well, he took leadership roles in the Social Climate Club, the Junior Football team, as well as various school musicals. Evan has also acted as a mentor for students transitioning to high school. At Brock, he hopes to pursue his goals of medicine and demonstrate his leadership skills in order to make a difference in the Brock community.



Ian Poulin

Throughout high school, Ian had chosen to be involved in various community clubs and technical clubs. His involvement with Interact, a service leadership project of Rotary International, allowed him to make various contributes to his local community. As well, he gained various skills in business analysis with his participation with DECA, a high school association that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. He hopes to continue his well-rounded education and continue to go above and beyond in his studies at Brock.

Brock Leaders Citizenship Society Recipients 2013-2014



John Mikael

As a high school student, John took leadership in his roles as a member of his student council for two consecutive years. As well, he positively impacted children and helped them foster life skills as a leader in a youth group at his church. As a Brock Leader, John hopes to pursue his science education while participating, leading, and enjoying the various activities and initiatives that Brock has to offer.



Dalton Steele

During Dalton's high school career, he involved himself in a variety of clubs and groups to strengthen his leadership and communication skills. As a grade 12 student, he acted as Students' Council Prime Minister. As well, he organized a group of Pelham citizens to begin the creative process for the construction of the Isaac Riehl Memorial Skate Park. Dalton has a passion for humanitarian work, which has led him to independently travel to the Dominican to provide aid.



Miranda Wayland

Miranda has always been extremely passionate about school and citizenship. In high school, she acted as Student Council president. As well, she volunteered her time as a Big Brothers Big Sisters tutor, participated in service projects such as Out of the Cold, and participated in a mentorship program for children with special needs. For her efforts, she was awarded the Principal's Award for Student Leadership and was Valedictorian for her graduating class. Miranda hopes to inspire and make a difference in the Brock community.



Aniqah Zowmi

Aniqah consistently took initiative throughout her four years in high school. She founded her school's chapter of FitClub, where she organized a 5K run with over 200 female participants across Ontario. As well, she was President of the Duke of Edinburgh club, and received her Bronze and Silver awards from this program. She is passionate about social justice and has raised funds to help girls obtain an education in developing countries. At Brock, she wants to continue her passions for social justice, student leadership and facilitate positive change.