

**BROCK UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES BIOGRAPHIES 2024-2025**



**AIMEY, Réjeanne**

Réjeanne Aimey is a strong and empathetic leader – a licensed Professional Engineer and a not-for-profit board director. Currently she works in Ontario’s manufacturing industry on special projects and is Past President and Chair of OSPE - the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers. She is skilled in design integration, manufacturing, project engineering, root cause analysis, and management. An innovator, mindful thought leader, and avid learner, she is a strong advocate of STE(A)M, inclusivity, and demonstrating how people can develop and contribute to economic prosperity and a better society for all.



**Chair  
ARTHUR, Mark**

Mark Arthur is a seasoned Wealth Management executive who has had a successful career for over 40 years in the financial services industry. He has a reputation as a strong and level-headed entrepreneur and business builder in the Canadian financial services industry sector. Mark’s career began at Dominion Securities and then advanced to President and Chief Investment Officer of Royal Bank Investment Management, where he ultimately led its successor, RBC Global Investment Management, as President and CIO. Under his leadership, those entities grew from \$2 to \$45 billion over 14 years.

In 2003, Mark co-founded Jovian Capital Corporation which invested in the financial services arena by acquiring, creating and growing companies. Over a ten year period, Jovian became TSX listed and built a diversified portfolio of unique companies involved in the traditional and emerging asset management business. Mark’s roles included President of Jovian, as well as CEO of subsidiaries MGI Securities, TE Wealth and Leon Frazer. Jovian was subsequently acquired by Industrial Alliance and later by CWB Bank where he continued as President of CWB Private Investment Counsel. During his career, he leveraged a strong aptitude for people development and helped to develop an array of Bay Street leaders who benefitted from his mentorship.

Mark is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) with an MBA from University of Western Ontario. He is a proud alumnus of Brock University where he earned his Bachelor of Administration, and he also holds the ICD.D designation. He has served on the Advisory Council for the Goodman School of Business since 2014, has been a member of the Board of Trustees since 2015, and currently serves as Chair of the Board.



## **AYANSO, Anteneh**

Anteneh Ayanso is Professor of Information Systems in the Goodman School of Business at Brock University. Born and raised in Ethiopia, Anteneh obtained a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Business Management from Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia. He started his career at the same institution and taught several business courses before he left for the United States with a Fulbright Scholarship to study MBA at Syracuse University. Anteneh also holds PhD in Information Systems from the University of Connecticut where he also taught information systems and operations management courses.

Since joining Brock University, Anteneh has been instrumental in launching programs and research collaborations in data science and analytics. He is the founding director of the Centre for Business Analytics, and co-proponent and inaugural director of the BSc in Data Sciences and Analytics program at Brock University. He is a member of a trans-disciplinary team of scholars from Brock University for Niagara Prosperity Initiative (NPI) Evaluation. He regularly participates as a panelist, moderator, speaker and instructor at various management seminars and industry summits in data analytics. Anteneh also served as Chair of the Department of Finance, Operations, and Information Systems, in addition to his regular roles as Member at Large in various Senate Committees and other university committees.

At Goodman, Anteneh teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in data management, business analytics, and management of information systems. He has published extensively and supervised many students with research programs funded by internal and external grants, including NSERC, SSHRC, Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) and MITACS. He is a recipient of several teaching and research awards from Goodman, and a member of Beta Gamma Sigma and Phi Beta Delta. Very active in the academic community, Anteneh also serves as Senior Editor, Associate Editor, Editorial Board Member and peer-reviewer of many academic journals, as well as examiner and assessor for research grants, graduate theses and academic programs.

Anteneh resides in St. Catharines with his wife and two children and serves as the founding President of the Ethio-Canadian Community Association in the Niagara Region. A big fan of soccer, he enjoys playing pick-up soccer with various groups of the community in the Niagara Region.



## **BERTI, Greg**

Greg Berti is *Vice-President, Global Markets, Industry Relations and Business Development* for Andrew Peller Limited, a TSX listed wine company that owns and operates Estate and Commercial wineries across Canada including Trius, Thirty Bench, Peller Estates, Wayne Gretzky Winery and Distillery, Sandhill, Red Rooster, Tinhorn Creek, Black Hills and Gray Monk to name a few. He sits on the company's Executive Committee as well as several industry boards including, Wine Growers British Columbia, Wine Growers Ontario, Wine Growers Nova Scotia and Wine Growers Canada as well as the Wine Appellation Authority. He has been in the wine industry for more than 30 years and has had executive level experience in Sales (international and domestic), Retail, Restaurants, Tourism, e-commerce, Marketing, M&A and Government Relations.

He holds three post-secondary degrees: B.Sc.(Guelph); MBA (Kedge-Bordeaux), Chartered Director (McMaster). He has previously served on the boards of the Shaw Festival and CAA (Niagara).



## **DAVEY, Jonathan**

Jonathan Davey, AdeC, is the Vice President of Indigenous Financial Services at the Bank of Nova Scotia (Scotiabank). He works with Indigenous communities and businesses to find banking solutions and wealth management options to help Nations achieve their respective visions for future generations. Before joining Scotiabank Jonathan practiced law for over ten years as Crown Counsel in the Aboriginal Law Division of the Department of Justice Canada (DOJ) and served as the Special Advisor & Counsel to the Assistant Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs within the DOJ.

Jonathan is also a Captain with The Queen's York Rangers (1st American Regiment) of the Canadian Armed Forces Primary Reserve. He has held multiple leadership positions with the unit since receiving his commission and currently serves as the regiment's Battle Captain. In his capacity as a cavalry officer Jonathan holds the appointment of Aide de Camp to the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

Jonathan has a master's degree in Public Administration from Cornell University, where he was a Cornell Institute for Public Affairs Fellow, a law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School, and a First Class Honours degree in Business Communications from Brock University. He has been inducted into the Pi Alpha Alpha Global Honor Society for Public Affairs and is an Osgoode Hall Alumni Gold Key recipient.

Jonathan serves as a director on the boards of the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business, Indigenous Works, Our Children's Medicine, the Osgoode Hall Law School Alumni Association, & the Ontario College of Teachers. Recently, he completed an Action Canada Fellowship and was named as one of The Peak's Emerging Leaders in Finance and one of Canada's Top 40 Under 40 by Caldwell and PwC.

Jonathan is Haudenosaunee. He is a member of the Six Nations of the Grand River and shares his Cayuga heritage with his father. He now resides in Toronto with his wife and daughter.

## **FREEMAN, Arti**



Arti Freeman has over 20 years' experience leading programs and strategies, organizational change initiatives and business process improvements.

She is currently the President and CEO of the Definity Insurance Foundation, a grant making entity that works with charitable partners across Canada to address the systemic roots and impacts of health, socio-economic and climate related inequities.

Prior to her current role, she was the Manager of Partnership Investments at the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), one of Canada's largest grantmaking foundations, where she led the successful rebuilding of the Partnership Investment program that connects the non-profit, public, and private sectors to build a stronger non-profit sector in Ontario.

Inspired by deep curiosity and a desire to see meaningful change, Arti enjoys building strong partnerships and working collaboratively to address the complex social problems facing our communities.

Arti's experience includes the following: Board Member, Bethlehem Housing and Support Services, Niagara; Youth Social Infrastructure Committee, the Laidlaw Foundation; Advisory Reference Group,

Canadian Index of Child and Youth Well-being, UNICEF Canada; and Advisor, Ontario Indigenous Youth Partnership Project.

Arti has lived and worked in the Philippines, India, Belgium, and South Africa. She is a Certified Change Management Professional with a Bachelor of Science in International Business from Assumption College in the Philippines and a Master of Science in Poverty Reduction and Development Management from the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom.



### **HE, Lucy**

Lucy He is an accomplished project manager and engineer with over 15 years of experience in the energy sector. Known for her problem-solving skills and strategic thinking, Lucy has excelled in highly regulated and complex industries. Her track record demonstrates a strong ability to lead diverse teams and drive collaboration towards achieving goals.

Lucy is a licensed Professional Engineer in Ontario. In 2019, Lucy joined Ontario Power Generation as a Project Leader leading large scale refurbishment projects at hydro generating stations in Niagara. Currently serving as a Senior Procurement Specialist at Ontario Power Generation, Lucy is broadening her skills in procurement, contract management, and legal matters in support of the construction of a new nuclear generating station. Her technical acumen coupled with international experience, having immigrated to Canada as an international student, enriches her perspective and ability to contribute to international student community and growth.

Outside of her professional endeavors, Lucy is passionate and deeply engaged in community events, particularly supporting women in STEM and children's initiatives. She volunteers annually as a judge at the Niagara Regional Science and Engineering Fair and actively participates in Brock events, such as the Women in STEM panelist and Scientifically Yours mentor.



### **HUGHES, Allie**

Allie Hughes is a Niagara based entrepreneur with a global reach. Her digital agency, Hughes&Co, was founded in 2012 and serves its international client roster from Thorold, Ontario. Focused on strategy first digital marketing, Hughes&Co identifies opportunities, builds strategic communications plans, crafts compelling campaigns and assets, and refines delivery through best in class and expertly optimized tools.

Outside of agency life, Allie maintains an active professional speaking schedule. Her talks are focused on active marketing solutions, women entrepreneurship, confidence in business and tactile deployment specific topics. She has spoken at INBOUND, Haste & Hustle, The Atelier Collective, John Deere, Halton, and more.

Allie also spends her time volunteering in an active capacity for organizations she loves. Allie is the current Chair of the Board of the YMCA of Niagara. She is also the Past-President of the Brock University Alumni Association. Beyond her board roles, Allie can be found championing for causes she believes in and engaging in critical activism for causes near to her heart.

At home Allie has two young children, and her husband, a fellow Brock University graduate.

Allie has been recognized for her entrepreneurial success by a number of organizations. Her accolades include Niagara Entrepreneur of the Year, Niagara Top 40 Under 40, Women in Niagara's Emerging Entrepreneur and Brock University's 2017 Outstanding Young Alumni.



## **KAPISAVANHU, Nyarayi**

A Ruby Award Nominee 2015, RBC Immigrant of the year Nominee 2020, and a recipient of the Black Role Model Award, November 2017 from Diversity Network Toronto and The Canada 150 Business Leadership Award, February 2018, Nyarayi Kapisavanhu, MBA, is a multi lingual community leader, entrepreneur and teacher at heart. She is the Founder and Executive Director of TOES Niagara founded in 2013 with branches in South Africa and an orphanage and vocational school in Zimbabwe. TOES Niagara is a not- for- profit organization that works with women and their families, from diverse communities and backgrounds, giving them the Tools Of Empowerment for Success (TOES), through multi-lens educational workshops, programs, and other support services

using her five pillars of Empowerment; Economic Development, Education for Sustainable Development, Leadership Development, Social Development and Personal Development. Nyarayi is also the founder of the Advocating for Black Excellence awards of Niagara (ABEAN) inaugurated in 2015, an annual Black History month targeted scholarship fundraiser for Black youth enrolled into a post secondary education institution, which to date has awarded more than \$20,000 worth of scholarships. She is also the founder of 'What they see is what they will BE', Black youth mentorship program that is run through both the District and Catholic school boards of Niagara.

Nyarayi's passion is providing training and education to enhance the economic and social status and the development of leadership skills of the marginalized in order to improve their prospects. She is a strong believer in Education for Sustainable Development, which allows every human being to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to shape a sustainable future. Nyarayi is heavily involved in the community and sits on many boards and committees, locally and internationally, in various capacities. Locally, she is the current president of the Niagara District Council of Women, and is the co-chair along with the Chief of Police on the Niagara Chief of Police community Inclusion Council. She also sits on a number of committees such as the Local Immigrant Partnership, the Committee to End Violence Against Women (CEVAW) among others. Nyarayi was instrumental in resuscitating and is the past president of The Association for Bright Children of Ontario, Niagara Chapter. She is also past president of SOFIFRAN (Solidarite de Femmes Immigrantes Francophones) and a former YWCA board member. Nyarayi also runs a successful for- profit business when she is not wearing her TOES Niagara hat.

## **KLENTROU, Nota** (Chair of Senate)

## **KNIBUTAT, Kristian**



Kristian Knibutat is the Chief Operating Officer, the Chief Risk Officer and a member of the Canadian Leadership Team at PwC Canada. He is responsible for the strategic oversight of the firm's national operations, including the Internal Firm Services group, IT, national security, risk and compliance, Independence Office, the Office of the General Counsel, real estate, administrative support services, pension investments and the firm's strategic mergers and acquisitions. Kristian represents PwC on numerous global organizations including operations, technology and insurance.

Kristian was previously the Chief Financial Officer (2013-2018), National Deals Leader (2009-2012) and the Canadian Valuations, Forensics and Disputes Leader (2004-2009). He was also a Trustee of PwC's Global Business Trust. As a Deals partner, Kristian has extensive experience on a wide range of business issues including: the valuation of businesses for tax planning; financing; restructuring; shareholder disputes;

purchase and sale transactions; family law matters; intellectual property valuations; due diligence reviews; and purchase price allocations. He has provided strategic counsel and business solutions to public and private companies across many industries and sectors, including: pharmaceutical and healthcare; industrial product manufacturing; real estate; financial services; food and beverage; education; and technology.

Kristian also appeared as an expert witness in the Ontario Court and has presented papers on the valuation of intellectual property and fair value on financial reporting at various conferences.

Kristian was the Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee and a Director of the Board of the Shaw Festival from 2013 to 2019 and was also a member of the Shaw's executive committee and strategic planning committee. He was the Chair of Board of the YMCA of Oakville 2006 to 2010 and a Board member from 2000 to 2012. Kristian was also the Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee of the YMCA of Hamilton Burlington from 1995 to 1998.



**LANE, Laura**

Laura Lane is the Manager of Learning Services at Brock University. Learning Services is a department within Student Life and Success that provides academic skills support for students to increase academic success and retention.

Laura has worked as an educator for the past 15 years at both the secondary and post-secondary level. Prior to her role in Learning Services, Laura taught English Literature with the Niagara Catholic District School Board while also working as a part-time instructor with Brock University's Faculty of Education. Laura joined Brock University full time in 2016 with Learning Services as an eLearning Skills Specialist before transitioning to the role of Manager in 2022.

Laura is passionate about transforming educational contexts to better support students who are underrepresented in post-secondary education. Both her research and professional experiences have a keen focus on applying critical pedagogy and trauma-informed practices to increase student voice, representation, and success. Laura has completed her BA (hons) in English Language and Literature, BEd, MEd in Socio-Cultural Contexts of Education and PhD in Social/Cultural/Political Contexts of Education at Brock University.



**LANG, Brian**

Brian Lang was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Real Matters and joined its Board of Directors in November 2020. Mr. Lang joined Real Matters as President and Chief Operating Officer in June 2019. Prior to joining Real Matters, Mr. Lang was President of MasterCard Canada. Lang's career with MasterCard spanned more than 13 years during which he held a number of senior executive positions in various geographies including Europe, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Canada. Prior to MasterCard, Lang held key management roles with CIBC and Aeroplan. Mr. Lang is a graduate of the University of British Columbia with a Bachelor of Arts and he is a Six Sigma Master Black Belt. He has served on Junior Achievement Boards across

three continents, currently sits on the Board of Crescent School (Chairs the People and Culture Committee) and is an active United Way MIG member.

## **MAGEE, Kevin**

As the Chief Security Officer for Microsoft Canada, Kevin Magee leads the technical teams who are Microsoft's architects, practitioners, and stewards of trust. Drawing from a unique career which has included senior sales and technical leadership positions at Silicon Valley giants such as Microsoft, Oracle, Hewlett-Packard and Palo Alto Networks, Kevin is one of Canada's leading authorities on cybersecurity and cyber risk governance and often writes, lectures and contributes to curriculum development for Canadian colleges and universities on topics related to cybersecurity, governance, entrepreneurship and criminology. Kevin also holds an ICD.D certification with the Institute of Corporate Directors and has extensive experience advising, educating, and serving on boards including the Brant Community Healthcare System, the Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts and the Brock University Board of Trustees.

Deeply committed to the development and creation of cybersecurity leadership and technical educational opportunities for aspiring security professionals, he currently serves as an Entrepreneur in Residence for the Rogers Cybersecurity Catalyst at Toronto Metropolitan University, as a Member of the University of Guelph's Master of Cybersecurity and Threat Intelligence Advisory Board, as a Member of George Brown College's Cyber Security Program Advisory Council, as a Member of the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology's Information Systems Security Advisory Board, and as a Member of the Royal Canadian Military Institute. He has also previously served as an Entrepreneur in Residence for Laurier University and advisor for Communitech and MaRS.

Kevin resides in Brantford Ontario and holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from Brock University.

## **MALLECK, Dan**

Dan Malleck is a professor in the Department of Health Sciences at Brock University and the director of Brock's Centre for Canadian Studies. He is a medical historian specializing in drug and alcohol regulation and policy. He has published books and articles on that topic including *Try to Control Yourself: The regulation of public drinking in post-prohibition Ontario* (UBC Press 2012) which won the Canadian Historical Association's 2013 Clio Prize for Ontario history; *When Good Drugs go Bad: Opium, medicine, and the origins of Canada's drug laws* (UBC Press, 2015); and *Liquor and the Liberal State: Drink and order before prohibition* (UBC Press, 2022). He is the co-editor, with Cheryl Warsh, of *Consuming Modernity: Gendered behaviour and consumerism before the baby boom* (UBC Press, 2013) and *Pleasure and Panic: New Essays on the history of alcohol and drugs* (UBC Press 2022) and editor of the four-volume primary source collection *Drugs, Alcohol, and Addiction in the Long Nineteenth Century* (Routledge, 2020). He is the editor of the *Social History of Alcohol and Drugs* for over a decade and has filled various academic and administrative roles at Brock and internationally. He contributes to the current discussions on cannabis legalization, the opioid crisis, and liquor laws, using historically grounded analysis to provide insight into current issues. When not writing articles for mass consumption, he is trying to complete an ever expanding history of the pharmacy profession in Canada.



## **McMASTER, Marleen**

Marleen McMaster is the Director of Learning & Development with Durward Jones Barkwell, a Niagara-based accounting firm. In this role she manages all aspects of technical and leadership programming through strategic analysis of learning and development initiatives, supports the staff coaching process, and ensures professional compliance.

Prior to this, Marleen served as the Director of People, Finance and Administration at the 2022 Canada Summer Games, a multi-sport event featuring over 5,000 amateur athletes and coaches. As a member of the senior leadership team, Marleen prepared and managed a \$100M project budget with responsibility for the financial vision as well as monthly board and fund partner reporting.

Inspired to deliver personalized educational experiences, Marleen has also facilitated and instructed accounting courses at both Niagara and Trillium Colleges, guiding students to successfully achieve program milestones.

Marleen holds a Bachelor of Commerce from Queen's University and earned her CPA, CA designation while working at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Toronto, Calgary and Australia. It was at PwC that Marleen discovered a passion for education and professional development, serving as the National Learning & Development Manager where she designed curriculum for training programs and outlined evaluation strategies.

Marleen and her husband also own a local Canadian Tire store and enjoy spending time with their two daughters at the lake and traveling the globe.



### **MELNYK, Matthew**

Matt Melnyk is the Director of Student Recruitment at Brock University. Student Recruitment leads the design, development, and implementation of Brock University's global strategy for undergraduate student recruitment, conversion, and registration. Student Recruitment is a one of many administrative units supporting student enrolment under the leadership of the Registrar and Associate Vice-President Enrolment Services.

Matt began his time at Brock as an undergraduate student and has since earned three degrees from the institution, including a BA in History & Philosophy, MA in History, and most recently a BEd in Adult Education in 2020. Matt has spent most of his 14+ year career at Brock in various progressive roles within the Office of the Registrar, focused primarily on the integration and adaption of new technology and social media into undergraduate recruitment strategy.

Matt assumed the role of Director, Student Recruitment in March 2020, which coincided with the start of the COVID19 pandemic. A significant aspect of this major disruption to student mobility was the recognition that integrating student recruitment strategies better supports students, as well as institutional goals. Beginning in October 2021, Matt has overseen the realignment of Canadian and international recruitment offices under one umbrella, forming the new office of Student Recruitment in 2022.

Matt's professional passion and expertise is focused on leveraging digital and traditional outreach to connect with prospective students as they navigate their transition to post-secondary. This work is extremely personally rewarding, especially working collaboratively with the campus community and beyond to achieve these goals.





**Vice-Chair  
McCOURT, Anne**

Anne McCourt is the Senior Vice President of Dealer Relations at Canadian Tire accountable for managing the relationship between Canadian Tire and the Associate Dealers who own and operate Canadian Tire Retail stores. Anne is a seasoned retail executive with a track record of delivering results in a multidisciplinary environment.

Anne joined Canadian Tire in 2000. While at Canadian Tire Anne has held a number of senior roles in Supply Chain, Logistics, Productivity and Non-Merchandise procurement. Much of the focus of her work at Canadian Tire has been on driving strategic change. This work has encompassed using a problem-solving approach to reach consensus with a diverse group of stakeholders, including Associate Dealers, driving change communication and partnering with technology teams to deliver new capabilities.

Prior to joining Canadian Tire, Anne held senior roles in manufacturing, management consulting and financial services. Much of her work during this time focused on quality, process management and change management.

Anne has an engineering degree from the University of Waterloo.



**Pahuja, Anusha  
(BUSU President)**

Hello! I'm Anusha Pahuja, currently pursuing a degree in Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at Brock University. As I approach the final year of my four-year program here, I reflect on the diverse experiences that have shaped my academic and personal growth, like a thrilling rollercoaster ride.

My current role as the BUSU President for the 2024-2025 term marks the peak of my involvement among the various areas of the university. Prior to this, I've navigated through different departments within Brock, building invaluable connections and life lessons along the way. From advocating for student rights as the Director of Student Advocacy within the Brock Residence Action Council to serving in Dining Services as a Food Service Worker, each role has contributed uniquely to my holistic development.

Moreover, my experience at BUSU as the Front Desk Coordinator and Advocacy Coordinator further refined my leadership skills and organizational skills. Additionally, I've been part as a member of the Smart Start team, as a smart start team assistant and contributed as a Brock Ambassador, fostering a sense of community and support among peers.

Together, these experiences have uplifted my journey at Brock University, and I eagerly anticipate the opportunity to continue contributing to the vibrant tapestry of our academic community.



**Chancellor  
PEARSON, Hilary M., CM. LL.D**

Hilary Pearson has had a twenty-year career in the field of foundation philanthropy in Canada. As the founding President of Philanthropic Foundations Canada from 2001 to 2019, she collaborated with many of the largest private charitable foundations in the country.

Author of numerous articles, book reviews and columns, Ms. Pearson speaks frequently on Canadian philanthropy at conferences and workshops in Canada and globally. In her role at PFC, she edited comprehensive guides to starting and managing foundations, as well as guides for funders working with governments, with universities, and in policy advocacy. She writes a regular blog on trends and issues in foundation philanthropy for

her website, [www.hpearson.ca](http://www.hpearson.ca) and acts as a strategic advisor and facilitator for family and independent foundations.

In 2019, Ms Pearson was appointed co-chair of the Advisory Committee on the Charitable Sector, advising the federal Minister of Revenue on charitable policy and regulatory issues.

In July 2018, she was appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada for her contributions to building the field of philanthropy in Canada. In October 2020, she was installed as Chancellor of Brock University.

She holds a BA and MA in Political Economy from the University of Toronto and honorary doctorates from Carleton University and the University of New Brunswick.



**President and Vice-Chancellor  
RIGG, Lesley**

An accomplished academic leader, professor and research scientist, Dr. Lesley Rigg has served as Brock University's President and Vice-Chancellor since November 2022.

Previously, the forest ecologist and biogeographer led the research enterprise at Western University as the institution's Vice-President, Research. Prior to arriving at Western, she served as Dean of the Faculty of Science and Professor, Biological Sciences at the University of Calgary, where she led one of the largest Faculties on campus spanning six departments and five multidisciplinary programs.

Her experience also includes significant leadership at Northern Illinois University. There, she served as Vice-President for Research and Innovation Partnerships and other roles including Associate Dean Research and Graduate Affairs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

She is a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, was an executive committee member of the Ontario Council on University Research (OCUR), and the recipient of many honours, including the Alberta SHEInnovator Award and the Women of Inspiration, Vision Builder Award for Western Canada. Rigg's partner is David Goldblum, an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and Environment at Western University.

Rigg earned her bachelor's degree in geography and environmental studies from York University in Toronto, her master's degree in geography from the University of Colorado and her PhD in geography and environmental studies at Australia's University of Melbourne. Her teaching career began as an Assistant Professor at Northern Illinois university, where she taught for over 17 years.



## **ROBERTO, Dr. JoAnna**

BA'97, M.S.Ed.'00, Ph.D.'21 Leadership and Policy. Roberto began her career in education in 1997 as an elementary teacher with the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board. She worked at the Ministry of Education and she then returned to her hometown of Niagara Falls where she worked in several roles for District School Board of Niagara including teacher, vice-principal, principal, and superintendent of education, curriculum, and student achievement. As Superintendent of Curriculum and Student Achievement, she was responsible for the learning agenda and Information Technology, Indigenous Education, French Immersion, Early Years, International Education, Math Strategy and English as a Second Language. JoAnna Roberto was appointed to Director of Education and Secretary to the Board at the Grand Erie District School Board following eight years as a Superintendent of Education at DSBN.

JoAnna currently serves a district that spans a geographic area encompassing the City of Brantford and the Counties of Brant, Haldimand, and Norfolk. The district has 25,973 students including 480 on Education Services Agreements with Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation with 58 elementary and 14 secondary schools, adult and alternate learning, and virtual learning.

JoAnna is responsible for Executive Council, Strategic Direction, Annual Operating Plans, Board Improvement Planning and Implementation, Board Governance, and Communications & Community Engagement Department. She is also a member of the Modernization in Measurement Advisory Panel for the Education Quality and Accountability Office.

## **SANTESSO, Christian** (GSA President)

## **SAWCHUK, Christine**

Christine Sawchuk is a proud Brock graduate (BAcc, 2003), and is the President & CEO of CBV Institute, Canada's pre-eminent professional valuation organization dedicated to training and accreditation in the valuation of businesses, business interests, and intangible assets. As President & CEO, Christine is responsible for oversight over all aspects of CBV Institute's operations, strategy, and success. She has primary responsibility for communications with Members and Students; as well as with external stakeholders, including the media, accounting, legal, and investment firms, regulators, and other organizations in the valuation profession in Canada, the United States and worldwide. Christine was previously CBV Institute's Director of Education (2014-2020), and has held senior-level positions in various public practice firms, where she provided business valuation services for a wide range of purposes, including income-tax compliance, transaction support, and litigation support.

Christine's previous governance experience includes sitting on various committees of CBV Institute prior to joining as a staff member in 2014, as well as nine years serving the Thrive Group as a Board Member.

Christine has a passion for education and has served as a course instructor at CBV Institute, McMaster University's DeGroote School of Business, and Mohawk College. In addition to having her CPA, CA and CBV designations, Christine also holds a Master of Education (focus on Adult Education) and a Doctor of Education (focus on educational leadership).



## **WELCH, Rob**

Rob obtained an Honours BA degree as well as a MA degree from Queens University in Kingston, Ontario. He then went to University of Toronto, where he obtained an LL.B. degree. He was called to the bar in 1982.

Rob is a Senior Counsel of the firm of Lancaster, Chown and Welch LLP.

On a personal note, Mr. Welch is married to Kathie (1995) and his interests include golf and recreational rowing.

Rob's community involvement includes:

- Chancellor Diocese of Niagara, [Anglican] 1992-2018.
- Director, United Way of St. Catharines and District, 2008-2014.
- Director Niagara Community Foundation, 2009-2015. [Chair, Community leadership committee]
- Director-YMCA Niagara, 1999-2008. [Chair, Board of Trustees, 2004-2006], member - Strategic Planning Committee, 2012-2017; Philanthropy Committee 2018-present.
- Candidate for Mayor, City of St. Catharines, 2006.
- Member, Rotary Club of St. Catharines South since, 1985. [President. 2003-2004].
- Director, Lincoln County Law Association, 1995-1998.
- Councillor-Regional Municipality of Niagara, 1985-1994. [Candidate for Regional Chair 1991].
- Chair, Hospital Restructuring Steering Committee, Niagara District Health Council, 1996-1997.
- Candidate for Member of Ontario Legislative Assembly, 1990.
- Member-Board of Management, St. Catharines Historic Museum, 1982-1988 [Chairman, 1987].
- President-Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. [Lou Gehrig's disease] Society of Canada, 1984-1986.
- Member-Board of Directors, Family and Children's Services of Niagara region, 1985-1988.
- Board Member-St. Catharines Downtown Association, 1988-1995.

Honours-Order of Niagara. [Anglican Diocese of Niagara], 2-time Paul Harris Fellowship [Rotary Club of St. Catharines South], William Galloway Spirit of Giving Award [YMCA Niagara], Lifetime Achievement Award [Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce]



## **ZIMMERMAN, Debbie**

Since 2003, Debbie has been the CEO of the Grape Growers of Ontario, the official organization that represents over 500 farm families producing grapes on over 17,000 acres across the province.

Debbie was actively involved in local politics for 36 years, starting in 1978 as a local alderman for the Town of Grimsby. In 1989 Debbie was elected to Regional Council, and elected as Regional Chair for the Regional Municipality of Niagara in 1997, a position that she served for two terms.

Debbie is the past Chair of the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation for the Province of Ontario (2004-2010), and was assigned by the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, to the 2015/16 Provincial Review Panel for Ontario's Land Use Plans. In 2017, Debbie joined the Premier on the Provincial Trade Mission to China and Vietnam.

Debbie currently sits on the Board of Directors of the Buffalo/Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority, McNally House and 2021 Canada Summer Games. Most recently, Debbie was a member of the YMCA Board of Directors and a Co-Chair of the Pathstone “Mending Minds” fundraising campaign.

Debbie has been the recipient of many awards including the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce “Community Leadership Award” in 2013, the “Niagara Award” in 1998, the Niagara College “Board of Governors Award” in 2001 and the YWCA “Woman of Distinction” award in 2003. In 2015 Debbie was awarded the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation’s “Local Food Champion” award for her commitment to local food and her years of service to Niagara, and in 2017 Debbie received a Lieutenant Governor General’s Award and was named a “Friend of the Greenbelt” for her work on the Provincial Review Panel. Most recently, Debbie received an honorary Doctorate of Laws from Brock University for her lifelong work and commitment to the Region of Niagara.