



**BROCK UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES BIOGRAPHIES 2025-2026**



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.



**ARTHUR, Mark
(Immediate Past-Chair of the Board)**

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 recently retired from the role of *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 sat 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. Greg was 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 also previously served on the boards of the Shaw Festival and CAA (Niagara).



O'NEILL, Eric
(Graduate Students' Association President)

Eric O'Neill is the President of the Brock University Graduate Students' Association, where he represents and advocates for graduate students across the University. In this role, he works alongside graduate student leaders and University administration to support graduate student success and enhance the graduate student experience at Brock.

A Brock alumnus, Eric graduated with an Honours Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences in 2020 and is currently a PhD candidate in Applied Health Sciences at Brock University. His research investigates the anticancer effects of the rosemary-derived polyphenol carnosic acid against non-small cell lung cancer using both *in vitro* and animal models.

In addition to his research, he has served as an instructor in the Department of Health Sciences and as a teaching assistant in the Departments of Health Sciences, Kinesiology, and Biological Sciences.

He has served on the Graduate Students' Association Board of Directors since 2021, including three terms as Board Chair. Through these leadership roles, he has gained experience in student governance, advocacy, and organizational oversight, with a focus on supporting graduate students and contributing to the broader Brock community.

WEBBER, Michelle
(Interim Senate Chair)



DAWSON, Pauline

Pauline Dawson has dedicated over 22 years of service to Brock University, contributing to both the Office of the Registrar and Enrolment Services and Co-op, Career & Experiential Education. In her current role as Director, Admissions, Pauline leads a team that supports prospective students in exploring their pathways to university while helping Brock achieve its enrolment goals. Previously, as Manager of Career Education, she led the development of programs that supported students in articulating their experiences into the skills needed for employment and further education. Known for her curiosity and student-centred approach, Pauline is committed to providing meaningful services that advance both student success and institutional priorities. As a proud mom to

a Brock university student, Pauline has gained new insights into the student journey, experiencing the transition to post-secondary education through the lens of a parent. In addition to her professional work, Pauline was actively involved in parent engagement for over a decade, serving on school and board-level Parent Involvement Committees.



EMPRINGHAM, Tim

Tim Empringham is a seasoned business and technology executive with over 25 years of leadership experience across a broad spectrum of industries. Currently Tim operates as a fractional CIO, working with small and medium sized businesses helping them create business value through technology, including ERP and CRM systems, process automation, and AI based solutions. Tim is also the founder of local restaurant technology startup Dine Local where he was awarded the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce Technology and Innovation award in 2022.

Previously, Tim was a senior leader in the banking technology at RBC, BMO, and Davis+Henderson, and served as CIO and senior technical roles in manufacturing, supply chain, and aerospace companies across Ontario.

Locally, Tim is a board member at the Port Dalhousie Lions Club, and a former Board of Directors member at Gillian's Place. Additionally, he has lent his volunteer support as a University career mentor, Brock Linc pitch competition judge and coach, and as a guest speaker and lecturer.

Tim holds an MBA from Brock University, and lives in Port Dalhousie with his wife and three children.



FALVO, Mario

Honours BAcc'97, CPA, CA, CRM

Mario Falvo has served as Chief Financial & Risk Officer at Interac Corp. since March 2023, after joining the organization in 2021 as Chief Risk Officer. In his current role, he provides executive leadership across finance, enterprise risk, and vendor & business continuity management functions. He plays a pivotal role in shaping strategy, instilling a strong risk culture, ensuring compliance with the Bank of Canada as a designated Prominent Payment System, and driving financial stewardship and resilience for Canada's payments and verification solutions network. Mario is the Accountable

Executive for Interac's Finance & Audit Committee and Risk Committee, engaging with the Board on key strategic and operational finance and risk matters in support of the Board's oversight.

Prior to Interac, Mario spent nearly 16 years at Meridian Credit Union, ascending through a series of senior finance and risk leadership roles. At Meridian, he served as Vice President, Risk Management & Compliance, and simultaneously as Chief Risk Officer at motusbank—a federally regulated digital bank wholly owned by Meridian. His career also included roles as Director & Corporate Controller, VP of Internal Audit & Risk Management, and Chief Anti-Money Laundering Officer. Throughout his career at Meridian, he was involved in the design, launch and maturity of a number of finance, risk, compliance and internal audit programs.

Mario holds an Honours Bachelor's degree in Finance & Accounting from Brock University, and earned his Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA, CA) designation in 1997. He further enhanced his credentials in 2024 with a Canadian Risk Management (CRM) designation through RIMS, and additional certifications in business continuity and advanced leadership.

A dedicated board member and community leader, Mario has served on the Board of Directors of Welland Hydro-Electric System Corporation and its affiliates since 2006, where he currently acts as Board Chair and Audit Committee Chair. Additionally, he has contributed to the Niagara Catholic District School Board as an Audit Committee member since 2017



FREEMAN, Arti

Arti Freeman is President and CEO of Definity Foundation, a philanthropic organization that supports communities across Canada in pursuing climate, health, social and economic justice.

With nearly 20 years of experience in philanthropy, Arti has led major granting strategies, organizational change initiatives, and cross-sector partnerships. Before joining Definity, she revitalized the Partnership Investment program at the Ontario Trillium Foundation, one of Canada's largest grant makers, and earlier

directed training and consulting programs at Niagara College's Centre for Community Leadership.

Her governance and community service include roles with Brock University, Bethlehem Housing and Support Services, and Big Brothers Big Sisters. She holds a B.Sc. in International Business and an M.Sc. in Poverty Reduction and Development Management.

Recognized for her innovative approaches to high-impact philanthropy, Arti is passionate about building strong partnerships and driving systemic change.



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.



KNIBUTAT, Kristian

Kristian is the VP of Impact Investing at The Atmospheric Fund (TAF) where he oversees and directs the prudent and responsible management of TAF's financial assets and designs. He leads strategies to originate direct investments aligned to TAF's mission to scale carbon emissions reduction in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. Prior to joining TAF and his retirement from PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Kristian was the Chief Operating Officer, the Chief Risk Officer and a member of the Canadian Leadership Team at PwC Canada. His responsibilities included strategic oversight of the firm's national operations, including the Internal Firm Services group, IT, national security, risk and compliance, the Independence Office, the Office of the General Counsel, real estate, administrative support services, pension investments and the firm's strategic mergers and acquisitions. Kristian represented 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 attained 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; 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 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. Kristian graduated from Brock University with a BAdmin in 1986 and is a recipient of the Goodman School of Business Distinguished Graduate Award (2010).



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.



LOCKWOOD, Kelly

Kelly Lockwood is an Associate Professor in the Department of Kinesiology, Faculty of Applied Health Sciences and is both an applied sport scientist and an entrepreneur. She holds a BPHE in Kinesiology from the University of Toronto, a MSc in Sport Sciences from Lakehead University and earned a PhD in Exercise Physiology/Biomechanics from the University of Alberta. Kelly has been a faculty member at Brock University since 2001 and has previously served on the University Board

of Trustees.

Through the disciplines of Sport Biomechanics and Physiology, Kelly's research program investigates best practices in developing athletes participating in on-ice sports. Over the past three decades, she has worked with many of Canada's national sport organizations, where she has played a critical role in contributing to the science of sport performance. More recently, her work has extended beyond understanding the human factors in sport performance to include working with industry assisting in equipment engineering and investigating how to best harness physical and technical preparedness through sport equipment. Collaborative research within the hockey industry has resulted in the evolution of

traditional equipment design as well as bringing new innovative products to market and to acceptance within current sport practice.

She has been funded by both private and public academic-industry collaborative grants, including Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE), and MITACS Accelerate, supporting innovation from proof of concept to adoption in a sport arena. Owing to her record of diverse innovation, Kelly is a highly sought after academic advisor with a track record of preparing her graduate students for roles in the sport industry.

Kelly works routinely with coaches, athletes and support staff in implementing research outcomes. She serves as a learning facilitator with the Coaches Association of Canada (CAC) and has held technical advisory positions with both provincial and national sport governing bodies. Her background in research and application has fostered a unique perspective on the relationship between theory and practical application. She is also the founder of The Skating Lab Inc., a commercial spin off from research conducted at Brock University.

Kelly currently resides in Fonthill and is an avid cottager on Whitestone Lake.



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.



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.



McCOURT, Anne **Chair of the Board of Trustees**

Anne McCourt is a seasoned retail executive with a track record of delivering results in a multidisciplinary environment. Now retired, she worked for over 20 years at Canadian Tire where she held a number of senior roles culminating in her role as Senior Vice President of Dealer Relations where she was accountable for managing the

relationship between Canadian Tire and the Associate Dealers who own and operate Canadian Tire Retail stores.

Throughout her career Anne has focused on driving strategic change in rapidly changing environments. She has focused on using a problem-solving approach to reach consensus with a diverse group of stakeholders, and partnering with technology teams to deliver new capabilities.

Prior to her position at 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.



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

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 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.



RIGG, Lesley
President and Vice-Chancellor

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

JoAnna Roberto is a passionate advocate for student success and inclusion. She is an experienced and respected educator, leader, and lifelong learner with 28 years of experience.

Since joining the Grand Erie District School Board in 2020 as Director of Education, she has worked to transform the district through a new vision to Learn, Lead and Inspire.

JoAnna's extensive education and professional and leadership experiences have shaped her commitment to creating and fostering learning environments focused on well-being and belonging – where students, staff and communities are inspired to grow together and achieve their full potential.

Under her leadership, new approaches were launched to support growth through the Multi-Year Strategic Plan, Good Governance, Grand Erie Math Action Plan, You Belong Here campaign, Innovation Hub, The Grand Welcome Centre, Artificial Intelligence Micro credential, The Centre for Excellence: Teaching, Learning and Belonging, first-of-its-kind College within a School, international education program and PROSE™ (Police Outreach Supporting Education) curriculum resources. Her focus on well-being and belonging supported new initiatives for Indigenous education, student wellness and equity action.

JoAnna began her career in education as an elementary teacher in 1997 before taking on a role at the Ministry of Education. She was a teacher, vice-principal, and principal and spent eight years as Superintendent of Education, Curriculum and Student Achievement with the District School Board of Niagara. Her journey includes Rotman's Executive Leadership program and doctorate in leadership and policy from Niagara University.



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 the education, accreditation, and oversight of the valuation of businesses 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; external stakeholders including regulators, government, media, and the legal, accounting, and investment professions; and other

organizations in the global valuation profession. Christine previously 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 DeGroot 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).

**Ariella, Aaliyah
(Brock University Students' Union President)**

As President, I have the opportunity of representing Brock undergraduate students and supporting the overall mission of BUSU. I collaborate with the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and BUSU Administrative Staff to promote clear communication, student-centered decision-making, and initiatives that improve the student experience. In this position, I strive to ensure that student voices stay at the forefront of BUSU's advocacy, programs, and long-term goals.



**WELCH, Rob
Vice-Chair of the Board**

Rob Welch has been a member or chair of a number of Niagara and National voluntary boards and committees. He has also been a member of, or a candidate for, a number of regional and provincial political offices. Rob was installed as an honorary Canon of Christ's Church Cathedral in Hamilton and named to the Order of Niagara in recognition of his 26 years of service as Chancellor of the Anglican Diocese of Niagara between 1992 and 2018. He is also a proud honorary alumnus of Brock. In 2016, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce. Rob retired from the law firm of Lancaster Chown and Welch in 2024 after 42 years in the practise of law.

Married to Kathie, he resides in St. Catharines and is in his third term on the Board of Trustees.



YENDT, Christopher

Is the Principal of Blenham + Associates, a governance consulting firm which focuses on supporting post-secondary student associations across Canada in understanding their unique challenges that differentiate them from the broader non-profit sector while helping to address their structural and strategic needs. They are an experienced student leader in both undergraduate and

graduate student spaces, having served as President of University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association, and Brock Graduate Students' Association. They have also served as Vice-President, Finance, Board Chair and Vice-Chair for the BUGSA alongside equivalent roles within the Brock University Students' Union (BUSU), championing the student voice having been the first student to serve as executive and board chair for both BUSU and GSA.

They are also a PhD Candidate whose research focuses on the experiences of queer student leaders and the challenges they face in navigating queer and student identities in post-secondary spaces. Previously their research focused on mental health literacy (MHL) among pre-service teacher education candidates in Ontario. They currently serve as the President of the Brock University Alumni Association (BUAA). Their community involvement has included service on the Boards of Brock University, Compass Community Health, CMHA Niagara, GNCC, Rainbows End CDC, St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, and the University of Manitoba. They are a four-time graduate of Brock University (BA/Bed 2015, Bed 2020, Med 2021), an Ontario Certified Teacher (OCT) member of the Association of Mental Health Professionals (OAMHP) and a certified corporate director (ICD.D) with the Institute of Corporate Directors



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.