

Making Excellence Accessible

Transitional Year Programme
2019–2020



Transitional Year Programme
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Message from the Executive Director



The Transitional Year Programme (TYP) is a full-time, eight-month access-to-University program for adults who do not have the formal qualifications for university admission. Established in 1970 and originally targeted to the Black and Indigenous communities, the program now welcomes all students facing barriers.

I am pleased to provide this report on the University of Toronto's Transitional Year Programme (TYP) for 2019–2020. For 50 years, this remarkable program has opened doors to students from various academic and cultural backgrounds and life stages to fulfill the dream of pursuing a university education.

At TYP, we like to think of meeting our students where they are at on their path. Where we meet them varies. Many come to the program having struggled academically in high school, thinking post-secondary education wasn't an option. Others are seeking higher education having already achieved success in different careers. Some started families young and only now have the time or resources for a university education. Regardless of their background, we help our students re-engage in formal education and achieve their individual goals and aspirations. In this report, you will read about some of the individuals who have graduated from our program and completed degrees.

A highlight of the past year was expanding TYP to the U of T Scarborough campus. Casting this wider net allowed us to recruit students from area high schools and adult education schools. We hope to do the same for the U of T Mississauga community in the future.

We also enhanced both our Indigenous and Black Studies programs. This included offering a new course focusing on land-based approaches to understanding the Indigenous history of the Greater Toronto Area, as well as a new Black Studies course to understand the history of African-Caribbean Black people in Canada.

We also expanded our peer advising and mentoring activities, including hiring five TYP alumni as work-study students to serve as "TYP Connectors" to link with students and help keep them engaged in the program.

Another exciting new initiative is "Class Reflections," an online collection of video and written testimonials from our students documenting their personal observations and reflections on making the important transition to university.

As we look to the future, we aim to collaborate with more U of T departments such as STEM-related ones with a view to develop additional pathways for our students. Above all, we will continue to identify students in more communities who can benefit from our unique, life-changing program.

We are grateful to the donors who have come forward to support TYP and look forward to continuing to work together to open doors to even more students with diverse life experiences. Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

Lance T. McCready
Director, Transitional Year Programme

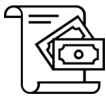
Transitional Year Programme 2019–2020



37
Number of
students enrolled



22
Students
received awards



More than
\$110,000
value of awards
to TYP students



16
Students who completed
TYP and pursued
studies at U of T

“TYP allowed me to sharpen my intellectual appetite and intensified my desire to learn and impart the knowledge towards a variety of channels.”

Finding Her Voice

Five years ago, Julie-Ann McCausland (BA 2020 NEW) arrived in Toronto from Jamaica intent on pursuing further education and a career in social work.

Julie-Ann McCausland (BA 2020 NEW) arrived in Toronto from Jamaica in January 2016 intent on pursuing further education and a career in social work.

She was introduced to Dr. Maureen FitzGerald, a retired Senior Lecturer at U of T, who suggested she look into TYP as a way of furthering her education. She applied and began the program that fall.

“TYP allowed me to sharpen my intellectual appetite and intensified my desire to learn and impart the knowledge towards social justice and equity,” says McCausland.

Following TYP, she completed an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree with high distinction, specializing in Women and Gender Studies and Equity and Diversity Studies. She is now pursuing her lifelong ambition to become a social worker and is in her first year of the Master of Social Work program at U of T’s Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work.

While at TYP, Julie-Ann honed her writing skills which helped her to document her experience as a single parent of a young Black boy in the Toronto school system. She wrote, self-published and distributed a free children’s book written for her son. Entitled *Likkle (Little) Black Boy*, the book is written in her son’s voice and focuses on his body, thoughts, and overall experience in school.

“The book is intended for boys with intellectual disabilities and is a substantial accomplishment because there are not many books that are geared towards the Black, male, disabled child nor books on ADHD that are both free and fun to read,” says McCausland.

By funding, self-publishing and distributing the book, she is making it accessible to everyone—especially to as many disabled Black boys—as possible. She is proud of the book because it has opened discourse about the 21st century disabled child and “the way that child is seen as a threat to the presumed virtuousness of the normative childhood.” Her book offers “a positive depiction of the disabled child.”

McCausland is grateful to TYP faculty and staff for opening academic doors for her and others to attain university dreams, and for their support and guidance while she challenged her son’s school and advocated on his behalf.

As she pursues the program of her dreams, McCausland aspires to continue being a voice that others—especially the racialized, refugees, newcomers, queer, Indigenous or single mothers—might need in a crisis.

“I fought my way to get into school. Now, thanks to TYP, I have an opportunity to pursue my dreams to be a psychotherapist. In my spare time, I am an activist who is trying to end conversion therapy in Canada. I look forward to a future where LGBTQ people can experience equity.”

—Matt Ashcroft, TYP alum and first-year New College student



A Safe Haven



When Ana Chiguichon (BA 2018 WDW) opened the doors to TYP in 2010, she knew she was home. Long desiring a university education, she pursued a few different programs before she found the right fit at TYP. “It was instant. I felt a connection and a warmth from the first day,” says Ana. “Everyone was always supportive—the staff, faculty and fellow students—I was blown away.”

Ana worked long hours to complete her degree in Indigenous studies. It was an emotional rollercoaster. She began the program just after the birth of her third child and lost her mother partway through her degree. “The staff and faculty helped tremendously. They provided moral support and practical help on how to get through.”

“It was a safe haven, and everyone was always there for me, whether it was to provide a shoulder to cry on or for study tips,” she says. “If it wasn’t for them, I would have dropped out.”

Ana, who completed a degree at Woodsworth College in 2018, is now in her second year of a master’s degree in adult higher education at U of T’s Ontario Institute for Studies in Education with a focus on Indigenous studies. As an Indigenous person originally from Guatemala, she hopes to continue the important work of education in this field. After her master’s, she intends to volunteer for a time before applying to a doctoral program.

“I cannot stress enough the support and encouragement I received from TYP,” she says. “There was always someone there to help, and I hope to give back to future students in the same way one day.”

“There was always someone there to help, and I hope to give back to future students in the same way one day.”