

Mission

Demonstrate leadership in the delivery of relevant and meaningful education and research rooted in strong connections to Northern land, tradition, community and people.



2020/2021

CONVOCATION

Thebacha Campus

June 11, 2021

Administrator's Message

On behalf of Aurora College, I am pleased to extend our sincere congratulations to the graduating classes of 2020 and 2021. We are celebrating both years together as COVID-19 prevented us from officially recognizing our graduates last year.

Convocation Ceremonies are an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the achievements of those who have worked so hard to achieve their academic goals. The dreams of Northerners are as vast and diverse as the north itself, and Aurora College is pleased to play a role in helping our students achieve those dreams.

I want to thank all of our students for choosing Aurora College. We are honoured every year by your drive and by the sacrifices you make to build a better future for yourselves, your families, and your communities.

Congratulations to the Aurora College Graduating Classes of 2020 and 2021!

Denny Rodgers, Public Administrator, Aurora College

President's Message

Congratulations Graduating Classes of 2020 and 2021! You have persevered through an unusual and especially challenging set of circumstances and are now celebrating your success!

The parchment you receive is a testament to the high-quality education you obtained from Aurora College. Be proud as an Aurora College alumnus – you are joining the ranks of thousands of graduates who now successfully live and contribute to the vitality of NWT.

This ceremony marks the completion of one step on your educational journey, and I encourage you to regularly review your next steps. Even if you are going directly into employment, it is estimated that the average person changes their career at least five times during their working life. Post-secondary education is a lifelong journey, and learning doesn't end just because your program has finished. We look forward to supporting you again as you continue to upgrade your skills, change careers and adapt to evolving technologies. As Aurora College transforms into a polytechnic university, we will offer new and enhanced programs that will continue to prepare Northerners to succeed in their chosen careers.

Thank you for choosing Aurora College to pursue your post-secondary goals. Go forth proudly to help build a stronger and more vibrant territory. Congratulations!

Andy Bevan, President, Aurora College

Valedictorian - Ceremony 2

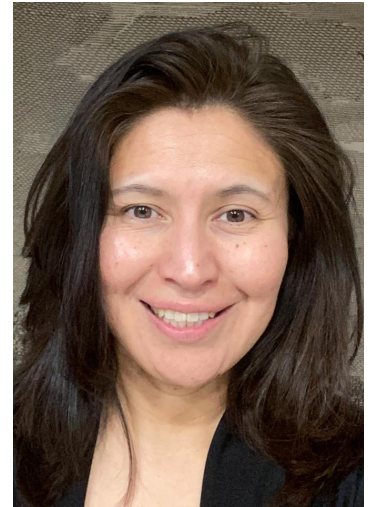
Camilia Zoe-Chocolate

Camilia Zoe-Chocolate is a Tłıchq citizen, the daughter of the late Lucy and Johnny Zoe-Chocolate, and a proud mother to four children Melanie, Katelynn, Christian, and Noah. She is fluent in her Indigenous Tłıchq language and was born and raised in the community of Behchokò, NT. She spent half of her childhood living on the land with her traditional parents who trapped and hunted for a living.

Camilia's professional experiences include work with Tłıchq Government, Dene Nation, Ecology North, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, BHP Billiton, and Diavik Diamond Mines. She has experience working in Traditional, Indigenous Knowledge and wildlife research. For the past two summers, she was a caribou researcher in a remote tundra camp, and she is a current board member of Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board and to Arctic Council's Conservation Arctic Flora and Fauna as a representative of the Arctic Athabaskan Council. Camilia has also graduated from the Natural Resource Technology Program at Aurora College. And she was a board member of the Wekwéezhi Land and Water Board member from 2009 to 2012.

Camilia is appreciative of how her parents raised her on the land with her family of nine children. She loves drum dances, community feasts, and spending time with her family. She also enjoys camping, hiking, photography, collecting plants, and canoeing.

Camilia believes in the importance of education as she is quoted "I have come a long way to be who I am today, a strong Tłıchq woman who wants to inspire and educate our northern youth as well as the give strength to their Indigenous identity just as my traditional and resilient parents have done for me".



Valedictorian - Ceremony 1

Ryanna Bourke

Ryanna Bourke was born in Inuvik, NT to Shauna Bourke (Freddie & Bella Greenland) and Matt Bourke (Sam and Rosalie Bourke). She has lived in several locations throughout Northern and Western Canada, but considers Fort Smith, NT her home.

After graduating from P.W.K High School in 2007, Ryanna explored her interests through various career choices, extracurricular activities and academic study – basically a human tumbleweed.

In 2013, she obtained her Veterinary Assistant Certificate and decided to take some time off from school to work. In 2017 she was blessed with a beautiful baby girl, Crimson, who gave her the motivation she needed to once again pursue her post-secondary education.

In 2018/2019 Ryanna completed her 1st year of Business Administration and received her certificate along with an Outstanding Student Award. In 2019/2020 she achieved her Business Administration Diploma and graduated with honours. Ryanna has a passion for learning. She takes things seriously at the same time as bringing humour, creativity, and delight to her work and relationships.

After completing her program, Ryanna gained employment at Aurora College – Thebacha Campus. She started as a Summer Student in the Department of Finance and once her term was completed, she became a Financial Services Assistant and is still working there today. The courses Ryanna took in Business Administration at Aurora College prepared her for a career in finance.

Due to COVID-19, the convocation ceremony last year at Aurora College was postponed along with many other institutions across the globe. Therefore, this year's convocation is extra special as it acknowledges the accomplishments of students for both academic years. Ryanna is honored to be the Valedictorian for Aurora College's graduating class.



Program of Events

Processional
Dene Drummers

O Canada

Prayer Song
Dene Drummers

Opening Prayer
Elder Edith Bourke

Master of Ceremonies
Dave Porter, Director
Thebacha Campus

President's Address
Andy Bevan, President
Aurora College

Presentation of Certificates, Diplomas and Degrees

Valedictory Address
Ryanna Bourke – Ceremony 1
Camilla Zoe-Chocolate – Ceremony 2

Closing Remarks

Recessional

Recipients of Certificates, Diplomas & Degrees

Ceremony 1 -11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

School of Business and Leadership

Office Administration Certificate (2021)

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Megan Bertrand | Fort Smith |
| Tomoko Otsuyama | Fort Smith |

Office Administration Diploma (2020)

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Faye Baton | Déjñę |
| Delores Bourke | Fort Smith |
| Lyndie Bourque | Fort Smith |
| Shelly Lafferty | Fort Smith |
| Tanya Lafferty | Fort Resolution |
| Lana McNeill | Fort Smith |
| Miranda Taureau | Fort McPherson |

Office Administration Diploma (2021)

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Blake Gardebois | Fort Good Hope |
| Stephanie Mercredi | Fort Smith |
| Jodyann Brown Miltenberger | Fort Smith |

Business Administration Certificate (2021)

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| Leroy Omilgoytuk | Inuvik |
|------------------|--------|

Business Administration Diploma (2020)

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Ryanna Bourke | Fort Smith |
| Fredelle Deneyoua | Hay River |
| Cameron Ziemann | Fort Smith |

Business Administration Diploma (2021)

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Brittany Bourke | Fort Smith |
|-----------------|------------|

Ceremony 2 - 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

School of Arts & Science

Environment & Natural Resources Technology Diploma (2020)

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Bonnie Deschene | Norman Wells |
| Alex James | Fort Smith |
| Dylan Jones | Fort Good Hope |
| Brett Potter | Richmond Hill, ON |
| Jenni Watts | Fort Smith |

Environment & Natural Resources Technology Diploma (2021)

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Thor Amundson | Fort Simpson |
| Shannon Cazon | Fort Simpson |
| Shonto Catholique | Łutselk'e |
| Ian Gauthier | Fort Smith |
| Jarod Tuckey | Fort Smith |

School of Education

Adult Education Certificate (2021)

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| Valentina deKrom | Fort Smith |
|------------------|------------|

Bachelor of Education Degree (2020)

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Nadine Kodakin | Déjñę |
| Denise Zoe | Behchokò |

Bachelor of Education Degree (2021)

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Camilia Zoe-Chocolate | Behchokò |
| Joni Tsatchia | Wekweètì |

School of Health & Human Services

Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree (2021)

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Brittany Tourangeau | Fort Smith |
|---------------------|------------|