



COLUMBIA
BIBLE COLLEGE

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

OCTOBER 2018



*To equip people for a
life of discipleship,
ministry, and
leadership in service
to the church and
community.*

NOW'S THE TIME!

"So don't be afraid: I'm with you. I'll round up all your scattered children, pull them in from east and west. I'll send orders north and south: 'Send them back. Return my sons from distant lands, my daughters from faraway places.' I want them back, every last one who bears my name, every man, woman, and child; whom I created for my glory; yes, personally formed and made each one" (Isaiah 43:5-7, MSG).

Over the course of this past summer this message from the prophet Isaiah has been reverberating in my head and heart, especially God's declaration: "I'll round up your scattered children... I want them back." These words were, of course, intended for the people of Israel, but I also believe God is still speaking to us today. Rapid social change has become the new normal, and while one does not want to overstate the case, it is clear that orthodox forms of Christian practice and lifestyle are under fire. This reality presents both great opportunities and complex challenges for us, and especially for young adults seeking to find their place in the world.

We could be discouraged by developments within our world, but we should be aware that God is powerfully at work. There is no need to be afraid! I shared the passage above in our first chapel because I believe God continues to call his beloved children to himself. If you had been in that service (standing room only), you would have been overwhelmed by our students' desire to know and experience more of Jesus. What happens here at Columbia matters deeply to God.

It is precisely because Bible College education is so important that we need to press in, listen to God's Spirit, and discern a clear, compelling, and concrete vision for Columbia's future. Now's the time! This vision must include initiatives that continue to strengthen our discipleship emphasis, develop excellent academic programs (existing and new) that embody our commitment to practical theology, move forward campus building projects that will enable mission fulfillment, and address issues of financial sustainability and tuition affordability. This is the task we have set before us. By God's grace and with his provision, we believe now is the time to position Columbia's culture, programs, facilities, and finances for long-term Kingdom impact. And it must all be for God's glory, not our own!



Bryan Born
President

THE BLESSING OF CHALLENGES

“May you live in interesting times” is a saying that sums up our last year at Columbia. This English translation of a traditional Chinese phrase sounds like it could be a blessing, but it is actually meant to be a curse. Uninteresting times of peace and orderliness are seen as preferable to interesting times of conflict and disorder.

Now, I wouldn’t say that the last year can be summarized as a year of conflict and disorder, but Columbia certainly had its challenges with the provincial government’s strongly-worded request to change the nomenclature of several of our degrees. The resulting flurry of meetings and emails resulted in changes that, in the end, solidified our desire to design degrees that are not only solid academically and theologically, but are also truly practical. The resulting Bachelor of Arts in Practical Theology, with majors in several disciplines, might very well have been born out of “interesting times,” but what could have been seen as a curse turned out to be a blessing.

Who knows what “interesting times” lay ahead? We know that the world of post-secondary Christian education is full of challenges and rewards, and change and adaptation is a constant. However, what will not change is the commitment to our mission, our desire to follow Jesus in word and deed, and our goal to educate graduates who have a deep relationship with Jesus Christ, can communicate their faith clearly, have integrated their faith into all areas of their lives, are engaged in a missional approach to life, and are ready to serve with an attitude of servant leadership.

We thank you for your ongoing support of Columbia Bible College. Your financial support and your prayers have upheld us in the past, and we trust through God’s grace that they will continue to uphold us in the days to come.



Richard Thiessen
Board Chair



*Thank you for partnering
with us to equip young
adults for kingdom-
focused lives.*



COLUMBIA AT A GLANCE

1936

Year Founded

419

Current Students

69

Faculty & Staff

4

Varsity Teams

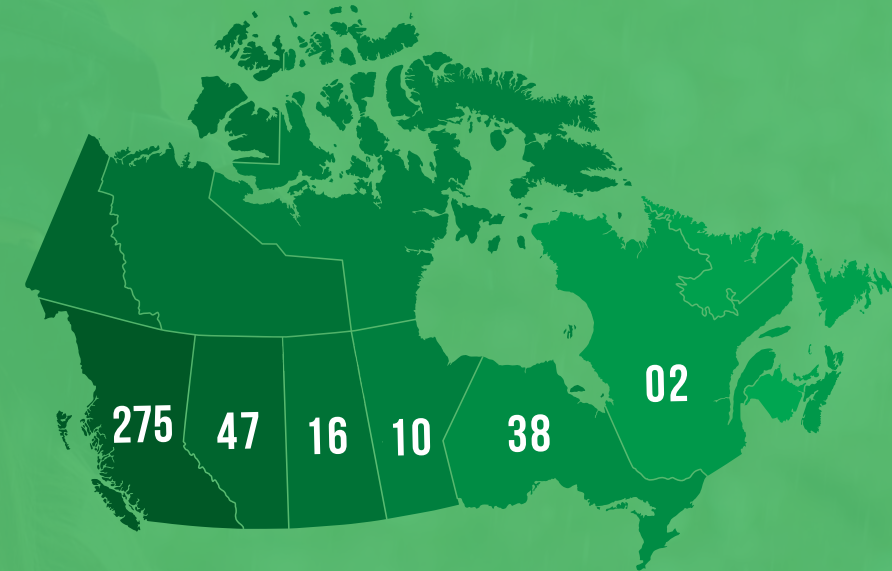
WHERE OUR STUDENTS ARE FROM

26

United States

05

International



TOP 10 DENOMINATIONS

Mennonite Brethren
Mennonite Church
Alliance
Baptist
Evangelical Free
Non-denominational
Reformed
Pentecostal
Presbyterian
Other

STUDENTS BY PROGRAM



49%

BA Degree



30%

Diploma



19%

Certificate



02%

Undecided

OUR PROGRAMS:



APPLIED
LEADERSHIP



BIBLICAL
STUDIES



COLUMBIA ONE



COUNSELLING &
HUMAN SERVICES



EDUCATIONAL
ASSISTANT



EMERGENCY
RESCUE TECH.



GENERAL
STUDIES



INTERCULTURAL
STUDIES



OUTDOOR
LEADERSHIP



QUEST



SOCIAL
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

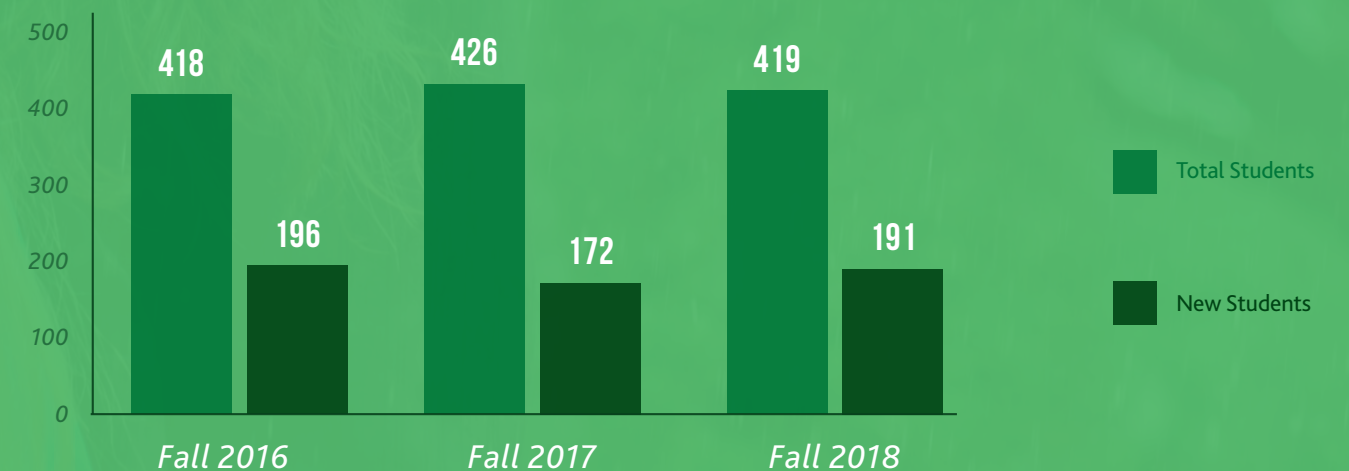


WORSHIP ARTS



YOUTH WORK

STUDENT ENROLLMENT





NEWSWORTHY

NEW NAMES FOR COLUMBIA'S FOUR-YEAR DEGREES

As of July 2018, Columbia will now award degrees known as "Bachelor of Arts in Practical Theology (Major), for all four-year programs with the exception of the BA in Biblical Studies. Prompting this decision was a request from BC's Ministry of Advanced Education, who asked Columbia to clearly align the name of our degrees with their faith-centered content.

Why Practical Theology? "'Practical theology' is a degree description that excites us," says president Bryan Born. "This term is a signpost that indicates our commitment to the practical needs of our churches and communities as well as to integrative and innovative programming that addresses the complexity of 21st-century Christian life and ministry. We believe this is precisely the niche that Columbia is well-positioned to fill."

APPLIED LEADERSHIP EXPANDS TO BECOME A FOUR-YEAR DEGREE

Columbia students are now able to graduate with a BA in Practical Theology (Applied Leadership).

The four-year option builds on Columbia's two-year Diploma in Applied Leadership, which begins with a focus on self-awareness: self-management and understanding one's unique gifts, dark sides, and capacity for influence. Second-year courses help students learn skills for engaging small teams and cultural dynamics. Students moving on to third- and fourth-year BA level courses will grow their skillset further, developing leadership theory and practice around organizational behaviour, leadership sustainability, management, and communication.

Current Enrollment: 26

(BA students: 9 | Diploma students: 17)

WE HOSTED #CHURCHTOO: RESPONDING TO PROFESSIONAL SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Columbia hosted #ChurchToo in May, inviting Columbia's staff and faculty as well as local church leaders, pastors, and ministry leaders to join us for an equipping conference.

On Friday evening, Bryan Born shared a tragic story about Columbia's own experience with professional sexual misconduct in the 1990s, when then-faculty member Murray Phillips victimized a number of female students. Plenary speakers included Carol Penner, from Conrad Grebel's practical theology faculty, and David Martin, Executive Minister for Mennonite Church Eastern Canada.

Over 130 people attended the conference. Videos of the plenary sessions are available at

columbiabc.edu/churchtoo

NEW FACULTY: DR. KIMBERLEY MORRISON

We were delighted to welcome Dr. Morrison to our faculty team this August. Dr. Morrison holds an MA in Global Leadership and a doctorate in Intercultural Studies from Fuller Theological Seminary. She has served in ministry roles across Canada and the United States, most recently helping to launch Urban Abbey, a missional church community in Northern Ontario. Kimberley will teach courses in intercultural studies, mission, and communication.

During a recent chapel talk, Kimberley shared this with the students: "If you want to experience the face and presence of Jesus then it's important to travel in the places that Jesus often travels. The Christian faith is a movement that began on the margins, on the pathways that the rich and the powerful and the strong rarely travel. Jesus Christ today can be found in the same sort of places where he spent most of his time when he was enfleshed — standing in the margins with the estranged. So to move towards Jesus and to sit with him, we need to join him in those sorrowing spaces of the world. In the epidermal — skin on skin — rubbing off with otherness. It's there that we'll encounter Jesus."



BEN VESPERS LEADER

"During the leadership training week something that stood out to me was Kathleen's teaching that "we are not responsible for people, we are only responsible to people. We are responsible to be faithful in what God is calling us to. We are not called to be God or to control people, we are just called to follow, be faithful to God and be responsible to people."



DAKOTA RESIDENT LEADER

"I learned about leading more like Jesus and how sacrificial he was. I can't wait until I get to practice that in my unit this year!"



GRAHAM VOLLEYBALL TEAM CAPTAIN

"I re-learned the vital importance of being surrounded by an authentic, Christ-centred community. Being reconnected with my friends and fellow leaders allowed me to reflect on my life apart from this community at CBC and inspired me to continue to invest in the culture here at school."



HAEYOUNG RESIDENT LEADER

"I was given the time to be with Jesus this week which was so needed. As leaders we often over-think and keep God out of our process of leadership, but the week gave me time and helped me into the habit of relying on Him. I also got to bond with the leaders which was good because it helps us rely on one another. Also, I grew my appreciation for the other staff and faculty who are our leaders."



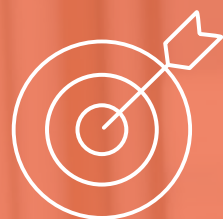
GEN RESIDENT LEADER

"'Our life story preaches the loudest' is the golden nugget I am holding onto coming out of Student Leadership Training. That statement reminds that the entirety of who I am is the testimony our King is both using and refining."



YOUR SUPPORT IS GROWING LEADERS

This year's student leadership group on Orientation Day



2018-19 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



WE WILL FIND WAYS TO FOCUS ON “PRACTICAL THEOLOGY” WITHIN ALL OUR PROGRAMS

We care about the ways that our theology connects with on-the-ground experience in the church and the world. How can our programs bring a strong biblical core curriculum into conversation with a variety of practical areas and applications? This is a key question we'll explore with our existing and developing academic programs.



WE ARE DEVELOPING A HEALTH CARE ASSISTANT CERTIFICATE

In partnership with Menno Place, Columbia plans to launch a health care assistant training program to meet the growing demand for HCAs within our community. We are currently working on finalizing biblical-theological content and integrating Christ-centered concepts and practices into the provincially-approved HCA curriculum. Target date for program launch is September 2019.



WE'LL HIGHLIGHT THE ISSUE OF SEXUAL ETHICS WITHIN COLUMBIA'S CURRICULUM AND STUDENT LIFE

Our faculty and staff are working towards a ladder approach for teaching Christ-centered sexual ethics to all our students. This plan will include sequenced content, that progresses for each of a student's four years at Columbia.



WE WILL CONTINUE TO INVEST IN EQUIPPING OUR STUDENTS FOR LEADERSHIP

We are expanding our intensive Student Leadership Training (August & January), as well as building on our weekly leadership training sessions throughout the semester. We plan to seek input from our student leaders to tailor our training programs to their needs.



THE CHURCH & COMMUNITY SURVEY

WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK.

What do people think of when they hear 'Columbia Bible College'? How prepared are our graduates for the roles and further studies they are pursuing after graduation? Would you send a young adult you care about to Columbia? Why or why not?

We are designing a survey to seek feedback on these questions from our connected churches and Christian community and plan to launch it in January of 2019. Our desire is to use the feedback so we can better serve our churches and the community.

Please keep your eye out for it and provide your input!

MEET JUSTIN SPENCER

BA in Biblical Studies, Class of 2020

I grew up in a strong Christian family, but I lost my dad to suicide at the age of ten. Because the cause of death was suicide, we received no life insurance. We had to sell our house, and we were forced to move in with our grandparents. From grade 8 on, I worked every weekend and every summer to save up for school. My mom has consistently worked 50-60 hour weeks in order to support my sister and me. As a result, I came to the conclusion that I was either not going to school, or I could only afford one year.

Originally, I wanted to go to firefighting school and I had no interest in Christian higher education. However, I was reading my Bible one day on my lunch break and realized that I was completely lost — I didn't understand any of what I was reading. This shocked me, as I grew up living with my grandpa who is a pastor. That day, I applied to Columbia Bible College. My plan was to spend just one year at CBC.

As a kid who struggled with anxiety and fears of separation, I was very afraid of leaving my family. After all, I was going to a school that I could barely afford. In contrast to the excitement I saw in most kids, I spent the majority of orientation day holding back tears. However, this was very short-lived. God proved faithful and reminded me over and over again that CBC was where I was supposed to be.

God then turned my one year into a degree program. The only reason I was able to come back for my second year was due to financial aid through scholarships and bursaries.

Here's a fuller picture of what God has done in my life over my last two years at CBC. In my first year, God redeemed my lack of a father figure by providing me with very strong male Christian mentors. God healed my heart by providing me with opportunities to talk to other students who had also lost their fathers. God showed me his healing power at Vespers when a fellow student prayed for me and I was able to walk on my broken ankle without pain. Finally, God ignited a fire in my heart which prompted me to continue learning and studying his word at CBC.

In my second year, my dream of playing higher level athletics was fulfilled. I was given the opportunity to lead a group of young men on campus. Again, God proved faithful by blessing me with a roommate who reflected Jesus' character to me every single day. Finally, God again provided finances to enable me to come back for a third year. I do not know what this year will hold for me, but I do know that God is faithful. Faithful to redeem, provide, comfort, and lead.

So, to all the donors who support Columbia, thank you for investing in these fundamental years of our lives. Thank you for reminding us of God's faithfulness. The contribution that you are making to students tangibly shows your commitment to the community of Columbia Bible College. I know that without your support, I and many others would not be here right now.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU MESSAGE





DEVELOPING CHRIST-CENTERED IDENTITIES

MEET MADISEN AZIZ

Quest, 2017. Diploma in Applied Leadership, 2018

Working as a Grade 5/6 classroom assistant in Houston, BC

Let me tell you a story.

Hi, my name is Madisen Aziz. I am 20 years old, and I grew up in Houston, British Columbia. I graduated from Houston Christian School with a grad class of eleven and in September 2016, God changed my life.

I began my CBC journey with Quest. It seemed fitting as it was a small knit community, much like my hometown. I had two objectives with my first year away from home: find out who God was and who I was. Growing up, I struggled with knowing my identity growing up and I wanted a few answers.

We were two trips in and were challenged to find the name that God calls us, the name that defines who He created us to be. He told me, but I did not believe Him. I did not see myself worthy to claim this title. But God is persistent. For months He would place hints in my day-to-day schedule just to remind me who I really was. I would acknowledge it and continue with my day. Eventually my whole Quest family knew about this and started encouraging me with this name, but in my heart, I was fighting it.

In my second year, with Applied Leadership, I began to believe the name God gave me the year before. I was in Introduction to Leadership Studies with Kathleen Doll and Jeremy Walker when they assigned a project to capture what we learned from the class. I learned about my dark sides, my strengths, my accidental diminishers, and my values. I can still be a great leader even though I am not perfect because God made me the way I am for a reason. If I try to be anything I am not, I will fail.

Today, I call myself by the name God gave me: His masterpiece. I drop the measurements and labels people place on me. I find my identity in who God says I am. I find joy in the small things and walk with confidence knowing that God calls me His masterpiece.

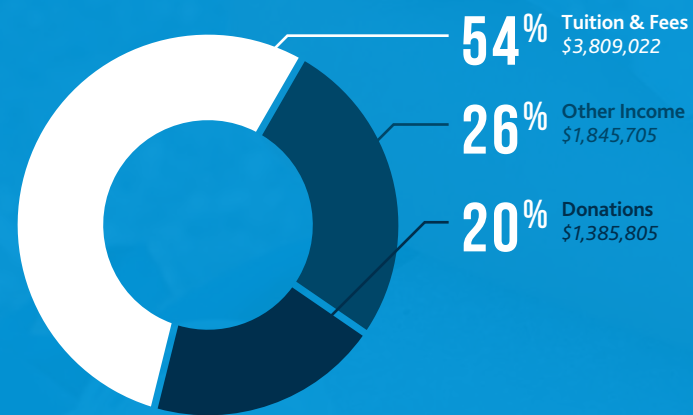
God is a Father who wants His children to know that they are worthy. God revealed how He is persistent and will stop at nothing until we view ourselves how He sees us. God has given me the strength and the words to spread this message to those I know: classmates at CBC, friends from Houston, kids at camp. We are all masterpieces of the Master Creator and Father in Heaven.



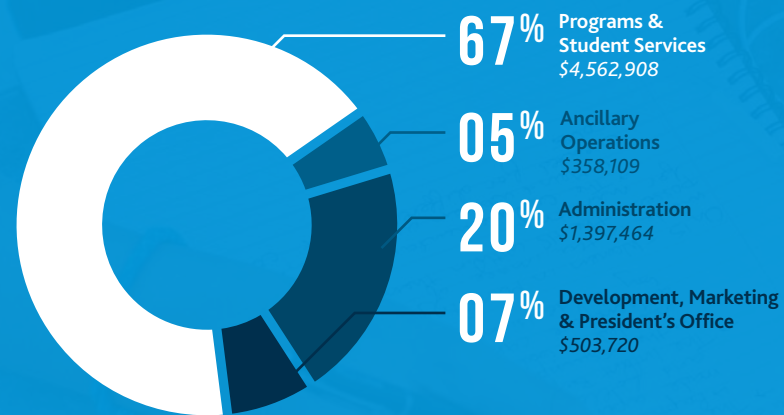
FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

2017-2018 FISCAL YEAR IN REVIEW

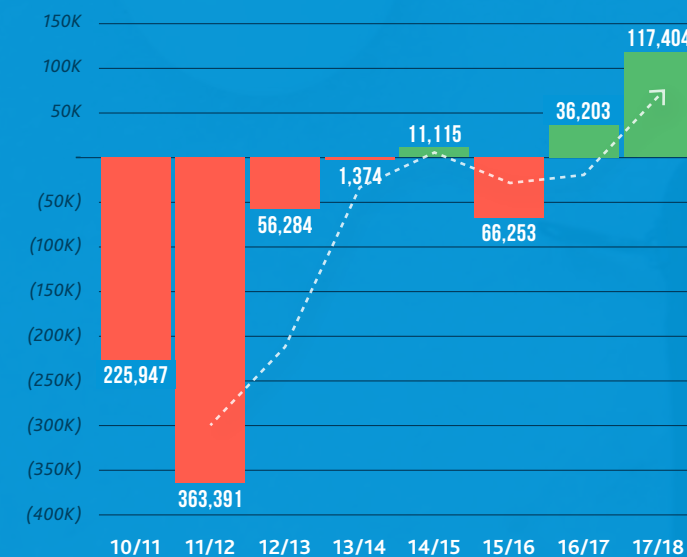
SOURCES OF INCOME



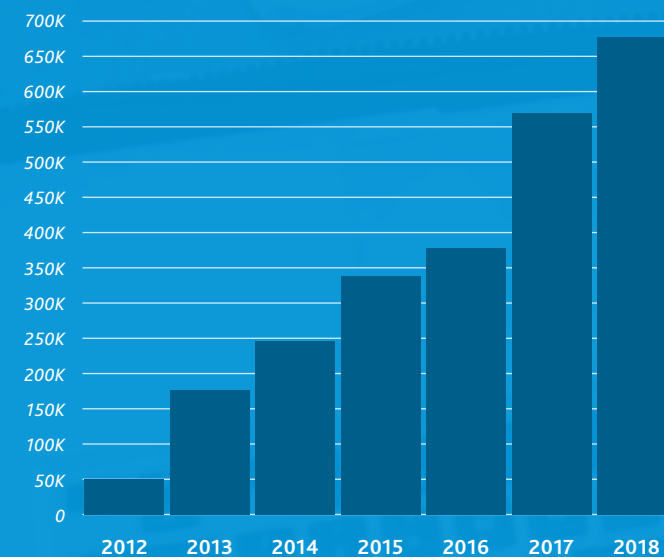
EXPENSE CATEGORIES



CHANGE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS



CAPITAL RESERVE ALLOCATIONS



SENDING KINGDOM-FOCUSED GRADS INTO THE WORLD



DANIEL TULL

BA in Applied Leadership,
Class of 2018
Sales Representative at Ledcor



RYAN NEWMAN

BA in Counselling & Human Services
Class of 2017
Pursuing Grad Studies at TWU



SARAH ROZENDAL

BA in Intercultural Studies
Class of 2018
Donor Ministries Rep with Insight for Living Canada



ELISE SPLETZER

BA in Worship Arts
Class of 2018
Worship Director at Central Community Church

MEET REBECCA

BA in Worship Arts, Class of 2017
Actor & Director, Gallery 7 Theatre

Do I get a surge of life when I remember that there is rehearsal at the end of the day? Do I become my truest self when discovering new sides of the character I'm playing? Do I feel that indescribable connection to everything and everyone when onstage, as if time itself didn't exist? Yes, I do.

Theatre is my calling. The way I've been shaped fits into theatre like a puzzle piece. My desire for connection to others through the arts has found its home. I am so

privileged to be involved in something that I strongly believe makes a deep impact in the lives of others.

Just like Christ speaking parables to stir the minds of his audience, artists use theatre. When compelling stories are told, people cannot merely listen, but are drawn in, identify their role, learn something new about themselves, and are changed by the outcome of the story. To be a part of that magical process for people is what brings me back to theatre every single time.



Rebecca playing the role of young Helen Keller.
(Photo courtesy of Gallery 7 Theatre)



SENDING KINGDOM-FOCUSED GRADS INTO THE WORLD



TAYLOR DICKAU

BA in Bibilcal Studies
Cass of 2018
Construction



RHONDA WILLMS

BA in Counselling & Human Services
Class of 2017
*Support Worker/Addictions Counsellor
Trainee at Life Recovery Centre*



HYUN-BAE CHOI

BA in Worship Arts
Class of 2017
*Worship Associate at
Willingdon Church*



GRANT MILLER

BA in Outdoor Leadership
Class of 2017
Youth Pastor at Cedar Valley Church



DANAE STYLES

BA in Youth Work
Class of 2018
*Youth Director at Northview
Mission Campus*



EMMA BERG

Columbia One
Class of 2018
Stuyding accounting at SIAST



MIKE RYDER

BA in Bibilcal Studies
Class of 2018
*Youth Pastor at Jericho
Ridge Church*



KAYLAN HAIT

Columbia One
Class of 2018
*Studying nursing at
Okanagan College*