



## **Niagara University Deputation to York Regional Council**

### **April 16, 2020**

Good evening Mr. Chairperson and distinguished members of York Regional Council:  
I thank you for this opportunity to present to you today, and look forward to meeting with you, in person, when life will reconvene in the newly defined normal. My name is Vince Rinaldo, and I am the Vice President for Ontario Administration at Niagara University. The purpose of my presentation is to introduce you to our University by giving some background to our past, our current operations and our strategy moving forward.

### **Background**

Originally founded in 1856, Niagara University's main campus is located on the Niagara River at the northern limits of the City of Niagara Falls, N.Y., about 6.5 km from the world-famous Horseshoe Falls, where we offer courses to more than 4,200 students enrolled in our undergraduate and graduate programs.

On April 20, 1863, the New York State Legislature granted a charter empowering the College and Seminary of Our Lady of Angels to confer degrees upon its graduates and on Aug. 7, 1883, New York Gov. Grover Cleveland signed the documents that officially changed the name from the College and Seminary of Our Lady of Angels to Niagara University. Over the years, Niagara has evolved into a comprehensive university, offering more than 50 professional and career-oriented programs.

The campus is comprised of more than two dozen buildings including: St. Vincent's Hall originally constructed in 1905, which underwent an \$11 million renovation in 2001 and now houses the Faculty of Hospitality, and Tourism Management; the student apartments which opened in the fall of 2002, the Academic Complex (2007), which houses the Faculty of Education; the B. Thomas Golisano Center for Integrated Science (2013); and most recently, the Russell J. Salvatore Dining Commons (2016).

Niagara University is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. In addition, the Faculty of Education is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) in the US, and the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) in Ontario and the Faculty of Business Administration is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International (AACSB).

Niagara competes in 18 Division One NCAA sports as a member of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC). Its men's hockey team plays in the Atlantic Hockey Association. Among Niagara's sports legends are National Basketball Association Hall of Fame member Calvin Murphy, former Utah Jazz coach and president Frank Layden, former New York Knicks and Memphis Grizzlies coach Hubie Brown and the late Larry Costello, former coach of the Milwaukee Bucks, and the voice of the Raptors, Jack Armstrong.

### **Current operations in Vaughan**

On January 21, 2019, Niagara University opened its doors in Vaughan consolidating the Bachelor of Professional studies in Education (BPS) program and the Master of Science in Educational Leadership (MSED) programs into a single site. Holding ministerial consent to offer programs in the Province of Ontario since 1984, the Faculty of Education began with the Master of Science Program and expanded to include the BPS program in 2007. Originally delivering these programs from elementary and secondary schools, Niagara University in Ontario is located in the base of Expo-City Tower 2, which is a 12-minute walk from where the TTC begins, and in the heart of the VMC. Our programs in education currently service more than 300 students all of which are offered from our new home.

### **Moving forward into the Fall**

In December 2019, Niagara University received consent from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities to add three new graduate programs to our offerings in Vaughan. These include a Master of Science in Finance, A master of Science in Information Security and Digital Forensics, and a Master of Business Administration with specialization in: accounting, finance, global supply chain management, marketing, strategic management, and healthcare administration. With this, we are currently planning an expansion for 2021 that will double our current footprint of just over 1140 m<sup>2</sup>. Niagara University has a long history of partnering with Ontario institutions including colleges and these new programs, offer opportunities and direct pathways for those completing four-year honours degrees from an Ontario college. We count among our strongest partners in the area, Humber and Seneca, and Sheridan, with which we have articulated pathways for students, faculty and staff.

As a binational university, Niagara brings with it opportunities for local residents to receive a global education, earning a US graduate degree entirely in Vaughan. In addition, they can be connected with a legacy of over 160 years of history and more than 5,000 Ontario alumni. We are very excited about our move into York Region and more excited about how we can make a positive difference.

As an institution originally founded by Fathers from the Vincentian Order, we continue our mission to help the poor and those who have been marginalized by society. Our first responders program offered on our Lewiston campus works with agencies across North America and we would like to include among our partners, York region. We would appreciate the opportunity to work closely with local businesses through the Chamber of Commerce and with York regional services inclusive of Fire, Police and EMS. We look forward to working with human resource departments to create and develop meaningful partnerships through synergies that will improve our programs, the lives of our graduates and in turn, our York community. Our strategic plan includes goals focused on making a positive economic difference and educating graduates who have a sound understanding of stewardship and the importance of assisting those who are less fortunate.

**Next Steps**

I look forward to working with the Region and with representatives from the Fire, Police, and EMT services and with representatives from each of the cities represented on this board with the goal of identifying and developing sustainable programs that meet the needs of these communities, that make a positive contribution to the economic development of the region and that positively impact or influence the lives of families in York. Please contact me directly at [vjr@niagara.edu](mailto:vjr@niagara.edu), or call me either directly on my cell (716) 245-1533 or by leaving a message on my office machine at (905) 294-7260 ext. 1101 to set up a virtual meeting.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Respectfully,

Vince Rinaldo, MBA, PhD

Vice President Ontario Administration

Niagara University