



Feb. 9, 2025

Conestoga expands to meet growing demand

Conestoga College is expanding its Downtown Kitchener Campus in the Kitchener-Waterloo region with new residence and classroom spaces set to open in May 2025, addressing the needs of over 19,000 international students.

The college has purchased two buildings in Kitchener and Waterloo to accommodate rapid expansion, including a 12-story building at 22 Frederick St. that will house classrooms and student residences.

Another five-story facility at 60 University Ave., formerly operated by Wilfrid Laurier University, will serve as additional housing. These developments are part of a \$90 million investment to enhance affordability and accessibility for students.

“Our goal is to provide safe, quality housing at an affordable price point,” said John Tibbits, President of Conestoga College. “This expansion ensures we remain globally competitive while supporting our growing student population.”

Kitchener Mayor Berry Urbanovic praised the initiative, noting it aligns with the city’s vision of fostering a knowledge-based economy.

With plans for a new campus in Milton and ongoing expansions across Ontario, Conestoga continues to lead in polytechnic education. Prospective students can learn more at www.conestogac.on.ca.

A media tour showcasing preliminary designs and updates is scheduled for Feb. 10, 2025.

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Feb. 14, 2025

ApplyBoard Secures \$50M for global expansion

ApplyBoard, the world's largest online platform for international student recruitment, has secured a \$50 million investment from venture capital firm Innotech Partners to expand its platform and assist international student recruitment for the fall and winter semesters.

Despite facing disruptions from the pandemic, ApplyBoard has grown into a \$4 billion unicorn company, simplifying the study abroad process for students, recruitment partners, and institutions. The company has helped more than 200,000 students on their educational journeys since 2015.

"Education and the knowledge economy are the biggest drivers of future innovation, and they will continue to spark the growth of future business enterprise," said John Volk, CEO of Innotech Partners, a Boston-based VC firm founded in 2010, which targets high-growth innovators, delivering 10% annual returns for clients.

Founded by brothers Martin, Meti, and Massi Basiri, ApplyBoard has built partnerships with over 1,200 educational institutions and collaborates with more than 4,000 recruitment partners to enhance campus diversity globally. The company was named Canada's fastest-growing technology firm by Deloitte in 2019 and ranked No. 3 on LinkedIn's Top Startups List in Canada in 2020.

"We continue to strive to be the most convenient platform for international students to find opportunities abroad and make their transition seamless by partnering with member institutions," said Martin Basiri, founder and CEO of ApplyBoard.

ApplyBoard's headquarters are in downtown Kitchener, Ont., with representatives in more than 20 countries, including India, China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Nepal, Bangladesh, the U.K., Australia, and the U.S. The company currently employs 550 people and, with the latest investment, is looking to expand its workforce locally and internationally.

Prospects can learn more at www.applyboard.com.

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