



HUMBER
POLYTECHNIC

Faculty of Applied Sciences
& Technology



FAST Times

MAY 2025

Dear Colleagues,

Spring is in full bloom and so are our students' achievements! As the days grow longer and the vibrant energy of spring fills the air, we are thrilled to celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of our students at this year's Skills Ontario Competition!

From May 5–7, more than 65 talented Humber Polytechnic students showcased their expertise – climbing, building, welding, baking, landscaping, and excelling across more than 35 categories. Skills Ontario provides a one-of-a-kind platform for students to demonstrate their talents and capture the attention of educators, family, friends, and future employers.

These achievements are only possible thanks to the incredible support of our staff, technologists, mentors, and faculty. Your dedication plays a vital role in helping our students shine, and we are deeply grateful.

In this issue, we proudly highlight the collaborative efforts behind Humber's interactive booth at the Career Exploration Showcase and our students' accomplishments at the

Competition, where 13 FAST students brought home the hardware and earned 11 medals at the Closing Ceremony.

You'll also find plenty of inspiring stories throughout this edition including photo galleries from the ICT and Engineering Capstone Expos and the AWS DeepRacer Competition!

Skilled trades, engineering and technologies are the foundation of innovation and progress – and by celebrating these accomplishments, we are investing in future builders, creators, and leaders.

We invite you to celebrate with us, applaud the achievements of our students, and continue inspiring the next generation!



Warm regards,
Michael Auchincloss
Associate Dean and Principal
Centre for Skilled Trades and Technology



FAST SHINES AT SKILLS ONTARIO

The Toronto Congress Centre was full of energy May 5-7 as Skills Ontario hosted the Career Exploration Showcase and Skills Ontario Competition!

Humber was front and centre engaging with elementary and secondary students at the Career Exploration Showcase where our team hosted several engaging activations to showcase our many skilled trades programs.

Simultaneously, more than 65 Humber students participated in the Competition and 13 FAST students were awarded 11 medals at the Closing Ceremony!

GOLD

- Christian Gibski, Heating Systems Technician
- Monica Lam, Landscape Design
- Grant Maddock & Cole Hunter, Mechatronics – Team of 2
- Lyra Placides & Rushawn Waite, Renewable Energies – Team of 2
- Hanson Wang, Electronics

SILVER

- Taylor Chamberlain, Landscape Design
- Jacob Jech, Electronics
- Taiwo Womiloju, Cybersecurity
- Mike Woodhead, Arborist

BRONZE

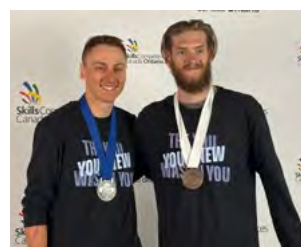
- Vatsal Dave, Web Design and Development
- Derek Visser, Arborist

Humber students have a long history of success at Skills and their hard work and dedication along with the support of their coaches has allowed them to continue to excel at the provincial, national and international competitions throughout the years.

Since September, these students have dedicated themselves to mastering the intricacies of their craft. Week after week, they have shown up, often pushing through long hours of hard work, collaboration, and problem-solving.

Thank you to all our faculty advisors who have supported our students and who were on-site to represent Humber with great pride and distinction.

Congratulations to all our competitors and good luck to our students who qualify for Nationals!!





FAST CLIMBS TO NEW HEIGHTS WITH STUDENTS AT THE SKILLS CAREER EXPLORATION SHOWCASE

The energy was electric at the Toronto Congress Centre during this year's Skills Ontario Career Exploration Showcase! Thousands of enthusiastic high school students stopped by the Humber Polytechnic booth to discover exciting pathways in the skilled trades—and our booth quickly became a crowd favourite.

In a fantastic collaboration between FAST, the Faculty of Media, Creative Arts & Design, Longo Faculty of Business, Recruitment and Humber's Government Relations, Marketing and Communications team, we unveiled a brand-new interactive booth that celebrated innovation across our programs and help students find "The You You Knew Was In You."

Highlights included trying an arborist's climbing apparatus up a real tree, building a shaker out of plumbing pipes, and potting plants for guests to take home.

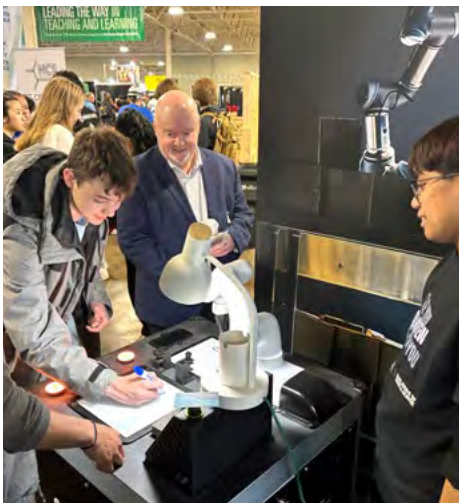
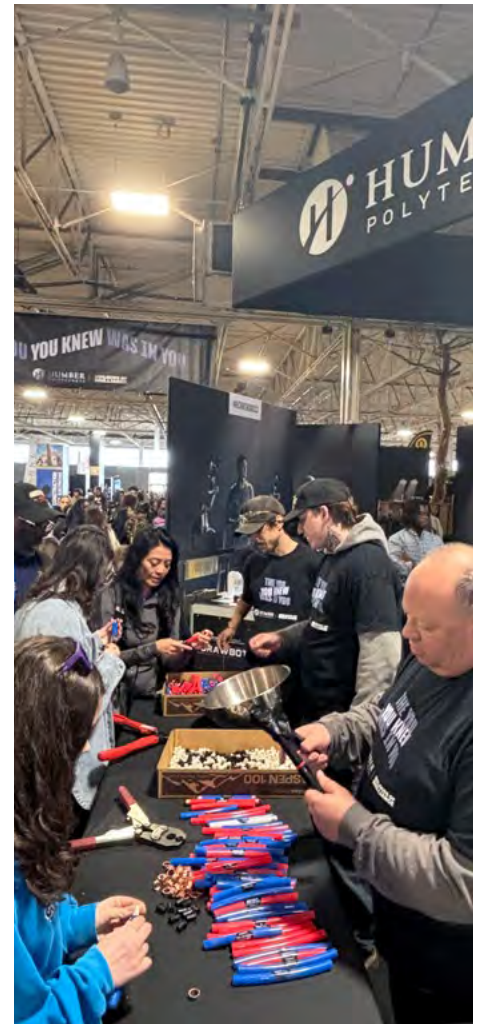
Humber students, faculty, and recruitment staff were on hand to answer questions and share their experiences—making this a true Team Humber success!

And the "icing on the cake" - our booth was awarded 2nd Place in the "Best Large Booth" category!



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CAPSTONE EXPOS

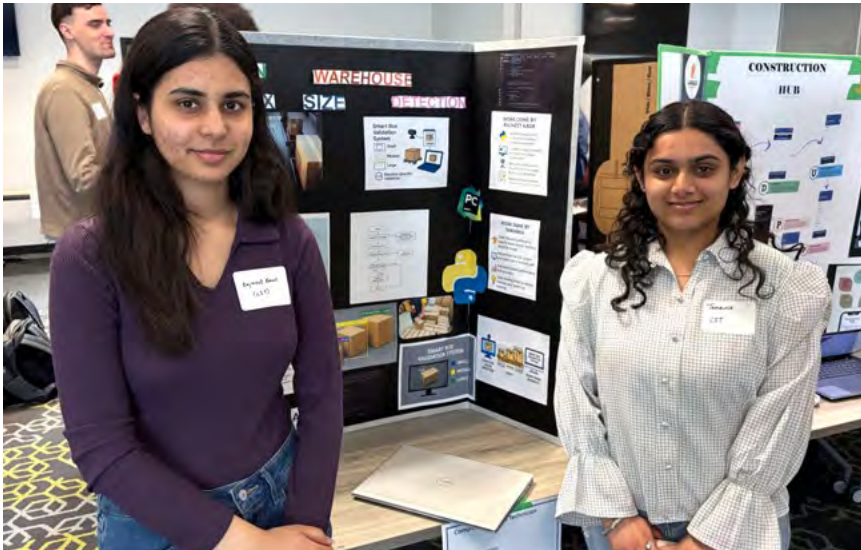
INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

The ICT Capstone Project Expo showcased 100+ capstone projects by more than 300 students from the graduating class of 2025!



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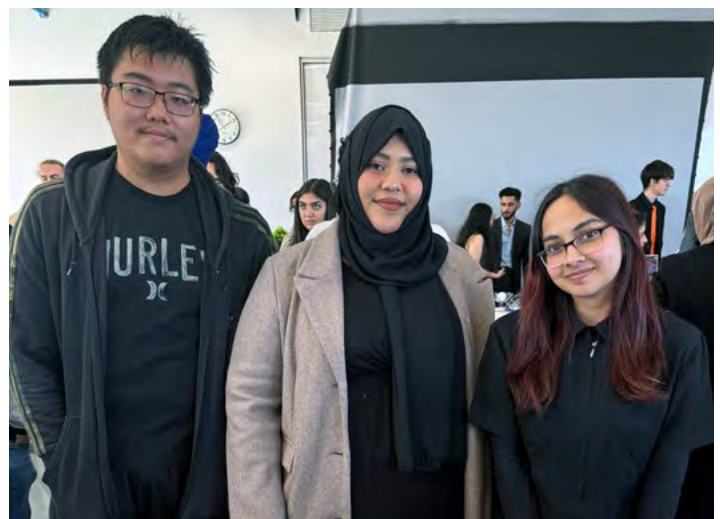
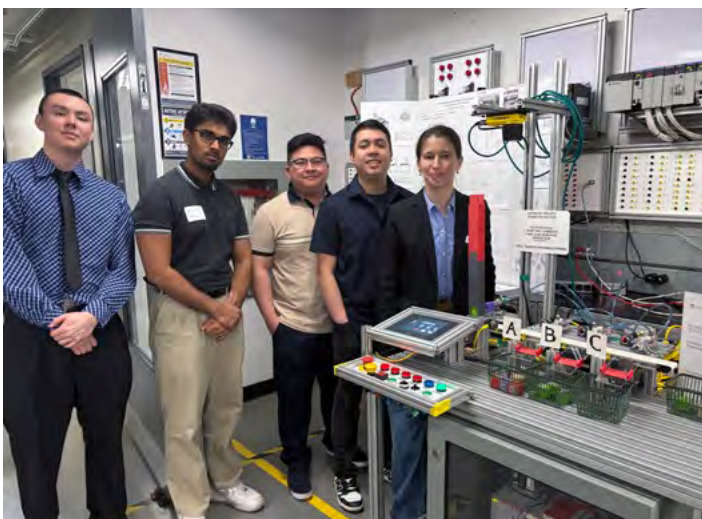
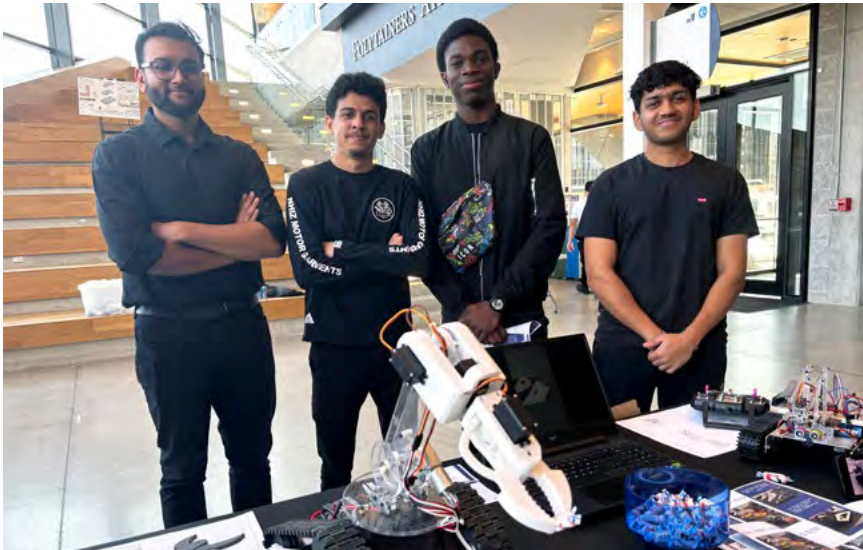
ENGINEERING

The Engineering Capstone Expo showcased 90 innovative projects created by more than 280 first- and second-year students, along with the graduating class of 2025. The projects spanned over four floors of the Barrett CTI and NB115.



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AWS SPEEDS INTO HUMBER TO HOST DEEPRACER COMPETITION

Collaboration in Action at the 2025 AWS DeepRacer Competition!

The annual AWS DeepRacer competition raced into Humber Polytechnic on Wednesday, April 23—and this year's event marked an exciting milestone in collaboration and innovation!

For the first time, students from George Brown College, Seneca Polytechnic, Conestoga College, Cambrian College, and Team Humber joined forces in the spirit of friendly competition and shared learning. Together, they put their skills to the test in the world's only fully autonomous racing league, using 1/18th scale race cars powered by machine learning algorithms.

Through Humber's ongoing partnership with Amazon Web Services (AWS), students across institutions gained a hands-on opportunity to apply critical thinking, programming, and machine learning (ML) techniques—particularly reinforcement learning, where AI is trained to make decisions and optimize outcomes.

This cross-college initiative not only strengthens technical skills but also builds meaningful connections between students, educators, and institutions. Events like these highlight the power of collaboration in post-secondary education, giving students resume-worthy experiences and a deeper understanding of applied AI in action.

Much appreciation goes to Dr. Mihai Albu who coordinated the event and mentored and coached the teams.

Congratulations to all participants and winning teams!



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2025 FAST EXCELLENCE AWARDS

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations are now being accepted for the **2025 FAST Excellence Awards**.

These awards recognize outstanding contributions to teaching and learning and celebrate the achievements of faculty and staff who embody excellence in their work.

Nominations are welcome from the FAST community in the following award categories:

- [Faculty Excellence Award](#)
- [Support Staff Excellence Award](#)
- [Team Excellence Award](#) ***NEW category for 2025***

Please find attached important information on the categories, guidelines, and answers to frequently asked questions. To nominate a deserving individual or team, please complete the nomination form using the links or QR codes by **Friday, May 16**.

Winners will be announced at the FAST Welcome Back Meeting in late August 2025 when they will be recognized for their outstanding achievements.

I encourage you to take this opportunity to recognize and celebrate the exceptional contributions of your colleagues. If you have any questions, please reach out to Tina at Tina.Kotsiomititis@humber.ca





HOME SWEET HUMBER

CELEBRATING AND SHOWCASING LIFE AT NORTH CAMPUS AND CARRIER DRIVE!

FORTIS INC. REPRESENTATIVES VISIT HUMBER POLYTECHNIC FOR AN INSIGHTFUL CONVERSATION AROUND ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY.



WHITE BEAR FIRST NATIONS VISIT



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EMPIRE CLUB



HUMBER DOWNTOWN OPEN HOUSE

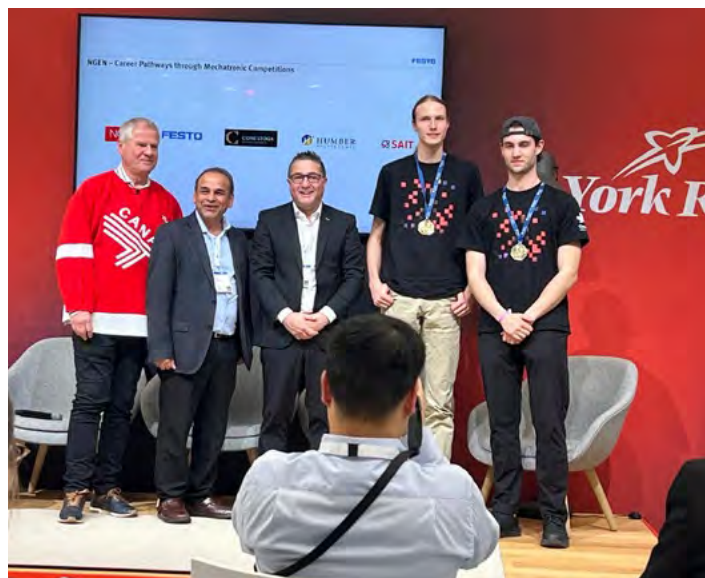


Share your life on campus images in the next FAST Times issue!

Please submit to
Jennifer Buchalter: jennifer.buchalter@humber.ca



BARRETT CENTRE FOR TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION



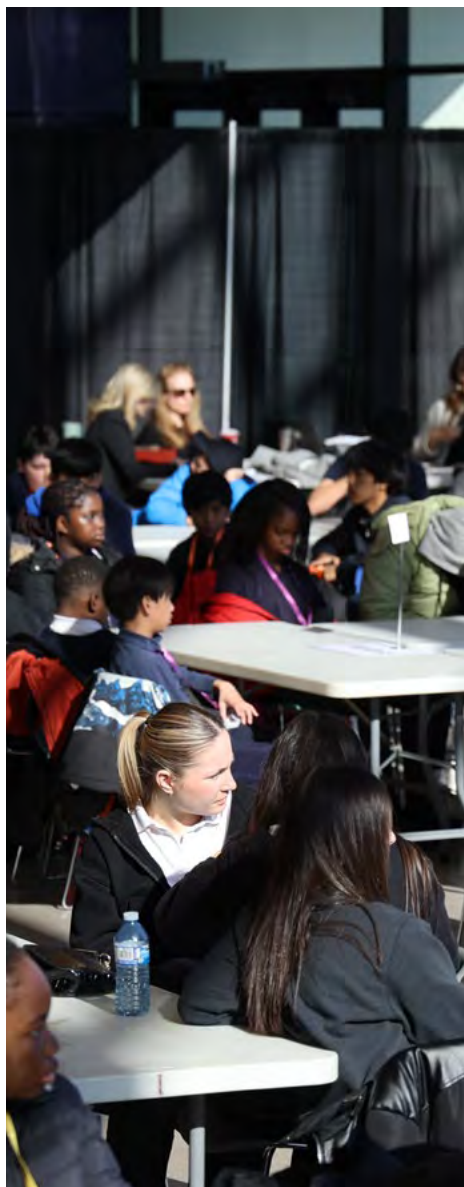
TEAM HUMBER SHINES IN A FRIENDLY MECHATRONICS SKILLS COMPETITION AT HANNOVER MESSE 2025

Together with industry partners NGen and Festo Didactic, Humber demonstrated the strength of Canadian mechatronics skills at Hannover Messe 2025 in Germany.

The world's leading industrial trade fair, companies from the mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and digital industries as well as the energy sector came together to present solutions for a high-performance, but also sustainable industry.

The collaboration featured a friendly skills competition showcasing top students from the leading Canadian post-secondary institutions including Humber, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) and Conestoga College. There was also a German team.

Cole Hunter and Grant Maddock, students from our Electromechanical Engineering Technology program, received the highest score overall. Cole and Grant also competed in the 2025 Skills Ontario Competition where they earned a Gold Medal and advanced to Skills Canada to compete May 28-31 in Regina, Saskatchewan!



EMPOWERING THE FUTURE: CELEBRATING WOMEN & IGNITING STEAM INSPIRATION

On March 27, 2025, the Barrett Centre for Technology Innovation, in collaboration with the Toronto Catholic District School Board, hosted Empowering the Future: Celebrating Women & Igniting STEAM Inspiration.

The event welcomed 200 students for an inspiring session featuring empowered women leaders from Humber Polytechnic. Also, the students engaged in hands-on STEAM workshops, exploring mechatronics, robotics, 3D printing, fashion, AR/VR, sustainability, and more.

Furthermore, Associate Vice-President Vera Beletzan emphasized Humber's commitment to gender equity and inclusive leadership. Indeed, the event highlighted the power of collaboration and innovation in empowering future generations through STEAM.



IN LOVING MEMORY: NANCY SHERMAN

We are deeply saddened to share that Nancy Sherman, a respected member of the Humber community, passed away on April 25, 2025.

From an expert in international development projects to the acting dean of Humber's Faculty of Applied Sciences & Technology, Nancy Sherman had an impressive 50-year career. She was a wonderful friend to Humber and generously shared her knowledge and extensive experience in trades, technology, and apprenticeship. We often called on her for support, and she was always willing to step up.

Nancy began her career by working in more than 15 countries in a diverse range of sectors including sustainable development, agriculture, early childhood education and technology. She developed an appreciation for, and skills in, leading interdisciplinary teams which is increasingly the hallmark of "environmental management." She always said that she had "a little bit of knowledge in a thousand different things" that allowed her to be flexible in her career.

Following her achievements abroad, Nancy returned to Canada where she had a successful 20-year career in post-secondary education. In 2015, Nancy returned to a consultancy practice in strategic planning, higher education, and internationalization and was ideally positioned to take the helm in 2016 as the Acting Dean of FAST.

With a birds-eye view, she strengthened the framework so faculty and staff would have multiple opportunities to have their voices heard and more importantly, allow everyone to have a leadership role with the confidence that FAST could positively move forward. In early 2017, she passed on the leadership baton and has since maintained an excellent relationship with her Humber colleagues as she continued to do occasional work with Humber.

Nancy was joyful, kind, and deeply committed. She will be greatly missed. As a pioneering female leader, she used her position to support and uplift many women in the trades and technology professions. She was truly a trailblazer. In her honour, we leave you with Nancy's own words of wisdom:



"I live by the belief that if you continue to learn and put up your hand to volunteer, it will position you to follow your heart and be ready for opportunities that appear before you. Every little experience somehow gets stuck to another experience."

A life well-lived, her legacy lives on.



UPCOMING EVENTS

May 19

Victoria Day

Campus Closed

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

FAST Times recognizes and celebrates the achievements of our faculty and students. To share your successes with us, please submit stories and images to the Office of the Senior Dean, Julie Pasquin: julie.pasquin@humber.ca

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