DR. DAN PATTERSON

Chair of the Board, OCI

Dan Patterson, former President of Niagara College, recently stepped down in June 2020, after serving for the past 25 years in this role. Under his leadership, the College tripled its enrolment of over 13,000 full time students in over 130 programs with an operating budget of over $225 million. Patterson also led the largest capital expansions in Niagara College history with over $300 million of campus redevelopment. Niagara College has honoured Dan with President Emeritus designation, recognizing his outstanding service to the College and local communities.

Patterson is a strong advocate for the important role post-secondary education plays in economic development. Dan led the creation of innovative learning enterprises at Niagara College, including Canada's first teaching winery, brewery and distillery. He also helped introduce pioneering programs that serve the needs of emerging industries, like Canada's first post-secondary credential in Commercial Cannabis Production. Ranking as a leader in applied research for colleges, Patterson established research and innovation centres to support SME's in advanced manufacturing, food and wine sciences, and agriculture and environmental technologies.

Patterson shares his expertise and knowledge on several boards at the national, provincial and local levels and recently was honoured by Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan) as the 2020 recipient of its Distinguished Service Award. Dan is an active member of the Niagara community and has been recognized for several awards including Canadian Red Cross Power of Humanity, Niagara-on-the-Lake Citizen of the Year, RBC Business Citizen of the Year, St. Catharines Rotary Club's Paul Harris Fellow, Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce Community Leadership, and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Patterson is a graduate of the University of Windsor (BA), The London School of Economics (MSc), and the University of Toronto (MEd/PhD). He also attended Oxford University as a Visiting Fellow at Green Templeton College. In recognition of his achievements within post-secondary education, Patterson was conferred an Honorary Doctorate from Niagara University (New York) and an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Brock University.