

F.A.R (Facilitator of Alumni Relations) Program

The Facilitator of Alumni Relations (F.A.R.) was a program and position developed to help support graduates from the Pathways to Education Kingston program through the difficult transition to post-secondary education, training, or meaningful employment.

Pathways to Education Kingston began in 2010 and helped raise local high school graduation rates from roughly half of the provincial average to at or above the provincial average. While this achievement was significant, it became clear that graduation alone was not enough. Many students continued to face challenges when transitioning to post-secondary education. In response, the Kingston Pathways team piloted a program outside of their core mission to support graduates by helping them navigate a world where they often lacked both experience and access to mentorship.

The pilot proved highly successful, leading to more than a doubling of retention rates in post-secondary education. As of 2022, 66% of Pathways to Education Kingston graduates have engaged with F.A.R. for support.

Because F.A.R. falls outside the scope of Pathways Canada funding, the program was initially supported through a series of non-renewable grants, including a three-year Rotary Global Grant that funded the facilitator position and helped students overcome the barriers they encounter during this transition. The success of the program would not have been possible without the incredibly generous support of Rotary both here in Kingston and Rotary International.

To ensure the long-term sustainability of this important work, a fundraising campaign was launched to establish the F.A.R. Endowment Fund. We are proud to share that this endowment goal has now been successfully achieved, securing ongoing support for graduates of the Pathways to Education Kingston program for years to come.

The impact of this initiative is twofold: first, to provide valuable support that enables individuals to reach their full potential, and second, to help our community develop the talent it needs to thrive in a competitive, fast-moving world—an important component of Kingston's economic development.

F.A.R. supports a critical stage in breaking the cycle of poverty through education. With the endowment now in place, the program will continue to provide meaningful support to Pathways graduates as they pursue higher education, training, and employment.

The F.A.R. Program was made possible by the following partners:

