



16 November 2020

News Release

Victoria-area College Partners to Educate More Young Refugees

[Pearson College UWC](#), one of 18 United World Colleges around the world, is part of a UWC and Schmidt Futures global initiative called [Rise](#) designed to improve opportunities for refugees and other deserving young people to access to advanced educational opportunities.

The [Rise program](#), the cornerstone of a total \$1 billion US commitment from Schmidt Futures (Eric Schmidt, former CEO of Google and spouse Wendy Schmidt), will fund scholarships for 15 students from refugee backgrounds to attend a UWC school, including Pearson, over three years.

Pearson, established in 1974, has quietly long supported opportunities for refugee students to attend a two-year program at the Pedder Bay boarding school on the unceded territory of the Sc'ianew First Nation.

In the last five years, Pearson has welcomed 20 students from refugee backgrounds, including up to seven in the current 2020-21 school year alone. Most Pearson students attend on full or partial scholarships made possible by generous individual and institutional donors.

For more information on the Rise initiative, please see the embedded links above. For more information on Pearson, please contact Brian Geary (bgeary@pearsoncollege.ca) or Nikola Mende at nmende@pearsoncollege.ca).

Background – Pearson College UWC

Founded as Lester B. Pearson United World College of the Pacific (Canada) and located along Pedder Bay on the unceded territory of the Sc'ianew (Beecher Bay) First Nation.

Pearson's mission is "to make education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future" through a two-year pre-university (equivalent to grades 12 & 13) school for up to 200 students aged 16 to 19 selected from up to 160 countries and across Canada. This year, more than 80% attend on full or partial scholarships. Nearly 4,300 students have graduated from Pearson, including 14 who have gone on to become Rhodes Scholars.

Pearson offers an IB-based program combined with a strong emphasis on experiential education and service. The College was inspired by former Canadian Prime Minister and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (1957) Lester B. Pearson who asked, "How can there be peace without people understanding each other, and how can this be if they don't know each other?"

For more information, please see www.pearsoncollege.ca and our [social media pages](#).