

September 2017

Hello,

Whether you are returning or just entering your first year, we are excited to welcome you to Western! We have some big things planned this year for the Society of Mature Students, or SMS as we like to call it.

Our main goal is to provide our fellow non-traditionally aged students with a sense of community right from the start. Through our alternative programming during Orientation Week, the peer mentor program, and regular social events, we hope that you will have the opportunity to involve yourself in activities beyond the classroom. We believe there is no better way to enhance your academic experience than by exploring all that Western has to offer. Like anything in life, you get out what you are willing to put in.

Seeing as you have made it this far, we believe you already have what it takes to succeed. We can't stress enough though that you do *not* have to do it alone. Western offers a strong support network, and there are people at all levels who are invested in your success. Please don't hesitate to take advantage of the resources at your disposal... they are designed to make your Western experience the very best it can be.

We have been working very hard over the summer to create a vision for what we hope to achieve this year, including a Mature and Transfer Students' Caucus through the University Students' Council (USC), which would benefit the entire community by allowing mature student concerns to be voiced in a formal setting. As an undergraduate student, you are already paying a fee to be part of the USC, so it only makes sense that you feel well represented. Keep an eye out for more information about how to get involved as the school year progresses.

If you're reading this, it is likely you've already signed up for our email list, but if for some reason you have not seen anything so far and would like to be included, please contact us at [sms@uwo.ca](mailto:sms@uwo.ca), and we will make sure you get connected. In fact, we invite you to reach out to us if you ever feel we could be of assistance, or to share any ideas you may have.

Wishing you all the best,

Erin Anderson & David Seston  
SMS Student Coordinators