

Empower Western's women athletes



Western

All in.

Western's Women in Sport Fund provides female student-athletes with top-tier coaching, state-of-the-art facilities, scholarships and bursaries that prepare them to be leaders in competition, and in life.

Girls who play sports grow into women who lead. Sport plays a vital role in building a strong and vibrant leadership pipeline – on and off the field. Western student-athletes develop discipline, teamwork, leadership and resilience, qualities that set them up to excel in every arena.

By giving our female student-athletes access to the same elite coaching, training and competitive opportunities as our male athletes, Western is investing in their success not only as athletes, but also as future changemakers, entrepreneurs, leaders and community builders in Canada and around the world.

The Women in Sport Fund aims to do just this through:

- **Creating opportunities for female coaches:** Female coaches are invaluable to the success of women's teams and their athletes. They serve as important role models and help create environments that promote equal opportunity and leadership for women in sport.
- **Levelling the playing field for women's teams:** To compete at the highest level, Western's women's teams require the ability to recruit top talent, train using the best strength and conditioning equipment and attend national events with their full roster of athletes, coaches and support staff.
- **Supporting female Mustangs:** Scholarships and bursaries remove financial barriers and allow student-athletes to focus fully on their education, sport and leadership development.

With your support, we will provide Western's women athletes with the resources, mentoring and competitive opportunities they need to excel in both sport and academics, and to grow into the change-makers and leaders Canada needs on and off the field.

“Balancing a degree in engineering while competing at the national level was not an easy undertaking, but I am grateful to have had the best support-system along the way that allowed me to excel in both areas of my life.

Kate Current, BSc '21, MSc '23, Mustangs cross-country star and Canadian Olympian

MUSTANG LEADERS

Former varsity female athletes are strongly represented among entrepreneurs, CEOs, senior executives and change-makers, with 94 per cent of women in C-suite roles having competed in sport. Western has many such examples:

Janet Bannister (Track) competed as a long-distance runner at Western and later became Canada's national triathlon champion, finishing eighth at the 1996 Long Distance Triathlon World Championships. Off the track, she launched Kijiji.ca, which grew into one of Canada's most visited websites. More recently, she led Staircase Ventures, a venture capital firm backing Canada's next generation of entrepreneurs.

Brianne Barry (Wrestling) dominated Western wrestling between 2009 and 2014. She collected six championship titles and led the Mustangs to one OUA championship. On the national stage, she captured gold at the 2015 Canadian Championships and won bronze at the 2013 Jeux de la Francophonie. Today, she is Vice-President of Real Estate Corporate Banking at RBC Capital Markets.

Lisa Bowes (Soccer) played varsity soccer at Western. She has built a trailblazing career in sports journalism, reporting for TSN, The Score, CBC and CTV. Bowes covered women's hockey at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics and made history as the first woman to provide play-by-play in the National Women's Hockey League. She also created the *Lucy Tries Sports* children's book series, encouraging girls to see themselves in sport.

Are you all in?
Get in touch.

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