



REGISTERED PSYCHIATRIC NURSES' FOUNDATION INC.

2024 Scholarships, Grants and Awards of Excellence

The RPNF presents its 2024 Scholarships, Grants and Awards recipients, honoured at the Annual RPNF Scholarships, Grants and Awards Reception held virtually on May 16, 2024. The RPNF proudly celebrates the accomplishments of Registered Psychiatric Nurses, and Psychiatric Nursing students. The 2024 Reception featured the RPNF's 3 scholarship and 2 grant recipients, 4 Awards of Psychiatric Nursing Excellence awardees, 2 Gold Medal recipients and the 2023 Bursary recipient.

Scholarships are awarded to students of Psychiatric Nursing and Registered Psychiatric Nurses who have met specified criteria and are enrolled in approved under-graduate, or graduate education programs which advance the profession of Psychiatric Nursing. For more information, go to rpnf.ca

RPNF Undergraduate Scholarship (3rd Year)



Sheila Soulsby
Winnipeg, MB
Brandon
University

Sheila engages in important community health and community building work. She volunteers with an emergency warming centre, and has worked as a student research assistant on a project delivering anti-racism training for health care staff. This work has fostered an interest in strengths-based cultural interventions and Sheila brings this lens to her psychiatric nursing education. Sheila plans to use her psychiatric nursing skills to serve the Indigenous urban community and to contribute to programs that are Indigenous designed and led.

RPNF Undergraduate Scholarship (4th Year)



Christina Ambrenac,
Winnipeg MB
Brandon
University

Christina is a passionate mental health advocate and raised over \$10,000 for the Andrew Dunn Foundation in support of mental health initiatives within Manitoba. In addition to academic excellence, she is an active volunteer and mentor at Brandon University, serving on the Psychiatric Nursing Program Advisory Committee and participating in the Psychiatric Nursing Student Mentorship Program. "My biggest hope is to use my personal experience and Psychiatric Nursing education to enact meaningful change in memory of my son, Matthew."

RPNF Graduate Scholarship



Tyla Sylvestre,
Prince Albert,
Saskatchewan,
Brandon
University, MPN
Program

Tyla's research focuses on recruitment and retention of nurses and psychiatric nurses in rural areas. Psychiatric Nurses are a critical component of mental health service delivery in rural areas. Developing strategies to retain service providers is essential for effective services. Tyla is using a qualitative approach to explore how community attachment influences retention. She will interview nurses and psychiatric nurses who have stayed in a setting for more than two years to understand factors that underpin retention, with the goal of supporting, or developing, effective recruitment and retention strategies.

RPNF Marlene Fitzsimmons Grant



Tammy Stott,
RPN, Maple
Ridge, British
Columbia,
University of
Calgary

This award is intended to support a Registered Psychiatric Nurse in a certificate program relevant to Registered Psychiatric Nursing practice. Tammy works as a Registered Psychiatric Nurse in Reproductive Mental Health. She provides education to local mental health centres and other community agencies about topics such as perinatal depression and anxiety as well as resources offered by the program she works in. She also facilitates groups for patients and is creating a second group therapy curriculum. Tammy is taking a Graduate Certificate in Innovations in Teaching and Learning. The program will further skills in education by studying theories of teaching and learning, as well as strategies and techniques.

RPNF Indigenous Studies Grant



Joslin Mamuric,
RPN, Brandon,
Manitoba Brandon
University

This award is intended to support a Registered Psychiatric Nurse in enhancing their knowledge about Aboriginal Health Issues. Joslin graduated from Brandon University's Psychiatric Nursing program in 2021, and was the successful recipient of 2 scholarships during her degree; the John Kellie 3rd year scholarship in 2020 and the Kay Armstrong 4th year scholarship in her graduating year. Post graduation, she independently sought out an online Brandon University course, entitled Introduction to Native Studies which she completed in December. She is currently working as a Nurse II at the Centre for Geriatric Psychiatry at the Brandon Regional Health Centre with Prairie Mountain Health.

RPNF Bursary, Brandon University Foundation (2023)



In 2005, the RPNF made a contribution, matched by the Province of Manitoba to create an annual bursary through Brandon University Foundation, offered to a 3rd year student, moving into their 4th and final year of the Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing Program, through Brandon University.

Omolara Akinsola was the 2023 recipient of the RPNF Bursary!

Medal of Excellence-Brandon University, B.Sc.P.N.

The RPNF's Medal of Excellence is awarded annually to a graduating student who has consistently demonstrated leadership, academic excellence and clinical proficiency in the Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing Program, from each Brandon University campus. Criteria includes involvement in professional, community and/or student activities, high achievement in clinical courses, including the senior practicum, and high attainment in prescribed coursework. The 2024 recipients are:



Mya Lee Jorgenson
(Brandon Campus)



Katrina Michelle Pander
(Winnipeg Campus)



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2024 Scholarships, Grants and Awards of Excellence

The Awards of Excellence in Psychiatric Nursing Practice are presented to nominated Registered Psychiatric Nurses (practicing in Manitoba) to acknowledge contributions of RPNs to the profession within the four domains of Psychiatric Nursing practice: leadership, clinical, education and research. This year the foundation presented four awards.

RPNF Award of Excellence—Clinical



Rebecca Sourisseau,
RPN

Rebecca Sourisseau is a psychiatric nurse working in private practice in Brandon. Rebecca has developed a strong skillset and capacity for working with individuals who have experienced both intergenerational and ongoing trauma within their lives. Rebecca provides clinical assessments and intervention, as well as assists individuals to connect with community services and resources. She meets individuals where they are at in a very down-to-earth manner and takes the time to ensure that individuals connect with services to meet basic needs, enabling them then to make gains in their mental health. Individuals and families feel accepted and heard, which helps them continue their engagement. Rebecca organizes her services in a way that allows for flexibility and rapid access where needed. Rebecca provides mentorship to fellow clinicians in the surrounding area, focusing on the importance of the necessary therapeutic skills as well as understanding and empathy. Rebecca Sourisseau is an excellent candidate for the Award of Excellence in Psychiatric Nursing Clinical practice, going above and beyond for each of her clients.

RPNF Award of Excellence—Clinical



Jessica Kis, RPN

Jessica Kis is a Forensic Nurse Examiner for the Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence Program at Health Sciences Centre, providing trauma-informed services to individuals who have experienced the most intimate type of violence and violation. She is responsible for providing forensic, medical, and supportive care to survivors of physical or sexual assault by a partner, as well as to those who are victims of human trafficking. Jessica practices with sensitivity, ensuring that her actions and language avoid re-traumatization. Individuals feel heard and believed when describing their experiences. She continually demonstrates compassion and understanding and goes above and beyond to ensure not only the physical wellbeing of individuals but also their mental and emotional wellbeing, setting an example for all on her team, as she strives to make the individual's worst day a little bit better. Jessica exemplifies excellence in Psychiatric Nursing and deserves recognition for the extraordinary services she provides individuals receiving care.

RPNF Award of Excellence-Research



Andrea Thomson,
RPN, BScPN,
MPN

Andrea is an Assistant Professor at Brandon University, who has contributed greatly to the body of knowledge for psychiatric nursing, addressing multiple gaps in literature and conducting many different research projects to fill these gaps, as published broadly. Her experience as a researcher is truly valued and Andrea looks for opportunities to provide leadership and mentorship to others, including multiple new faculty members as well as many graduate students in the Master of Psychiatric Nursing program.

She has also participated in several peer reviewed activities such as taking on the role of peer reviewer for manuscripts and grants. Andrea is on the Council for the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Manitoba, is a Research Affiliate for the Manitoba Centre for Nursing and Health Research, and has also served as a member of the Brandon University Research Ethics Committee. She is the co-chair of the Continuous Quality Improvement Committee, co-facilitator of the Psychiatric Nursing Peer Mentorship Program, and an active member of the Master of Psychiatric Nursing Program Steering Committee.

Andrea is an esteemed psychiatric nurse researcher and is most deserving of the Research Award.

RPNF Award of Excellence-Leadership



Dr. Jane Karpa,
RPN, PhD

Dr. Jane Karpa is a psychiatric nurse educator in both the Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing program and in the Master of Psychiatric Nursing program. Jane has acted as a role model and mentor to many of the current faculty members and has shaped the practice of the educational environment as a whole. Jane's level-headed approach to decision-making, particularly regarding departmental issues, showcases her exemplary leadership in navigating complex challenges with grace and expertise. This past year, Jane announced her retirement from Brandon University commencing in the summer of 2024. When most are easing their workload after such an announcement, Jane took on significant leadership roles at the university, including co-chairing the Department of Psychiatric Nursing during the fall term, contributing to important processes such as the psychiatric nursing program accreditation process and union bargaining team negotiations.

Jane has actively participated in initiatives that promote mental health awareness to reduce stigma. Her extensive research in psychiatric nursing and mental health has made invaluable contributions to the profession and the larger mental health community, demonstrating her commitment to advancing the knowledge of the field. Jane's research has a wide range, from the experience of people living with acquired brain injuries (and their families), to how nurse educators can reduce stigma towards people with mental illness, teach professional boundaries, and how peer mentorship affects the development of academic integrity.

Her dedication to upholding high standards of professionalism within the profession of psychiatric nursing serves as a guiding light for others in this field.

RPNF 2024 Annual General Meeting

The RPNF will hold its AGM on Monday, May 27, 2024 at 12:00 CDT by Zoom. All are welcome! Please email info@rpnf.ca for AGM Package and Zoom Link.

The Registered Psychiatric Nurses' Foundation is incredibly proud of the accomplishments of the RPNF Scholarships and Awards recipients. They are an inspiration to the profession and are leaders in the field. Join us in congratulating the winners on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [X \(Twitter\)](#) or visit our website at www.rpnf.ca, and join our mailing list by signing up at <https://www.rpnf.ca/support-the-foundation/be-on-our-mailing-list>.

A sincere thank-you to our Registered Psychiatric Nurses' Foundation Donors who make these Scholarships and Awards possible. Go to <https://www.rpnf.ca/support-the-foundation/donations> to learn how you can support the RPNF.