



# Nursing Matters

2024



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN  
College of Nursing  
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UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN • COLLEGE OF NURSING  
2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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*In Canada, we live, learn and work  
on traditional Indigenous territories  
(Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10). We pay  
our respect to the First Nation, Métis  
and Inuit ancestors and affirm our  
commitment to respectful relationships  
with one another and this land.*

“2024 was incredibly busy, but successful, encouraging, and exciting. Since August 2021, I have had the privilege of being the dean of the College of Nursing. Each year that passes, I feel we’ve had a great year, only for the following year to surpass all expectations. I am so proud of all we have accomplished in 2024 and feel extremely lucky to work alongside USask Nursing faculty, staff, and instructors, who show an unwavering commitment to our success each and every day.”



Welcome to the University of Saskatchewan (USask) College of Nursing 2024 Annual Report.

2024 was a year of growth and expansion. We announced the addition of four new distributed nursing sites for our undergraduate education program. Starting fall 2025, students will have the opportunity to complete their entire Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree in 10 Saskatchewan communities.

At fall convocation, we celebrated the largest class to date of Master of Nursing Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner (NP) graduates and recognized our first graduate of the newly introduced Foundations for Registered Nurse Specialty Practice certificate program.

Nursing students were recognized with over \$378,000 in scholarships, awards, and bursaries, we announced the launch of our first ever micro-credential and we welcomed the first BSN students at the North Battleford and Muenster distributed nursing sites.

Throughout 2024, the College of Nursing welcomed new faculty and staff, faculty celebrated promotion, received teaching awards, and expanded their research impact. Faculty and staff years of service were recognized at the College of Nursing retreat in August, including two faculty celebrating 30 years.

Whether they are located on the main campus in Saskatoon, studying their BSN throughout Saskatchewan, or completing graduate studies across Canada, current College of Nursing students are thriving. An undergraduate Dean’s Honour Roll was created in 2024, NP graduates exceeded the national average on the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners examination, and student research was highlighted at the annual College of Nursing Research & Scholarship Day. Their commitment to their studies is evident and their perseverance to complete their programs is excellent. In 2024, we had 1,070 students studying in our undergraduate programs and 237 as graduate students.

Finally, our alumni continue to be the nursing professionals the world needs and their stories remind me of the wonderful journey our nursing graduates take when they leave the College of Nursing. From opening private Nurse Practitioner clinics to becoming philanthropists and receiving a Saskatchewan Order of Merit, USask College of Nursing alumni make us proud.

When I look back on 2024, there are so many successes to name. These are just a few of the highlights that come to mind.

I encourage you to read this annual report and enjoy the many exciting stories from 2024 about our outstanding faculty, staff, students, and alumni. While there many success stories outside of these pages, this report represents the overall accomplishments of our vibrant nursing community. In 2025, I invite you to follow us on social media for the most up-to-date news, events, and photos and read more news stories at nursing.usask.ca.

*M. Richter*

University of Saskatchewan College of Nursing Dean Dr. Solina Richter  
 Submitted.

VISION

The College of Nursing is a world leader in educating nurses in interprofessional healthcare, research, practice, innovation, capacity building and policy development.

MISSION

As University nursing faculty in Saskatchewan, the College of Nursing strengthens nursing, health and the healthcare system, through the creation and integration of knowledge from research, education and practice.

PHILOSOPHY

Nursing is a respected and caring human endeavor; a distinct health profession; and an applied discipline based on nursing and related theories. Nursing is dedicated to the purposeful, collaborative relationship with individuals, families and communities that enables the acquisition, organization and use of nursing and other related resources that people need to optimize their health experiences within complex, diverse, and dynamic environments.

Embedded in a research-intensive Canadian university, the College of Nursing is situated on the territory of Treaties 4, 6, 10, and the homeland of the Métis. The College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan, believes the discovery, advancement, and transmission of nursing knowledge is achieved through the integration of teaching, research/scholarship, evidence informed practice and service. Learning is the process of co-creating meaning that transforms experiences into shared knowledge. We value diversity, social justice and ethical practice. We foster collaboration through primary healthcare, practical innovations and technology mediated solutions, with specific consideration of the needs of rural, remote, and Indigenous communities.

The College of Nursing and our graduates are leaders in engaging individuals, families, communities, policy makers, other health professions and disciplines, and other stakeholders to provide safe, competent care that maximizes the potential of people and health systems. Through these combined efforts, we create, support, and share equitable and sustainable solutions that improve health experiences and measurable outcomes. Solutions have local, national, and international relevance.

Approved by the College of Nursing Faculty Council, April 10, 2017

PROGRAMS

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)
- Post-Degree BSN

GRADUATE DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES

- Master of Nursing (Professional Practice Course-Based and Thesis-Based) (MN)
- Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner (NP)
- Post-Graduate Nurse Practitioner Certificate (NP)
- Foundations for Registered Nurse Specialty Practice Certificate
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Nursing

LOCATIONS

UNDERGRADUATE

The College of Nursing offers the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at University of Saskatchewan campuses in Saskatoon and Prince Albert. In addition to our primary campuses, the BSN program is also available to students at distributed sites across Saskatchewan including Île-à-la-Crosse, La Ronge, Lloydminster, Muenster, North Battleford, Swift Current (coming fall 2025), Weyburn (coming 2025), and Yorkton. The Post-Degree BSN option is offered at the Saskatoon Campus.

GRADUATE

All USask College of Nursing graduate programs are offered distributively, allowing students from across Canada to enrol. The main campus in Saskatoon, as well as the USask Prince Albert Campus, have dedicated learning spaces for graduate students.



○ Complete Pre-Professional Year (Yr 1)      ■ BSN Years 2 – 4

Since 1938, the University of Saskatchewan has been delivering quality nursing education. A lot has changed over the course of eight and a half decades – new programs and curriculums, visionary leaders, and a significant growth in the number of doctoral prepared faculty.

Today, USask College of Nursing is educating the registered nurses, nurse practitioners, nurse leaders, and nurse scholars of tomorrow. We are also faculty conducting research and scholarship improving healthcare for the future.

At a glance, here is the College of Nursing at the end of 2024.

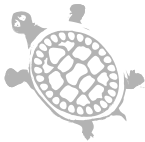


**1,307**  
Students enrolled  
at end of 2024

**1,070**  
Undergraduate  
students

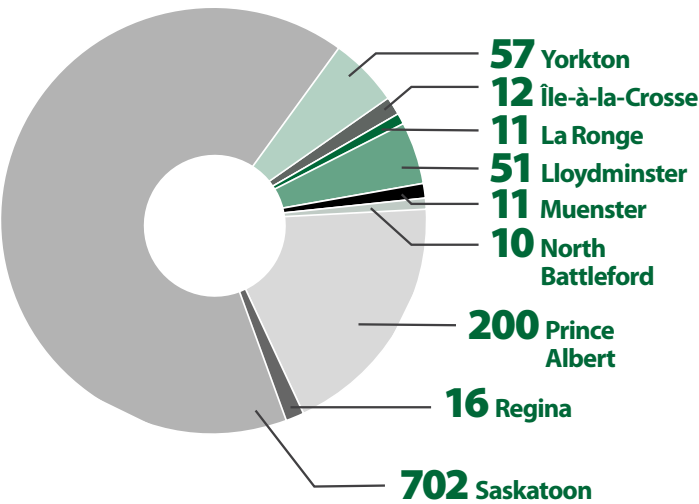
**237**  
Graduate students

**15.3%**  
Self-declared  
undergraduate  
Indigenous students

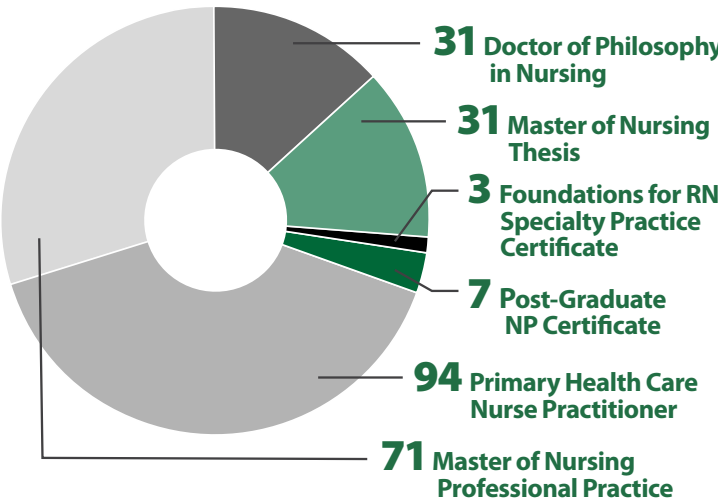


**15.2%**  
Self-declared  
graduate  
Indigenous students

Number of undergraduate students per campus/distributed site in 2024



Number of graduate students by program in 2024



**295**  
Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
students graduated in 2024

**68**  
Graduate students completed  
their programs in 2024



**\$2.8+ million**  
in total funding awarded across 72 active research  
grants held within the College of Nursing



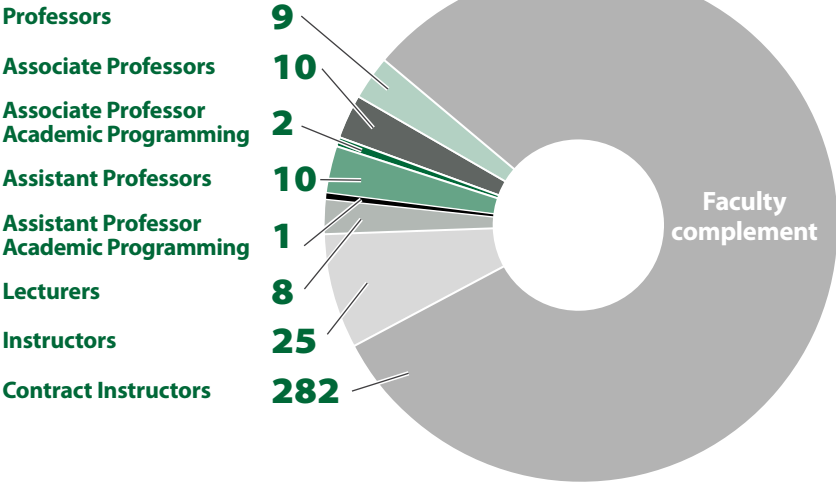
**\$378,151**  
in student scholarships,  
awards, and bursaries



**53**  
Staff



**347**  
Faculty





# PROTECTOR

## THE CAMPAIGN FOR USASK

Taneil Gay  
Student,  
College of Nursing

The healthcare profession is becoming increasingly complex and we need registered nurses who can rise to the challenge.

Your support will allow USask nursing students like Taneil Gay to positively change the world.

Donate to the *Be What the World Needs* campaign today at [give.usask.ca](https://give.usask.ca).



UNIVERSITY OF  
SASKATCHEWAN

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

## Plan 2025 Update

At the University of Saskatchewan College of Nursing, we're focused on delivering accessible programs of excellence for current students, and translating research into creating innovative programs for future learners that meet the needs of a rapidly evolving healthcare system.

The College of Nursing is contributing to the University of Saskatchewan's aspiration to be "the university the world needs". Our College of Nursing strategic plan integrates seamlessly with the institutional strategic plan with focus areas in Discovery, Teaching/Learning, Engagement, and Indigenization.

### What does the University of Saskatchewan's aspiration to be "the university the world needs" mean for the College of Nursing?

- It means ensuring our graduates are ready and committed to deliver and enhance collaborative patient-centered care in practice.
- It means supporting Indigenous achievement and contributing to a representative Indigenous nursing workforce that promotes equitable representation in the healthcare system and improved patient care.
- It means delivering accessible, technology-enhanced nursing education across the province and beyond.
- It means conducting patient and community-centered research that has a measurable positive impact on healthcare delivery for improved wellness of patients, families, communities, and caregivers alike.
- It means enhancing the nursing profession's administrative, teaching, and research capacity through our graduate studies programming.

The College of Nursing aspires to be one of the world's top 100 schools of nursing and to be among Canada's top 10.

Our strategic framework to achieve this aspiration weaves together 11 goals within four priority focus areas:

### DISCOVERY

Develop a culture of scholarship to achieve research excellence in nursing signature research areas, including Community Engaged Health, Health Equity, and Innovations in Health Systems and Education. Engage in interprofessional collaboration leading to new knowledge and stronger, evidence-informed healthcare systems.



### TEACHING AND LEARNING

Inspire excellence and innovation in the development and delivery of nursing professional programs that leverage accessible, distributed technology to prepare graduates for interprofessional patient-centered care, for improved healthcare delivery in urban, rural, and northern/remote communities.



### ENGAGEMENT

Promote healthy, inclusive relationships guided by the Seven Sacred Teachings that invigorate faculty, staff, and students to achieve their full potential as we strengthen and expand collaborative partnerships and leverage support from donors and alumni to co-create positive solutions for patients, families, and communities.



### INDIGENIZATION

Understand, embrace, and support diversity as we walk the Indigenous and non-Indigenous journey toward reconciliation with a focus on *ohpahotân* "let's fly up together" and *wahkohtowin* "we are all related".



We have made significant progress through the College of Nursing Plan 2025 since its inception in 2018. To highlight this progress, we have used the icons above to connect our featured stories on pages 8 to 25 to one of the four focus areas.



BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAM EXPANDS TO LLOYDMINSTER AND NORTH BATTLEFORD



In January 2024, USask College of Nursing announced the expansion of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program to two more sites in Saskatchewan: Lloydminster and North Battleford.

The expansion responds to the call for nursing education in these communities, where residents are familiar with the culture and people.

“By offering the BSN program at our distributed nursing sites, we are giving students the opportunity to learn where they live in La Ronge, Île-à-la-Crosse, Yorkton, Lloydminster, and North Battleford,” said USask College of Nursing Dean Dr. Solina Richter (DCur).

“We are decreasing the likelihood of these rural and remote communities experiencing a registered nursing shortage, as the students who complete their nursing education in these communities, will likely practice in the community once licensed.”

The province also has a significant Indigenous population, particularly in the northern regions.

**“In order to provide quality nursing care, we must actively contribute to a representative nursing workforce that is responsive to the needs of the province.”**

– DR. SOLINA RICHTER

“In order to provide quality nursing care, we must actively contribute to a representative nursing workforce that is responsive to the needs of the province,” said Dr. Richter.

“We have a long history of Indigenous student success and are recognized as having the highest number of self-declared Indigenous nursing students in the country.”

The College of Nursing “Learn Where You Live” model has been particularly successful at distributed sites in La Ronge, Île-à-la-Crosse, and Yorkton. Since the first students entered the BSN program in La Ronge and Île-à-la-Crosse in September 2012, 66 nursing students have completed their degrees in northern Saskatchewan. Since starting the program in Yorkton in 2014, 81 students graduated.

COLLEGE OF NURSING LAUNCHES MICRO-CREDENTIAL

USask College of Nursing introduced a micro-credential, Management of Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) in Adults, near the end of 2024.

Informed by the 2023 Canadian Network for Mood and Anxiety Treatments (CANMAT) guidelines, NURS M01A equips learners to assess, diagnose, and collaborate with the client and other members of the healthcare team to develop an individualized evidence-informed treatment plan and monitor treatment response and outcomes for individuals living with uncomplicated and complex MDD.



For many health and human service professionals, continuing professional development is a requirement for licensure and/or employment. This micro-credential satisfies ongoing professional development requirements for various health-related disciplines including nurse practitioners, registered nurses, registered psychiatric nurses, pharmacists, social workers, addiction counsellors, and other healthcare providers.

The first offering will begin January 2025.

PHD STUDENT SEEKS TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS’ MENTAL HEALTH



Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing student Barbara Twum-Antwi. Submitted.

Barbara Twum-Antwi, a USask College of Nursing Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Nursing student, is working with the USask Student Wellness Centre and a student research team to co-develop a project and campaign on coping strategies for international students.

Twum-Antwi’s interest in this area began while working as a research assistant with USask College of Nursing Associate Professor Dr. Geoffrey Maina (PhD) on a project on racialized immigrants. She realized the experiences of the international student participants closely mirrored her own, which moved her to delve into international students’ mental health issues in more detail.

She has since presented at nursing seminars on mental health coping strategies for international students, sharing her personal experience and the methods she adopted to feel better.

As she progresses in the research for her PhD, she intends to work on African international students’ mental health using a participatory action approach to explore their experiences and co-create resources to support their mental well-being.

College of Nursing Assistant Professor

Dr. Sithokozile Maposa (PhD) describes Twum-Antwi as “an emerging expert in African International Students and Mental Health.”

Born and raised in Ghana, Twum-Antwi completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Public Health at the University of Ghana before choosing USask for her Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing program. Prior to joining USask Nursing, Twum-Antwi worked in clinical practice and nursing administration at the Zabzugu District Hospital in Northern Ghana.

Following a recommendation from a current student, Twum-Antwi said she chose USask for the affordable tuition for international PhD students, plus opportunities for scholarships, research assistantships, and teaching assistantships.

“The USask support system, especially at the College of Nursing, is great,” said Twum-Antwi. “This system is a very important aspect of graduate education, which sometimes gets overlooked. However, graduate students, like myself, need a school that actually cares and creates a supportive environment.”

**“USask has a high international student population, which is very multicultural and diverse. I was not afraid to be in a new space because I was convinced I would meet people from my background.”**

– BARBARA TWUM-ANTWI



FIRST NATIONS HOUSING SYMPOSIUM  
COMBINES RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE  
WITH ACTION AND ART



By Merle Massie

Building for the Future, a housing symposium dedicated to Indigenous housing and health took place November 21, 2023, at Wanuskewin, near Saskatoon. The one-day event drew participants from across the province, including representatives from First Nations communities, the building industry, NGOs, and government.



The collaborative effort involved a multidisciplinary team of researchers from USask, spanning various fields such as medicine (led by Dr. Shelley Kirychuk, PhD), engineering (led by Dr. Kerry McPhedran, PhD, Dr. Soltan Jafar, PhD, and Dr. Huiqing Guo, PhD), social and cultural design within engineering (led by Dr. Lori Bradford, PhD), nursing (led by Dr. Wanda Martin, PhD, and Dr. Charlene Thompson, PhD) and chemistry (led by Dr. Tara Kahan, PhD).

Throughout 2023 and 2024, communities across the province had been sharing stories of their housing strengths and successes with the USask research team through Zoom, on the phone, and during in-person visits. The practices uncovered during these conversations will be organized in a centralized hub based on four themes: governance and policy, transition and training, builds and procurement and asset management. In addition to showcasing community stories of housing strength, the hub will act as a portal to existing and new resources.

At the symposium, attendees at each table shared examples and engaged in lively conversations to develop the emerging themes. These discussions were captured live by a graphic recording artist from Fuselight Creative. The artist’s interpretation of the insights was projected for everyone to see and build on.

After the event, the visual rendering was converted into a video, showing the captured conversations and how the art was developed. The video was also set to music—Kahkiyaw Oskâyak (All the Young People), an original composition by distinguished Cree-Dene musical artist and creator Sherryl Sewepagaham. The version used was performed by the USask Greystone Singers, directed by Dr. Jennifer Lang (PhD).

Attendees praised the event, highlighting the discussion format and artistic elements. They commended the engagement, networking opportunities and the chance to connect with others grappling with similar housing challenges. They also urged USask researchers to collaborate with other First Nations communities, share resources, and maintain ongoing communication.

REMEMBERING  
DR. SARAH STAHLKE



College of Nursing Associate Professor Dr. Sarah Stahlke.  
© Dave Stobbe.

Dr. Sarah Stahlke (PhD), associate professor at USask College of Nursing, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, August 7, 2024, surrounded by the love of her family.

“Although Dr. Stahlke was only with the College of Nursing for a brief time, she developed strong friendships with those around her and brought a bright presence to the College,” said College of Nursing Dean Dr. Solina Richter (DCur).

Dr. Stahlke was a registered nurse with a Master’s degree in health services administration and a PhD in sociology. Her clinical background was mainly in the operating room, but she also worked in medicine/surgery and the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). After moving into administration, she worked in hospital management, professional regulation, policy development, and program planning.

Dr. Stahlke joined USask College of Nursing in July 2023; previously, she was an associate professor in the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Alberta.

A lifelong learner, Dr. Stahlke loved to mentor and support others in their development. She was a sociologist, a tenured professor, a commercial pilot, a registered nurse, and someone who was filled with curiosity and a thirst for adventure.

Memorial donations can be made to the “Dr. Sarah Stahlke Memorial Graduate Award in Sociology” at the University of Alberta.

THREE NURSING STUDENTS RECEIVE USASK  
INDIGENOUS STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



Three College of Nursing students were honoured in March 2024 with Indigenous Student Achievement Awards that recognized and celebrated their academic achievement, leadership, research, resilience, and community engagement.

**DANNIELLE BRASS** is an Indigenous woman from Peepeekisis First Nation, who has navigated through the unique challenges of her cultural heritage, embracing resilience and determination.

A third-year student in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program at the Prince Albert Campus, she was awarded the Academic Excellence Award.

She is grateful for the opportunity to serve as a registered nurse upon graduation, a role that will allow her to use her voice for equality in the healthcare community.



**CHARLES DETTANIBA** from Black Lake Band, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, received the Resiliency Award. A fourth-year student in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at the Prince Albert Campus, Dettaniba juggles family life as a single dad, while excelling academically and volunteering in the community.

Upon completion of his program, he aspires to work in surgery, until he is experienced enough to enter the emergency department. He hopes to eventually take his experience back to the North to continue his practice as a registered nurse.



**ALEX POND** (BSN’20) from Métis Western Region Two, Big River, Saskatchewan was presented with the Academic Excellence Award. A graduate of the USask Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, Pond began her career as a registered nurse in her home community of Big River and subsequently transitioned to surrounding rural emergency departments. A position in her maternal grandmother’s First Nation community involving HIV management and harm reduction cemented her passion for community-centered care. This grew her desire to further her education in nursing.

Upon graduation from the nurse practitioner program, she hopes to return to Big River and the surrounding area as a healthcare provider.



“These students should take great pride in their successes that have led them to be selected as this year’s recipients. The College of Nursing is fortunate to have them as part of its student body.”

– DR. SOLINA RICHTER  
COLLEGE OF NURSING DEAN

College of Nursing Indigenous Student Achievement Award recipients (top to bottom) Dannielle Brass, Charles Dettaniba, Alex Pond. © Submitted.



USASK NURSE PRACTITIONER GRADUATES EXCEED NATIONAL AVERAGE IN AANP EXAMINATION



USask nurse practitioner (NP) graduates who wrote the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) exam in 2023 achieved a 90 percent pass rate, a rate that exceeded the national average that year.

“College of Nursing Nurse Practitioner graduates continue to score well on NP licensing exams, which is encouraging,” said Janet Luimes, NP program lead with the College of Nursing. “Not only did the writers pass the examinations, but their scores also exceeded the national average in 2023.”

The AANP is one of the approved licensing programs graduates must pass before they can register and practice as an NP. Other exams include the Family NP exam with the AANP and the American Nurses Credentialing Centre (ANCC). The most common exam is the Canadian Nurse Practitioner Exam (CNPE) (Family All Ages). Required exams

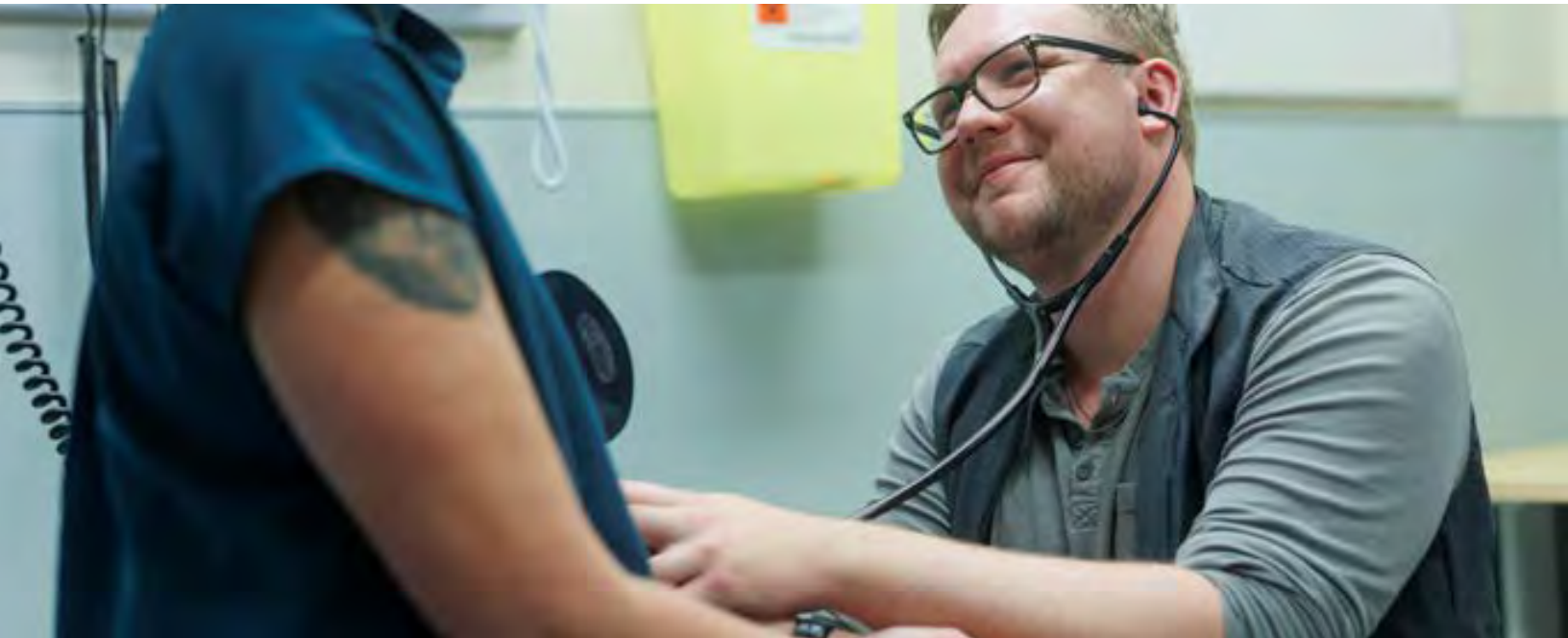
vary depending on where a graduate wishes to practice.

The College of Registered Nurses of Saskatchewan (CRNS) regulatory body periodically reviews the College of Nursing NP program to ensure graduates are learning to provide competent, quality care and can meet the criteria for licensure. In 2022, the program received a seven-year program approval—the highest possible level of approval from the CRNS.

Dr. Louise Racine, College of Nursing associate dean of research and graduate studies, said everyone in the program should be proud of these results. “The Master of Nursing Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner program is our flagship graduate nursing program and is highly sought after. We have a large number of applicants from across Canada and applications keep increasing year over year.”



Nurse Practitioner Program Lead Janet Luimes with nurse practitioner students. Submitted.



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Preceptoring allows NPs to shape future healthcare, share knowledge, enhance leadership skills, stay sharp in practice, and contribute to patient care by mentoring confident, well-prepared future NPs.

USASK PARTNERS WITH SOUTHEAST COLLEGE TO DELIVER NURSING PROGRAM IN WEYBURN



At the official signing event in Weyburn (l to r: Dean Loberg (Vice President of Academics and Teaching and Learning, Southeast College), Dr. Vicky Roy (President and CEO, Southeast College), Dr. Solina Richter (Dean, USask Nursing). Submitted by Breanna Pochipinski.

USask College of Nursing has partnered with Southeast College to offer the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at the Southeast College Weyburn campus, starting fall 2025.

Before this partnership, students in Weyburn and surrounding communities interested in nursing had to relocate to a USask campus or distributed site to pursue the USask BSN program. Now the four-year USask degree will be offered at the Southeast College distributed nursing site in Weyburn, meaning students can learn and study at home in southeast Saskatchewan.

“Entering this partnership with Southeast College in Weyburn is exciting, as it enables us to deliver degree-level nursing education in southeast Saskatchewan,” said USask College of Nursing Dean Dr. Solina Richter (DCur).

“Students in Weyburn and the surrounding area who may not have considered a nursing degree in the past will now have access to learn where they live as a result of our two institutions working together.”

The formalized partnership comes at a critical time as the demand for registered nurses grows, especially in rural and remote Saskatchewan.

“Southeast College has a proven history of offering healthcare programs throughout our region,” said Dr. Vicky Roy (PhD), president and CEO of Southeast College. “The ability to offer the Bachelor of Science in Nursing is a logical next step for the progression of healthcare programs at our College. We look forward to continued programming partnerships with USask in years to come.”

Students pursuing first-year pre-professional nursing classes at Southeast College will take virtual classes and attend in-person labs at the Weyburn campus. In years two to four of the USask BSN program, students will study at the Weyburn campus and have clinical placements in Weyburn and surrounding communities.

The first cohort of the BSN program is to begin in Weyburn in September 2025, and the pre-professional year of nursing courses became available in September 2024.

COLLEGE OF NURSING ATHLETES EXCEL ACADEMICALLY



(l to r) Rayne Butler-Siemens, Caitlin Clatney, College of Nursing Dean Dr. Solina Richter, and Tea DeMong. Submitted.

- USask College of Nursing congratulates three nursing students who were honoured by Huskie Athletics in October 2024 for their academic achievements.
- Rayne Butler-Siemens**  
Year 4 Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Sport: Women's Cross Country
  - Caitlin Clatney**  
Year 3 Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Sport: Women's Wrestling
  - Tea DeMong**  
Year 3 Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Sport: Women's Basketball

“Rayne, Caitlin, and Tea have not only balanced the demands of their nursing program with their busy sports schedules, but excelled in their studies,” said College of Nursing Dean Dr. Solina Richter (DCur). “It was an honour to join all USask athletes at the Huskie Athletics U Sports Academic All-Canadians Breakfast, but a particular honour to celebrate alongside our incredible nursing students.”

The U SPORTS Academic All-Canadians are U SPORTS athletes who achieve at least an 80 percent average on a minimum of 18 credit units while using eligibility as a student athlete. In 2023-24, 121 USask student athletes achieved this high standard.



NURSE SCIENTIST FEATURED AT THE MYRTLE CRAWFORD MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES

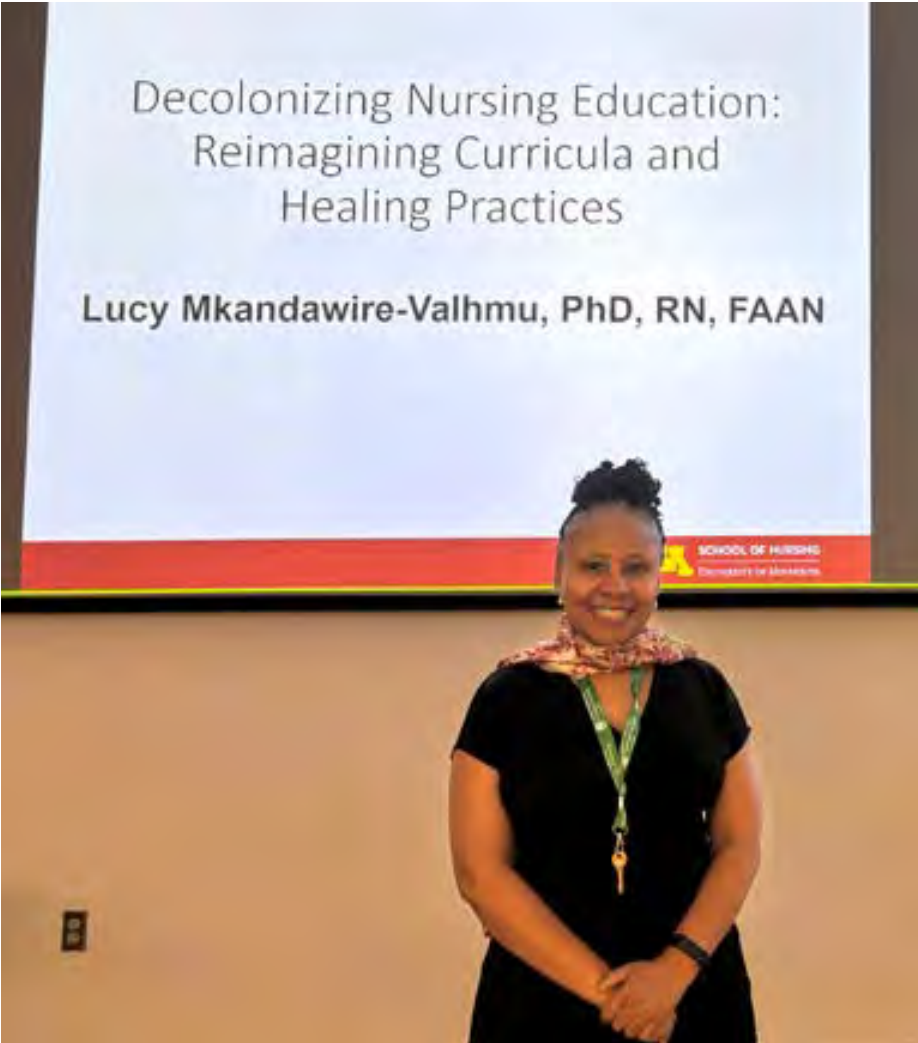


USask College of Nursing was pleased to welcome Dr. Lucy Mkandawire-Valhmu (PhD) from the University of Minnesota School of Nursing, as the featured speaker for the 2024 Myrtle Crawford Memorial Lecture Series.

Her lecture topics included Unravelling Colonial Legacies: Transforming Health Education for Equity and Inclusion, Decolonizing Nursing Education: Reimagining Curricula and Health Practices, and Decolonizing Research Practice in Nursing Academia.

Dr. Mkandawire-Valhmu’s work as a nurse scientist focuses on women disproportionately impacted by gender-based violence due to intersecting factors like racial/ethnic identity, socioeconomic status, and other factors. Her current research examines the violence experienced by American Indian and Black women, their access to healthcare and support during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the healthcare needs of refugee women experiencing gender-based violence in Malawi.

“Dr. Mkandawire-Valhmu is an incredible researcher whose work is advancing nursing science and positioning nurses as leaders in improving health outcomes for women experiencing gender-based violence intersecting with race, ethnicity, gender, social class, colonialism, and



Dr. Lucy Mkandawire-Valhmu from the University of Minnesota School of Nursing. Breanna Pochipinski.

“To have Dr. Mkandawire-Valhmu present her research and expertise to our faculty was an incredible opportunity for the University of Saskatchewan.”

– DR. LOUISE RACINE

neocolonial eras,” said Dr. Louise Racine (PhD), USask College of Nursing associate dean research and graduate studies.

The Myrtle Crawford Memorial Lecture Series was established in honour of Myrtle Evangeline Crawford (1923 –1989), a long-time faculty member at the USask College of Nursing. She played a prominent role in establishing the Master of Nursing program and influenced the education of hundreds of nurses during her 35-year career. Crawford was also actively involved in

the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association (now the College of Registered Nurses of Saskatchewan), Canadian Nurses Association, Canadian Association for University Schools of Nursing and Canadian Association of History in Nursing.

Past lecturers in the Myrtle Crawford Memorial Series have included Drs. Courtney Howard, Alexander Clark, Beth Phoenix, Dorothy Pringle, Marilyn Oermann, Gina Brown, Angeline Bushy, Wendy Austin, Judith Oulton, Sheryl Reimer Kirkham, and Ivy Oandasan.

DR. TANIA KRISTOFF AWARDED PROVOST’S COLLEGE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING TEACHING



Purple Quill Beadwork by 4 Sisters Métis Beadwork.

Dr. Tania Kristoff (PhD), USask College of Nursing associate professor – academic programming and undergraduate program lead, received the 2024 USask Provost’s College Award for Outstanding Teaching. This award recognizes an outstanding teacher in each College at the University of Saskatchewan.

“The College of Nursing is incredibly fortunate to have Dr. Kristoff as both a professor and undergraduate program lead,” said Dean Dr. Solina Richter (DCur). “She is passionate about nursing education, in particular, the use of technology like simulation and virtual reality to improve teaching. Her enthusiasm to teach students is evident.”

Dr. Kristoff’s teaching philosophy is represented by a Métis flower.

“The centre of the flower represents my core belief that teaching should be learner-centred,” she said. “The surrounding petals symbolize my teaching values of creating psychologically safe learning environments, effective teaching, lifelong learning, aspiring to lead and mentorship.

My teaching focuses on connecting with the learner, while weaving together experiences with new knowledge to produce meaningful and lasting learning.”

A registered nurse, Dr. Kristoff began her career at Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon, followed by employment at One Arrow First Nation. She was also an assistant professor at First Nations University of Canada (FNUniv) and taught with the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan. In 2016, she joined USask College of Nursing where she has supervised graduate learners and teaches in the undergraduate nursing program.

Colleague Lisa Duffield, a lecturer at the College of Nursing, has worked with Dr. Kristoff in the nursing skills and simulation labs in Prince Albert and notes that she demonstrates a genuine concern for students and an approachable, open-door policy, as well as a high standard for learning.

“She is highly motivated to strive for excellence in teaching by demonstrating mastery of the subject matter ensuring content is relevant and accurate.”



Associate Professor – Academic Programming and Undergraduate Program Lead Dr. Tania Kristoff. Submitted.



VISITING SCHOLAR SEEKS TO  
EXPAND RESEARCH POSSIBILITIES



Dr. Flávia Gomes, Clinical Professor, University of São Paulo College of Nursing. Breanna Pochipinski.

In April 2024, USask College of Nursing welcomed visiting scholar Dr. Flávia Gomes (PhD) from the University of São Paulo, who shared her research on maternal mortality in Brazil and women’s sexual and reproductive health.

“My hope of presenting my research and meeting with USask faculty is that I can establish further research partnerships in Canada,” said Dr. Gomes (PhD). “During my visit, I am also hoping to open the door for my colleagues in São Paulo to find potential research interest alignments between them and researchers at the University of Saskatchewan.”

Dr. Gomes is an obstetric nurse and clinical professor in the Maternal-Infanti

and Public Health Department at the University of São Paulo at Ribeirão Preto College of Nursing. She is also the coordinator of the Graduate Program in Public Health Nursing, an interdisciplinary and multi-professional academic program. Her research focuses on maternal mortality and morbidity issues, breastfeeding, and homeless women, and her most recent work centres on women’s healthcare transition.

During her visit, Dr. Gomes toured the university campus in Saskatoon. She also met with faculty and staff from the Colleges of Nursing, Dentistry and Medicine, as well as the International Office and the Office

“Having the chance to visit the beautiful University of Saskatchewan campus and the city of Saskatoon to get reacquainted with colleagues and to meet new faculty with similar research interests was such a great opportunity.”

– DR. FLÁVIA GOMES

of the Vice-President Research.

Dr. Gomes completed her post-doctorate nursing education at the University of Alberta in 2007, where she met USask College of Nursing Dean Dr. Solina Richter (DCur).

“Dr. Gomes and I have had the opportunity to work together on several graduate student research projects, as we both have an interest in women and global health,” said Dr. Richter. “It was wonderful to see Dr. Gomes again and to hear about all the exciting things she is working on.”

COLLEGE OF NURSING HOSTS THIRD ANNUAL  
RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP DAY



3rd annual USask College of Nursing Research and Scholarship Day. Caitlin Shrubsole.

In September 2024, USask College of Nursing hosted the third annual Research and Scholarship Day to celebrate the incredible initiatives at USask Nursing. With close to a hundred people in attendance, the event was an excellent opportunity to highlight the nurse scientists who are changing the future of nursing education through exploration and knowledge.

The keynote address *Comparing Virtual Reality to Traditional Simulation: Impacts on Students’ Clinical Judgment and Skill Acquisition*, was delivered by Dr. Cynthia Foronda (PhD), assistant dean for innovation and scholarship and professor of clinical at the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies.

In addition to the keynote address, there were student poster presentations, two panel discussions and two PechaKucha presentations.

“The Research and Scholarship Day was a great way to share all the wonderful work that is being done by faculty and students

and to encourage collaboration among researchers,” said Dr. Louise Racine (PhD), USask College of Nursing associate dean research and graduate studies.

The day concluded with the presentation of student awards for best abstract in the undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral categories.

The Undergraduate Student Research Award was given to Zebib Araya for her submission Digitizing the Past: Preserving Saskatchewan’s Nursing Education Legacy Through Undergraduate Research.

Amanda McArthur received the Master’s Student Research Award for her work, New Graduate Nurses’ Perspectives on Using Virtual Reality to Impact Clinical Reasoning.

The final award, the Doctoral Research Award, was presented to Comfort Nsiah for her work, Experiences and Views of Older Adults Regarding Patient Advocacy in Acute Care Settings.

“After attending Dr. Foronda’s insightful keynote address and hearing from the panellists about all the innovative work being done with virtual reality and the scholarship of teaching and learning, I walked away with such a positive sense of excitement about the future of nursing education and the confidence in the discipline of nursing. Our College, in particular, is well positioned to educate nurses that Saskatchewan and the world needs.”

– DR. LOUISE RACINE



USASK AND GREAT PLAINS COLLEGE PARTNER FOR BSN PROGRAM IN SWIFT CURRENT

The University of Saskatchewan and Great Plains College have partnered to bring the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program to the Swift Current campus in fall 2025. This new partnership will allow aspiring registered nurses to complete their pre-professional year of study and the remaining three years of the USask BSN program at Great Plains College.

“The University of Saskatchewan College of Nursing feels strongly about students being able to obtain degree-level nursing education, regardless of where they live in Saskatchewan,” said College of Nursing Dean Dr. Solina Richter (DCur).

“Offering the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program in Swift Current, in partnership with Great Plains College, is an excellent opportunity for students to learn where they live in southwest Saskatchewan.”

As of fall 2024, students were able to complete the 10 required pre-professional courses at Great Plains College. This gives

them the credits to apply to the USask College of Nursing and complete years two, three and four of their nursing degree at the Great Plains distributed nursing site in Swift Current.

“Our community and partners have been asking when Great Plains College will offer a full degree nursing program, and today, we’re thrilled to announce this important partnership with the University of Saskatchewan that will bring the USask Bachelor of Science in Nursing to Swift Current,” said Brad Mahon, president and CEO at Great Plains College.

“Registered nurses are a vital part of the healthcare system, and we’re thrilled to provide a local option for future nurses to complete their education and prepare for a rewarding career in healthcare.”

Great Plains College will accept between 10 and 20 BSN students annually.

“We know many students stay where they



At the official signing event in Swift Current (l to r) Dr. Solina Richter (Dean, USask Nursing) and Brad Mahon (President and CEO, Great Plains College). [Breanna Pochipinski](#).

learn, so we’re optimistic that this program, in addition to the Continuing Care Assistant and Practical Nursing programs, will help meet the needs of our local healthcare facilities,” said Keleah Ostrander, vice-president, programs and students at Great Plains College.

NURSING STUDENT GRATEFUL TO STUDY IN PRINCE ALBERT

Desiré Hoare, a fourth-year USask College of Nursing student, always wanted to be a nurse, but as a single mother, moving away from Prince Albert to complete a nursing degree was unrealistic.

“I was working as a massage therapist, but I knew I wanted to do something more,” said Hoare. “I didn’t know USask offered the full Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in Prince Albert until I heard an ad on the radio, and the rest is history.”

Hoare said her experience at the Prince Albert Campus has been very positive and encourages anyone who is thinking about doing their nursing degree with USask to apply right away.

“The smaller class sizes create a more personal experience. My instructors know me by name, and I’ve had the chance to get to know them on a different level than I would have on a bigger campus,” noted Hoare. “Our classes at the Prince



College of Nursing student Desiré Hoare at the Prince Albert Campus. [Submitted](#).

Albert Campus are more intimate and we know most of our peers, which gives us, as students, the opportunity to share our individual strengths with each other.”

Hoare plans to work in either med-surg or the emergency room after she completes her degree and passes her national licensing exam. “I look forward to working in my home community as soon as I become a registered nurse,” said Hoare.

Once she gains some experience practicing as a registered nurse, Hoare plans to further her education to become a nurse practitioner.

“My big goals include taking the NP program and eventually opening a private practice and/or teaching alongside the amazing instructors who taught me!” said Hoare.

“I am so grateful for the opportunity to study nursing in Prince Albert.”

COLLEGE OF NURSING LAUNCHES AMBASSADOR PROGRAM



Alumni and Student Nursing Ambassadors (top l to r: Celise Hack, Brooke Zwozdesky; bottom l to r: Maria Allan, Justine Capilitan). [Submitted](#).

USask College of Nursing has launched a new initiative to share the diverse stories of its community. Beginning January 2024, the communications team interviewed interested graduates and current students about their experiences during and after their studies.

Featured ambassadors include alumna Celise Hack (BSN’12), alumna and current USask nursing clinical instructor Brooke Zwozdesky (BSN’19), Maria Allan, a fourth-year BSN student in Saskatoon, and Justine Capilitan, fourth-year BSN student from the Prince Albert Campus.

“For alumni, being a College of Nursing ambassador is a great way to stay connected with the USask Nursing community,” said Breanna Pochipinski, College of Nursing digital marketing and communications specialist. “It’s an opportunity for alumni to show current nursing students what they can expect when they enter the nursing profession.”

The ambassador program also allows prospective students interested in joining the profession to glimpse at the life of a nursing student and the different

career paths registered nurses can take.

“A lot of people only think about providing care at the bedside when they think about nursing,” said Pochipinski. “But nursing is so much more.”

“The profession is so diverse and the videos and stories shared through the USask Nursing ambassador program will give an insight into what a career as a nurse can really be like.”

– BREANNA POCHIPINSKI

The ambassadors’ stories are featured in advertisements and across College of Nursing social media channels.

EARLY ADMISSION OPTION NOW AVAILABLE FOR BSN PROGRAM

USask College of Nursing introduced an early admission option for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program 2025 intake. In addition to the regular admissions schedule, the early admission process aims to give prospective nursing students notice of acceptance in February or March, four to five months earlier than in the past.

“The way our admissions have traditionally worked, qualified applicants for the BSN program receive their acceptance letter in July or August for a September start of classes,” said College of Nursing Dean Dr. Solina Richter (DCur).

“This is often a tight timeline for incoming students to plan, especially if they are relocating to one of our ten campuses or distributed sites throughout Saskatchewan. They need time to look for housing, find jobs, and get organized for the start of classes.”

The 150 seats reserved for early admission applicants were available at almost all campuses and distributed sites across the province. The application process used the same eligibility and selection criteria as the regular admission to the BSN program, and spots were competitive.

“We encourage all students who meet the eligibility criteria to apply early and not wait until later in the application period,” added Dr. Richter.



USask College of Nursing students Lawrence Abogado and Saryn Leson at the Yorkton distributed nursing site. [LF Photography](#).



USASK FORMALIZES PARTNERSHIP WITH ST. PETER’S COLLEGE TO OFFER BSN IN MUENSTER



The University of Saskatchewan College of Nursing and St. Peter’s College formalized their partnership and welcomed the first Bachelor of Science in Nursing cohort to St. Peter’s College in Muenster in September 2024. The partnership allows students to complete their undergraduate nursing degree without relocating.

Previously, when they completed their pre-professional classes and were accepted into years 2-4 of the BSN program, students transferred to the main USask campus in Saskatoon or other distributed nursing sites to complete their studies. Now, students will take their first-year of pre-professional classes through St. Peter’s College, then apply to USask College of Nursing to complete years 2 to 4 of the nursing program also at the College.

“This partnership expands USask Nursing’s “learn where you live” philosophy, giving students from east-central Saskatchewan the opportunity to study nursing closer to home,” said USask College of Nursing Dean Dr. Solina Richter (DCur).

“It is an exciting day to see the collaboration come together and to welcome our first nursing students in Muenster. We look



At the official signing event in Muenster (l to r front: Dr. Lynn Jansen (Interim Associate Dean, Academic, USask Nursing), Dr. Solina Richter (Dean, USask Nursing), Rob Harasymchuk (President, St. Peter’s College), Dr. Jim Dosman (Board of Governors, St. Peter’s College), and Jim Wasserman (Council Member, Village of Muenster); back: University of Saskatchewan College of Nursing 2nd-year nursing students. [📷 Breanna Pochipinski](#).

forward to celebrating the Class of 2027 Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduates from the St. Peter’s College distributed nursing site!”

St. Peter’s College President & Vice-Chancellor Rob Harasymchuk echoes this enthusiasm for the program. “St. Peter’s has long been known for its mission-

centred focus on academic excellence and support for student wellness and success, and our environment will contribute positively to nursing students who study here. This collaboration is an important contributor to our provincial healthcare system’s need for more registered nurses in the future and will provide significant direct benefits to our region.”

COLLEGE OF NURSING FACULTY CELEBRATE PROMOTIONS



The College of Nursing congratulates the following faculty members on their promotions in 2024.

Promotion to professor

- Dr. Jill Bally (PhD), Saskatoon Campus
- Dr. Shelley Spurr (PhD), Saskatoon Campus

Promotion to associate professor

- Dr. Tania Kristoff (PhD), Prince Albert Campus



(l to r) Drs. Jill Bally, Shelley Spurr, and Tania Kristoff. [📷 Dave Stobbe](#).

“These promotions are important milestones recognizing the commitments Drs. Bally, Spurr, and Kristoff are making to their careers,” said College of Nursing Dean

Dr. Solina Richter (DCur). “These faculty have worked incredibly hard on their research, teaching, and scholarship activities. On behalf of everyone at the

College of Nursing, I wish to congratulate and thank them for their dedication.”

COLLEGE OF NURSING RECOGNIZES FACULTY AND STAFF FOR YEARS OF SERVICE



At the annual College of Nursing retreat, the following faculty and staff were recognized for their years of service:



Associate Professor Cheryl Besse (left) and Instructor Tish King (right) are recognized for 30 years of service by College of Nursing Dean Dr. Solina Richter. [📷 David Stobbe](#).

5 YEARS

- Raissa Berry (Clinical Coordinator, Regina)
- Michelle Patterson (Lecturer, Saskatoon)
- Carrie Pratt (Instructor, Prince Albert)
- Dr. Schroder Sattar (PhD) (Associate Professor, Regina)

10 YEARS

- Tracy Gabriel (Instructor, Yorkton)
- Sherri Haleschuk (Administrative Support, Prince Albert)
- Dr. Hua Li (PhD) (Associate Professor, Saskatoon)
- April Mackey (Instructor, Regina)
- Dr. Wanda Martin (PhD) (Associate Professor, Saskatoon)

10 Years continued

- Kathy Rodger (Associate Professor – Academic Programming, Regina)
- Zennon Slowski (Student Information Systems Specialist, Saskatoon)

15 YEARS

- John Allison (Educational Technology and Project Developer, Saskatoon)
- Bruce Atamanenko (Senior Support Specialist, Saskatoon)
- Lori Boen (Instructor, Saskatoon)
- Cheryl Cummings (Instructor, Saskatoon)
- Bonnie Kraska (Operations Manager, Prince Albert)

15 Years continued

- Tammy Morrison (Financial Analyst, Saskatoon)
- Heather Wolch (Instructor, Saskatoon)

20 YEARS

- Dr. Jill Bally (PhD) (Professor, Saskatoon)
- Dr. Jodie Bigalky (PhD) (Assistant Professor, Regina)
- Dr. Lynn Jansen (PhD) (Interim Associate Dean Academic, Saskatoon)
- Dr. Pammla Petrucka (PhD) (Professor, Regina)
- Mark Tomtene (Director of Operations and Strategic Planning, Saskatoon)
- Raeleen Wilson (Administrative Coordinator – Research and Graduate Studies, Saskatoon)

25 YEARS

- Dr. Shelley Spurr (PhD) (Professor, Saskatoon)

30 YEARS

- Cheryl Besse (Associate Professor – Academic Programming, Undergraduate Program Lead, Saskatoon)
- Tish King (Instructor, Saskatoon)

The College of Nursing is thankful to the faculty and staff for the countless hours they have committed to making the College what it is today and what it will be in the future.



USASK GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCHES CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING WITH 2SLGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY



Dr. Melissa Dykhuizen (BSN'04, MN'14, PhD'24) enrolled in the Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD) program at USask to pursue research with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

"I was inspired by the different opportunities having a PhD in nursing could provide in both helping people and my career development," said Dr. Dykhuizen. "I worked at a sexual health clinic for many years and realized I did not know a lot about transgender health. I was inspired to learn more, so I did a lot of reading only to discover there have been a lot of missed opportunities to include transgender, Two Spirit and gender-diverse people in related health research."

Dr. Dykhuizen successfully defended her PhD in April 2024, after completing her dissertation, *A Narrative Inquiry into the Experiences of Cervical Cancer Screening for Transgender Men*. She saw a gap in

the literature concerning this topic and wanted to rectify it.

"Taking into consideration my personal, nursing, and educational experiences, I was exploring transgender health research topics for my dissertation when I decided I wanted to look at cervical cancer screening and transgender men in the Canadian context, as I found nothing was being looked at in our Canadian, and particularly, Saskatchewan context."

Dr. Dykhuizen hopes to present her dissertation internationally, publish an open-access manuscript, and translate her research to start breaking down barriers.

"I would love for individuals who hear or read about my work to take an interest in making healthcare access – particularly cervical cancer screening – better for transgender, Two Spirit, and gender-diverse individuals," Dr. Dykhuizen said.



Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing graduate Dr. Melissa Dykhuizen. Submitted.

NURSING STUDENT GRATEFUL TO STUDY IN HOME COMMUNITY



Justine Capilitan, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing student, is thankful for the chance to study at USask in Prince Albert (PA): it allows him to stay in his home community and experience the USask PA Campus.

Prince Albert is one of several locations throughout Saskatchewan the College of Nursing has offered the BSN program since 2012. "The opportunity to complete my entire nursing degree in Prince Albert has meant so much to me," said Capilitan.

"Coming to university can be intimidating, but in Prince Albert classes are small, so you get to know your classmates, and the instructors and professors know your name. If you need help, they're there to help you right away. The faculty are approachable, and it's a very supportive, team-oriented student community."

These factors lead Capilitan to recommend USask College of Nursing in PA. "It's a great opportunity, the perfect environment to learn from your peers, and if you're not from Prince Albert, it's the ideal place to move to when starting out on your own, as it's not a big city," he explained.



Nursing student Justine Capilitan at the USask Prince Albert Campus. Dave Stobbe.

Capilitan plans to continue living in PA upon graduation.

"I will be writing my national licensure exam as soon as possible, and once I become licensed as a registered nurse, I plan to stay in Prince Albert and work at the Victoria Hospital," he said.

COLLEGE OF NURSING KNOWLEDGE KEEPER AND INDIGENOUS STUDENT ADVISOR COMPLETES DOCTORATE PROGRAM



Dr. Kathleen McMullin (BEEd'88, MEd'95, PhD'24) is not only the Knowledge Keeper and Indigenous Student Advisor at USask College of Nursing, but also a proud alumna. Ten years after beginning her PhD program through the Department of Health Sciences with the College of Medicine in 2014, she completed her Doctor of Philosophy with the successful defence of her PhD dissertation *Kewetan: Walking in the Ancestral Footsteps of Our Woodland Cree Grandparents*.

"I was denied the opportunity to finish high school when I was only 14 years old so I could go to work to support my family," said Dr. McMullin. "This decision hurt me deeply, as I loved school. Eventually, when I was 28 and had two young sons, I decided to return to school to pursue a degree in teaching."

McMullin completed her Bachelor of Education and Master of Education degrees at USask in 1988 and 1995, respectively. Ten years later, she started community-based health research with the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology and the Canadian Centre for Rural and Agriculture Health. The research projects she was involved in there inspired her to further her education. When deciding to return to university for a third time, she knew USask was the right choice.

"I chose the University of Saskatchewan for my PhD program because it feels like home after successfully completing two degrees at this institution," said Dr. McMullin.

"I was inspired by the professors I worked with on various health-related projects and was motivated to pursue advanced studies so I could continue working with them in some capacity."

McMullin plans to use her PhD in her current position at USask Nursing as



College of Nursing Knowledge Keeper and Indigenous Student Advisor Dr. Kathleen McMullin. Dave Stobbe.

a resource for College of Nursing students writing papers on holistic health in Indigenous communities.

"During my doctoral research, I interviewed 13 Elders and Knowledge Keepers of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band regarding the values and customs of their families," said Dr. McMullin. "In essence, their stories were a portrayal of holistic health, and this helped me understand how they became Elders and Knowledge Keepers of their communities. This knowledge will help me as the Knowledge Keeper at the College of Nursing."

“The University of Saskatchewan is such a beautiful campus, in both Saskatoon and Prince Albert, and I feel proud when I stand on its grounds.”

– DR. KATHLEEN MCMULLIN



NURSING STUDENT GRATEFUL TO STUDY IN NORTHERN SASKATCHEWAN

Leandra McLeod wanted to earn her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, but relocating to complete a program was not an option.

“Staying close to home while studying in La Ronge was important for me because my support system was in place, especially since my two youngest children attend daycare and are just starting to go to school,” she shared, noting that she’d previously worked as a waitress, educational assistant, and family support worker.

“Financially, everything made sense to stay close to home. Not to mention, I love the nature in northern Saskatchewan and driving in the city is not something I like to do, so La Ronge is perfect for me!”

McLeod has thoroughly enjoyed her nursing education thus far. “The small class sizes in La Ronge and the additional

help you get from instructors when needed means there is a lot of one-on-one time if there is a concept that needs further explanation,” she said.

“I would recommend the BSN program to anyone who has an interest in healthcare.”

When completing her degree and becoming licensed as a registered nurse, McLeod aims to work in acute care in hospitals or public health within the community.

“I always try to get friends and family to either apply into nursing or go back to school and further their education in a field that interests them,” added McLeod.

“I found this to be such a great opportunity to attend the University of Saskatchewan and have access to the complete nursing program right in my community of La Ronge.”



College of Nursing student Leandra McLeod from the La Ronge distributed nursing site. © Megan Heyhurst Photography.

STUDENT WINS SCHOLARSHIP AND PREPARES FOR ADVENTURE STUDYING ABROAD



Bachelor of Science in Nursing student Queen Tayab at the USask Saskatoon Campus. © Breanna Pochipinski.

USask College of Nursing congratulates fourth-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing student Queen Tayab for winning the Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility Program Metropolia UAS scholarship.

Completing her first three years at the University of Saskatchewan Saskatoon Campus, Tayab initially chose USask because it allowed her to stay close to her immediate family in Saskatoon.

But now in her final year of the nursing program, with the Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility Program Metropolia UAS scholarship, she has decided to spread her wings and study abroad in Finland.

“I applied for the scholarship because I am eager to expand my nursing knowledge and gain experiences within Finland’s renowned healthcare and education system. I want to learn

new approaches to nursing, build international connections, and acquire insights that I can apply to my practice upon my return or in future international work endeavours.”

She’s also keen to immerse herself in a new culture and is looking forward to her adventure.

No matter where her future studies and work take her, Tayab will take with her the reasons why she decided to enter the nursing profession.

“Nursing allows me to bring together my passion for caring, teaching, advocacy, and holistic healthcare, while giving me a hands-on way to be there for others when it matters,” she said.

Tayab will leave for Finland at the end of January 2025 and return home in June after attending the International Council of Nursing 2025 Congress in Helsinki.

USASK ALUMNUS WELCOMES NURSING STUDENTS AT NORTH WEST COLLEGE



Bachelor of Science in Nursing students at the North Battleford distributed nursing site. © Kris Jones.

Dr. Eli Ahlquist (EdD) (BSN’04) is president and CEO of North West College, a registered nurse, and a USask College of Nursing alumnus. He was pleased to welcome the first students pursuing their entire Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in North Battleford in September 2024.

“The partnership between North West College and USask Nursing to offer the complete Bachelor of Science in Nursing program in North Battleford is a significant step forward in the North West College mission to provide educational opportunities that meet the unique needs in our community,” Dr. Ahlquist said. “It is a win-win situation for both students and the region’s healthcare sector.”

Students take their pre-professional year of arts and science classes through North West College, then apply to USask College of Nursing to complete the remaining three years at the North West College distributed nursing site in North Battleford.

“Our campus and community offer unique opportunities for these students, including more affordable housing and smaller class sizes,” said Dr. Ahlquist. “These nursing students will be learning in a recently renovated modern, state-of-the-art lab with enhanced technology, ensuring students receive a high-quality education that supports the development of the required entry-level competencies for registered nurses. The students will benefit from the teaching of experienced faculty from both institutions dedicated to providing quality nursing education and mentoring.”

Most graduates who complete their degree in their community stay and practice there.

“By expanding access to registered nursing education, we aim to address the increasing healthcare needs of the region and contribute to the growth and stabilization of the nursing workforce.”

“By offering the BSN program in North Battleford, we are not only giving students the opportunity to learn where they live, but we are increasing the chance these students will work as registered nurses in our community afterwards.”

– DR. ELI AHLQUIST



The University of Saskatchewan College of Nursing is always keen to celebrate our hard-working and dedicated undergraduate students, whose fresh enthusiasm for the profession reminds us all why we love working in healthcare. Here are the stories of four undergraduate students currently studying in or recently graduated from our Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Post-Degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing (PDBSN) programs.

Tye Anderson

Tye Anderson, a PDBSN student, has always known he wanted to run a family practice because it would help him support many people. His inspiration comes from his own challenge in finding a family physician. As a result, after completing his BSN and working for a few years, Anderson hopes to return to graduate school to become a nurse practitioner. “I want to help people. I have an empathetic soul, so I’ve always wanted to go into the medical field. One of the reasons why I wanted to become a registered nurse is because I care about people and I really want to help individuals and their families during times of need,” said Anderson.



Breanna Pochipinski.

Shyla Severight

Shyla Severight may have started her formal education when she entered the USask Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, but she’s known she wanted to become a registered nurse ever since she was a teenager. Volunteering at a local hospital and becoming close with the nurses that worked there only solidified her dream. “I watched how caring, compassionate, and involved they were with patient care.” At USask, Severight flourished as she worked with patients, and particularly enjoyed her time working in simulated patient labs. “I think making mistakes in a simulated lab environment, versus an actual setting, makes a huge difference in your learning and is something you’ll remember forever.” In November 2024, Severight walked across the convocation stage, and looks forward to next steps. “Now I have graduated, I hope to become a community nurse. I want to work with the community to make change for future rights, advantages, and support.”



Breanna Pochipinski.

Jarret Calvert

Jarret Calvert has had a wonderful time as a post-degree BSN student, highlighting that he likes how fast-paced the program is and the fact students are always learning something new. “I love working with patients and the human interaction during clinical,” he said. He’s also enjoyed getting close to his classmates and forming relationships he will have for life. “I’ve built a lot of new friendships I can take with me after I graduate.” Being in the PDBSN program has also confirmed he’s in the right place and joining the right profession. “I went into nursing because I want to help people. Nursing is so diverse and there are so many options as to what you can do once becoming licensed as a registered nurse. Having family members who have struggled with mental health, I see nursing as an opportunity to help people in similar circumstances.”



Breanna Pochipinski.

Damilola (Dammy) Stephen

For Damilola (Dammy) Stephen, a passion for helping people inspired her career in nursing. Graduating in June 2024 with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing, she reflected on her journey that brought her from Lagos, Nigeria, where she was born and raised, to the University of Saskatchewan. At first, Stephen says there were ups and downs as she adjusted to life as a student, while juggling other roles, including mom and wife. With the support of the College of Nursing, her professors and her husband, she found strength during moments of doubt. In the end, she said, “it was worth every struggle.” Stephen says her favourite memory from the program will be the connections she made, with instructors, professors, and peers. “These relationships significantly enriched my overall experience, making my time at USask truly memorable,” she said. In fact, that experience is also at the core of her advice for other students. “Actively engage with the university community. Build connections with your instructors and peers, as these relationships can greatly enhance your academic and personal growth. Take advantage of the resources available, especially if you are having mental health challenges; they were put in place because the school knows you need them, and don’t hesitate to seek help when needed. Embrace the opportunities and challenges and enjoy the journey of learning and self-discovery.” Stephen plans to start working as a registered nurse and find her niche, plus do volunteer work in geriatrics.



Submitted.

“Providing care gives me a profound sense of purpose and satisfaction, and nursing allows me to achieve this in the most impactful way.”

– DAMILOLA STEPHEN



Over the course of 2024, USask College of Nursing student recruitment strategist and academic advisors travelled from one end of Saskatchewan to the other and a little bit beyond to spread the word about USask Nursing programs. They wish to thank the communities they visited for their warm welcomes and eagerness to learn more about USask Nursing!

Here are just some of the places where the USask Nursing recruitment team travelled to in 2024:

- Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation

■ Assiniboia

■ Big River First Nation

■ Brandon, MB

■ Delisle

■ Estevan

■ Fishing Lake
- James Smith Cree Nation

■ La Ronge

■ Lloydminster

■ Meadow Lake

■ Melfort

■ Moose Jaw

■ Muenster
- North Battleford

■ One Arrow First Nation

■ Onion Lake

■ Prince Albert

■ Regina

■ Rosetown

■ Rosthern
- Saskatoon

■ Swift Current

■ Tisdale

■ Weyburn

■ Winnipeg, MB

■ Yellow Quill First Nation

■ Yorkton

Brandon Career Symposium

In April, USask Nursing travelled to Manitoba to attend the Brandon Career Symposium. Student Recruitment Strategist Kelsey Wick shared information not only about our nursing programs and admission requirements, but highlighted USask Nursing’s new strategic partnership with Southeast College to deliver the complete Bachelor of Science in Nursing program in Weyburn, SK starting fall 2025. The event was well attended and students said they were interested in attending USask Nursing, if they could do so while being closer to Brandon.



Kelsey Wick, USask College of Nursing student recruitment strategist, ready to welcome students at the Brandon Career Symposium. Submitted.

New Indigenous Student Welcome Information Fair

In late August, USask Nursing attended the New Indigenous Student Welcome Information Fair at the USask Saskatoon Campus. Nursing advisors and student recruitment strategist Kelsey Wick took the opportunity to interact with new USask Indigenous students to tell them about USask nursing programs. Thank you to the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre for organizing the event, offering a great opportunity to interact with the new students.



USask College of Nursing represented at the New Indigenous Student Welcome Information Fair in Saskatoon. Submitted.

University of Saskatchewan Saskatoon Campus Open House

At the University of Saskatchewan Saskatoon Campus Open House in September, the College of Nursing hosted a recruitment station for students to ask questions and collect information on how to apply to nursing. Advisors also hosted presentations highlighting programs, campuses, and future career opportunities in nursing. During Open House, current Bachelor of Science in Nursing students demonstrated hands-on skills to prospective students to show what they would be learning in the BSN program, including how to take a blood pressure.



Reggie Gomas (former Year 2 College of Nursing academic advisor) and Kelsey Wick (College of Nursing student recruitment strategist) ready to speak with high school students interested in nursing. Submitted.

Prince Albert Recruitment Events

October was a busy month for recruitment in Prince Albert. The month started off with USask Nursing attending the annual Opening Doors to Tomorrow Career Fair, then a few weeks later, the USask Prince Albert Campus Open House. Students who attended the Opening Doors Career Fair were excited to learn they could tour the Prince Albert Campus during Open House.



USask Nursing's Knowledge Keeper & Indigenous Student Advisor Dr. Kathleen McMullin at the Art Hauser Center for Opening Doors to Tomorrow Career Fair. Submitted.



College of Nursing introduces Dean’s Honour Roll

USask College of Nursing introduced a Dean’s Honour Roll for the first time in the College’s history in 2024.

Second and third-year students with a cumulative weighted average in the top 10 percent of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Post-Degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing (PDBSN) programs were recognized on the 2023-2024 Dean’s Honour Roll.

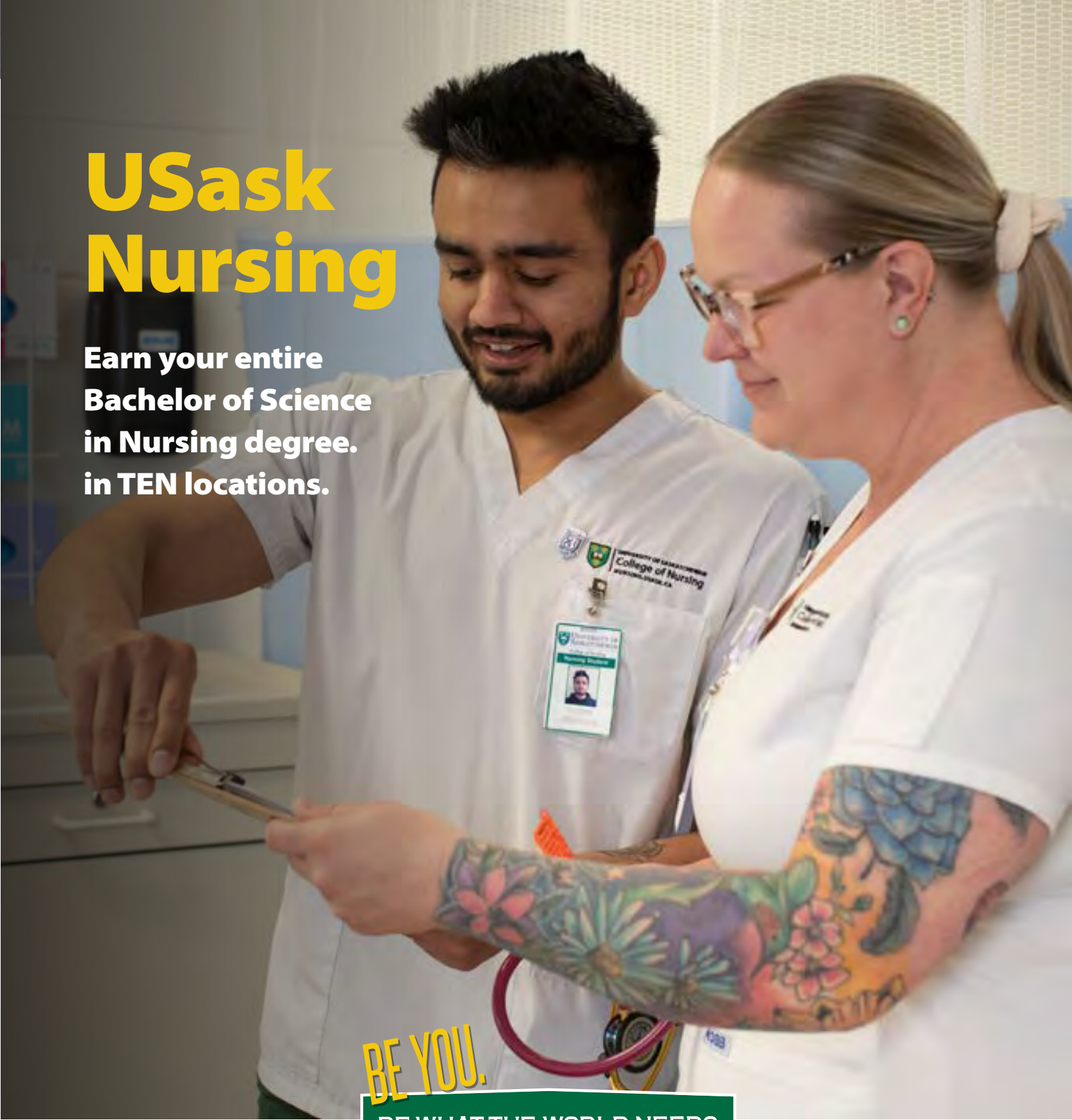
“For students who are named to the Dean’s Honour Roll, their outstanding performance not only sets a high

standard for their peers, but also brings great pride to our College,” said Dean Dr. Solina Richter (DCur).

“Achieving a spot on the Dean’s Honour Roll requires a significant commitment to their studies, and for the students who have achieved this success, they have demonstrated exceptional ability and perseverance in their undergraduate nursing program.”

Congratulations to the following BSN and PDBSN students named to the 2023-2024 Dean’s Honour Roll.

Faiso Abdi-walli Abdullahi	Jalene Dease	Evelyn Kyrian-Ogbonna	Christina Pearson
Amy Anquist	Tea DeMong	Kiana Lacusta	Carley Pidlisny
Jholan Apo	Alexa Denesyk	Alexandra Lappin	WenYu Ruan
Paris Appel	Brenna Dolan	Katelyn Lasell	Abby Shiers
Ava Bahrey	Emily Dudgeon	Melissa Laventure	Simran Simranpreet Kaur
Kate Baker	Beate Felstrom	Kelsey Lepage	Hayley Smith
Lisa Bannerman	Shallan French	Shiming Lin	Mia Stewart
Adriena Bates	Rae Friesen	Gerome Lumbera	Taylor Stinson
Marcus Baxter	Camille Gauvin	Sabrina Mainil	Gillian Studer
Kolbie Becker	Jayne Gisi	Macy Mayerle	Anika Takach
Rayelle Bell	Brenna Grayston	Hannah McLellan	Jan Thomas
Callie Bennett	Amber Grouchy	Emma Mickelson	Aspen Thomson
Balsimar Bhatia	Amy Gruber	Leanne Miller	Candice Turkula
Olivia Bocian	Jaclyn Hallgrimson	Merna Mostafa	Andre Justin Unahan
Jared Booth	Teghan Harvey	Erika Murre	Thalia Vlahakis
Heather Bradshaw	Madison Hobbs	Tylor Muldoon	Jillian Whitford
Kallie Bueneke	Mayank Jain	Kelsey Nast	Destiny Whitstone
Rayne Butler-Siemens	Irafe Jamlan	Tiffany Nathania	Tannara Yelland
Hong Cam	Anureet Kaur	Favour Ojokutu	Hoi Lam Yip
Belle Carter	Heidi Klassen	Ainsley Olshanoski	Alain Yumol
Danyka Chrusch	Keiara Kohut	Danika Osterwalder	Rheanna Zaretski-Cole
Caitlin Clatney	Katya Krueger	Maksym Pastukh	Amanda Zinovich



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The University of Saskatchewan College of Nursing is committed to becoming a global leader in research by conducting studies that yield tangible, positive impacts and drive advancements in healthcare practices, both locally and globally.

Our researchers are dedicated to creating equitable and sustainable solutions that enhance health experiences and outcomes for individuals, families, and communities on provincial, national, and international levels.

Our highly influential nursing research is underpinned by a robust culture of exploration, innovative interdisciplinary collaboration, and dynamic knowledge exchange.



College of Nursing Associate Dean Research and Graduate Studies Dr. Louise Racine. Dave Stobbe.

“Our researchers advance the science and scholarship of nursing with a specific emphasis on health equity, community engagement, and innovations in health systems and education research. In pursuing diverse research programs, our researchers develop, implement, and translate research findings to positively, inclusively, and equitably influence people’s health. Ultimately, our researchers aim to contribute to increasing accessibility to healthcare, improving the delivery of health services, and enhancing individual and population health outcomes in Saskatchewan, Canada, and globally.”

– DR. LOUISE RACINE

**College of Nursing researchers are responding to 14 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.**



The content of this publication has not been approved by the United Nations and does not reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials or Member States.

**RESEARCH SIGNATURE AREAS**

In alignment with the University of Saskatchewan Plan 2025, College of Nursing strategic plan, and the College of Nursing’s philosophy statement, the College of Nursing will achieve its research mandate through three research signature areas.

Community Engaged Health and Nursing Research

Health Equity Research

Innovations in Health Systems and Education Research

The work in these areas is highlighted on the following pages.



**RESEARCH SIGNATURE AREA:**  
COMMUNITY ENGAGED HEALTH AND NURSING RESEARCH

We work with communities to achieve shared goals of addressing health needs, building capacity, and promoting improved health outcomes. Our research aims to be responsive, respectful, and inclusive.

**CURRENTLY FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS FOCUS ON:**

- Immunization services and supports for children and families
- Healthy aging-in-place, caregivers, and geriatric assessment
- Knowledge exchange and people with lived experiences
- Homelessness in Saskatchewan
- Substance use disorders and harm reduction
- Sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections
- Maternal and child health
- Mental health, sexual health, and community youth wellness initiatives
- Cancer, exercise, and fall prevention
- Nursing profession, empowerment, and job retention

**RESEARCH IMPACT: MAKING A DIFFERENCE (2021 to 2024)**



This highly impactful area of research has been recognized by the World Health Organization, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and the RAND Corporation in the areas of Alzheimer’s disease and dementia, opioid use, and noncommunicable disease management.

**RESEARCH BY THE NUMBERS (2021 to 2024)**

**\$858,170** in awarded research funding

**32** successfully awarded grants

**140** peer-reviewed journal articles

**Top Published** research topics:

1. Geriatric assessment, cancer, and frailty
2. Childhood cancer, quality of life
3. Alzheimer’s Disease, caregiving, quality of life
4. Type 2 Diabetes, prevalence, youth
5. Falls, injury, risk assessment, patient safety

**37%** of publications completed with international collaborators

(References: University of Saskatchewan; Scopus)





RESEARCH SIGNATURE AREA:  
HEALTH EQUITY RESEARCH

We embrace the notion of fairness. Health inequities occur when this notion is challenged, leading to poor health outcomes across social, demographic, and geographic groups of people. Through our research, we strive to identify, prevent, and remove these barriers to health.

CURRENTLY FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS FOCUS ON:

- Built environments and climate change
- Menstrual hygiene management
- Sexual and reproductive health services in Africa
- Harm reduction and homelessness
- Indigenous communities and co-created housing initiatives
- Witchcraft
- Spirituality and healing for Indigenous people living with HIV
- Intimate partner violence
- Family mental health
- Human rights and health
- Sex and gender considerations and women’s health

RESEARCH IMPACT: MAKING A DIFFERENCE  
(2021 to 2024)



**19%**  
Percentage of faculty articles  
that appeared in top ten percent  
of most-cited journals worldwide

This highly impactful area of research has been recognized by the World Health Organization and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies in the areas of health system foundations, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and chronic bronchitis, and noncommunicable disease management.

RESEARCH BY THE NUMBERS (2021 to 2024)

**\$1,422,261** in awarded research funding

**19** successfully awarded grants

**156** peer-reviewed journal articles

**Top Published** research topics:

1. Malnutrition, prevalence, nutritional status
2. HIV/AIDS, antiretroviral therapy, health service
3. Prenatal care, maternal welfare, health service
4. Nursing education, nurses, health
5. Food security, urban agriculture, agricultural science

**52%** of publications completed with international collaborators

*(References: University of Saskatchewan; Scopus)*



RESEARCH SIGNATURE AREA:  
INNOVATIONS IN HEALTH SYSTEMS AND EDUCATION RESEARCH

We explore how innovation can lead to new or better ways to solve problems. Through this research, we challenge existing ideas and assumptions of current health and education systems to see how new solutions can provide the best outcomes for healthcare providers, patients, educators, and students.

CURRENTLY FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS FOCUS ON:

- Anti-racism in nursing education
- Enhancing chronic illness and virtual care for older adults with IBD
- Exploring care experiences of transgender and gender diverse individuals
- Exploring the secrets of the Florence Nightingale Medicine Chest
- Family hope and children’s life-threatening conditions
- Older adults and aging-in-place
- Improving pain care through health networks
- Relational care for older adults in long-term care
- Nursing student experiences in becoming a nurse practitioner
- Supporting academic success in nursing students
- The history of Saskatchewan’s early hospitals, 1873 – 1920
- Using simulation to support NP student clinical competency development
- Validating screening tools for dementia in custody settings

RESEARCH IMPACT: MAKING A DIFFERENCE  
(2021 to 2024)



**24%**  
Percentage of faculty articles  
that appeared in top ten percent  
of most-cited journals worldwide

This highly impactful area of research has been recognized by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Government of Canada, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the RAND Corporation in the areas of telehealth, COVID-19, rural health, end-of-life care, and peer-to-peer support interventions for healthcare providers.

RESEARCH BY THE NUMBERS (2021 to 2024)

**\$539,698** in awarded research funding

**20** successfully awarded grants

**131** peer-reviewed journal articles

**Top Published** research topics:

1. Inflammatory Bowel Disease, pediatrics, quality of life
2. Childhood cancer, quality of life
3. Elderly patient, delirium, postoperative complications
4. Breast cancer, early cancer diagnosis, health belief model
5. Type 2 Diabetes, prevalence, youth

**22%** of publications completed with international collaborators

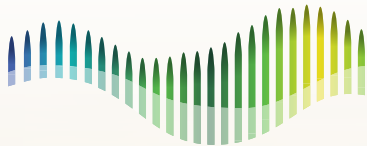
*(References: University of Saskatchewan; Scopus)*



Thank you!

The following funders have supported our researchers during the past three years!

- Abbeyfield Canada
  - AMS Healthcare
  - Association of Commonwealth Universities
  - Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology
  - Canadian Centre for Aging and Brain Health Innovation Advancement Inc.
  - Canadian Institutes of Health Research
  - Crohn's and Colitis Canada
  - Dalhousie University
  - Diabetes Canada
  - Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools
  - International Bowel Ultrasound Group
  - International Family Nursing Association
  - Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation
  - McMaster University
  - Mental Health Research Canada
  - Mitacs
  - National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico)
  - National Organization of Research Development Professionals
  - Princess Margaret Hospital
- Royal University Hospital Foundation
  - Sanctum Care Group
  - Saskatchewan Centre for Patient-Oriented Research
  - Saskatchewan Health Authority
  - Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation
  - Saskatchewan Polytechnic
  - Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism
  - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
  - The Jane and Ron Graham Centre for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, University of Saskatchewan
  - Thompson Rivers University
  - University of Alberta
  - University of Calgary
  - University of Saskatchewan College of Nursing
  - University of Saskatchewan Office of the Vice-President Research
  - University of Saskatchewan Office of the Vice-Provost, Faculty Relations
  - University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association
  - Western & North-Western Region Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing
  - York University Ministry of Employment and Social Development, Government of Canada



nurse

NURSING UNIT FOR RESEARCH AND  
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Supporting a Strong Research Environment

The University of Saskatchewan College of Nursing is home to the Nursing Unit for Research and Scholarship Excellence (NURSE), which provides a continuum of research development and administration support services to advance research and scholarship priorities and build success for researchers from the beginning to end of the research process.

Congratulations to our Retirees

The College of Nursing wishes to celebrate the careers of two dedicated faculty who educated the nursing professionals of tomorrow. Their efforts in the classroom, in nursing practice, and their commitment to nursing research, shaped the practice of nursing.

We honour the contributions of Drs. June Anonson (PhD) and Diane Campbell (PhD) who retired in 2024.

We wish you the very best in your well-deserved retirements.

Professor  
Dr. June Anonson



Dave Stobbe.

Assistant Professor  
Dr. Diane Campbell



Dave Stobbe.



A Look at Graduate Studies

From a Master of Nursing (MN) to a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD), the University of Saskatchewan College of Nursing offer students the opportunity to advance their nursing education. Whether they want to increase their scope of nursing practice, change nursing career paths, enhance their impact in the workplace, or develop research that can change the future of healthcare, there is a path for everyone with USask Nursing graduate studies.

There are over 230 graduate students studying with USask College of Nursing. These students are located in Saskatchewan and across Canada. We would like to introduce you to four of these students studying in our various graduate programs.

Michelle Laliberte

MASTER OF NURSING (PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE)

Michelle Laliberte is in her last semester of the Master of Nursing Professional Practice program with a focus on leadership. As a quality management coordinator and clinical nurse educator at Cancer Care Alberta, Laliberte said she's been glad to be able to juggle the online program, alongside her full-time job, and she's finding everything she's learning very applicable in her everyday work.

"Each semester I've been able to apply something to what I actually do. It's been really interesting to see that growth in myself as a leader."

Laliberte has also used her time in the program to explore issues that matter. In her first term, she wrote a paper about buzzwords used in healthcare, focused on exploring the term "just culture."

As Laliberte explained, "Sometimes we don't pause to stop and step back and think about what this term means to us, and how we involve that in our individual and collective culture. I really felt like writing about it was important, so we could get a better idea of how we move forward to ensure safe quality care of our patients and safe environments for workers." She's now aiming to publish that paper to spread her knowledge to others.



Michelle Laliberte. Submitted.

In a totally different realm, Laliberte is now working on a technology-focused paper about how oncology caregivers interact with patient portals and how access to the patient's electronic health record can help them be better caregivers, while also decreasing the burden on the healthcare system.

"I'm trying to examine what research is out there right now, because it's of growing importance within the field of cancer care," she said. She noted that as cancer treatment becomes more complex and more care is provided in outpatient settings, finding out how nurses and healthcare teams can use technology to support caregivers is very important.

"It's trying to bring those things together and get a better understanding of what's out there, and what kind of research could follow in the future to really help those caregivers use patient portals." This topic was extremely compatible with her work with Cancer Care Alberta, as she was previously in a position helping the organization move towards a new, provincialized computer system.

Laliberte said she chose the University of Saskatchewan because of its unique approach to equity, diversity, and inclusion; something that's aligned with her values. She's also embraced a passion for oncology that drives all her professional decisions.

"Providing the best possible care for cancer patients and their families and carers, that's really my passion in life - to impact healthcare culture in a way that improves safety, efficacy, effectiveness, and quality of the care that patients are getting."

Buddhini Samarasekara

MASTER OF NURSING (THESIS)

She may have just started her thesis research for her Master of Nursing, but Buddhini Samarasekara has already been working as a researcher and identified it as the field where she aspires to make her contribution.

Originally from Sri Lanka, Samarasekara completed an Honours Bachelor's degree with thesis option in 2020, and has been working as a graduate teaching assistant, research assistant, and volunteer field researcher. She gained her first clinical experience in Bermuda as a triage nurse and a health and wellness coordinator. Parallel to her wellness educator role, she became a certified juice therapist in introducing nutrition and lifestyle modifications for people with obesity and diabetes.

Now at USask, in addition to her own full-time master's research, she's working as a graduate research assistant with USask Nursing's Dr. Jodie Bigalky (PhD) and April Mackey.

While her earlier research focused on maternal and children's health, Samarasekara was inspired by her supervisor Dr. Solina Richter (DCur) to focus her master's research on food insecurity.

"I was doing research in marginalized and rural communities back home, where people sometimes have limited access to care, resulting in public health issues," said Samarasekara. Now she's looking at food insecurity among immigrants in Canada, focused on examining the fastest growing immigrant communities in Canada through a cultural lens.

"Culture is an emerging factor for food insecurity. People talk about accessibility and availability, but cultural influence has been overlooked. Based on the United Nations Sustainable Development



Buddhini Samarasekara. Kylie Kelso.

Goal for 2030 - Zero Hunger, it's important to facilitate universal access to food for achieving healthy and quality life for everyone."

"I plan to do a deep dive into how cultural barriers and home-country food preferences affect immigrants having food insecure households in their host country. This will help show the benefits of providing culturally-sensitive nursing care and advocacy for implementing immigrant healthy policies in the future," she explained.

Samarasekara says she's had a great experience so far at USask, especially with Dr. Richter.

"I really like working with her, and she's really empathetic and always accessible to answer questions," said Samarasekara. She was also impressed with the University of Saskatchewan's reputation as a research university, and the people she's met have been welcoming. "Canadians are super friendly and really supportive."

Samarasekara also likes the smaller community of Saskatoon, although she is often visiting Bermuda, where her husband still works. In the future, she plans to continue health research and aspires to be a nurse scientist.

"I think research is all about connecting the dots between the past and the present, creating a better future for humankind," she said.



Vanessa Carr

MASTER OF NURSING PRIMARY HEALTH CARE  
NURSE PRACTITIONER

Vanessa Carr (BSN'19) has always wanted to work in healthcare and stay in her home community of La Ronge, Saskatchewan. She was grateful to be able to earn her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from USask at the La Ronge distributed nursing site. But when she graduated in 2019, she realized there was a great need for more nurse practitioners (NP) in her community. So, she decided to return to school to contribute even more.

"My main goal is to become a trusted healthcare provider for the people in my community, to ensure everyone has access to safe, reliable primary care services without having to travel far or feeling uncomfortable seeking help," said Carr. She plans to focus on chronic disease management, mental health, and preventive care, with the goal to improve long-term health outcomes for patients in northern Saskatchewan.

From Lac La Ronge Indian Band, a Woodland Cree First Nation, Carr was inspired to go into nursing because she had always seen a lack of Indigenous representation in healthcare. As a new registered nurse, she worked as a homecare nurse, then a sexually transmitted and blood borne infections nurse. That's where she began to really notice the lack of access to primary care. "That's why I chose to go the direction of nurse practitioner, so I can help fill that gap, and hopefully be a role model for other Indigenous nurses to go for nurse practitioner education as well."

With four children under 13, Carr said she appreciated she could do her courses online, especially raising two babies at the time. Now in her second practicum of three, having completed the first at La Ronge Medical Clinic and currently working at the Stanley



Vanessa Carr. Submitted.

Mission Health Centre supervised by another NP, 75 km north, an experience she said is familiar and new at the same time.

"I have spent lots of my childhood visiting in Stanley Mission, but being able to provide primary care services is new, and second, the empowering feeling of being able to provide services to a community that has always been apart of my life."

Carr said USask was a natural choice once she found out she could also take the NP program from a distance. She said she's glad to be able to contribute to primary care because all her life and especially as a health professional, she's seen the benefits in rural and remote communities when patients have better access closer to home, as sometimes the travel distances discourage people from seeking care altogether.

"I'm planning to stay in the North for my entire career. La Ronge is home. I was born and raised here, and my plan is to stay working close to home, at least, providing care on reserve in this area or at the La Ronge Medical Clinic," concludes Carr.

Katie North

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN NURSING

Katie North has wanted to help the environment for so long that as a teenager when local recycling facilities were unavailable, she would go around to rural healthcare centres, collect their recycling, and bring it to the Winnipeg depot. No surprise, then, that as a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD) candidate in the College of Nursing, North is poised to focus her dissertation research on environmental sustainability in healthcare. Specifically, she's surveying the environmental sustainability of a hospital in Winnipeg, aiming to understand both the organization's feeling about sustainability and then compare that with actual energy consumption.

"I've always had a deep-rooted respect for the planet and wanting to reduce the amount of consumption and waste we have," North explained. She sees a lot of potential opportunity in healthcare settings, from reducing single-use items, to transitioning to biodegradable products, to improving food recycling to upgrading old infrastructure, such as light bulbs and windows.

With an RN diploma, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Master of Nursing, North had already built a career in healthcare, plus earned a graduate studies diploma in Sustainability from USask. She said she chose USask College of Nursing because Dr. Wanda Martin (PhD) was recommended to her as a supervisor, a relationship that has worked out well.

"The support from Dr. Martin has been really important to my progress in the program and feeling like I have that support from her and some other professors who are on my committee as well," said North. "Anytime I'm feeling overwhelmed or questioning which direction I should take, I know I have those supports. They're



Katie North. Submitted.

great resources, and they have a lot of knowledge they're willing to share, as well as a lot of connections across Canada for different environmental teams."

After she graduates, North hopes to find a role as an environmental nurse consultant, a position that's not yet available in Manitoba or Saskatchewan, but is starting to pop up in other provinces.

"I would ideally like to see something like that created within the Prairies, and occupy a position like that, where I can consult with tertiary care sites and help them roll out initiatives and large-scale infrastructure adjustments to make them greener."



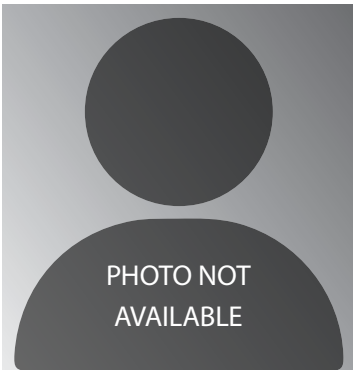
Graduate Students Successfully Defend Dissertations

Congratulations to the following USask College of Nursing graduate students who successfully defended their Master of Nursing (MN) theses and Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD) dissertations in 2024.



Submitted.

**Virginia Deobald, MN**  
*The Nurses’ Experience Using Non-Pharmacological Interventions for Persons Living with Dementia in Rural Long-Term Care Facilities in Saskatchewan*



**April Fox, MN**  
*Health Information Needs of Patients Living with Myasthenia Gravis: A Narrative Inquiry*



Submitted.

**Danielle Lange, MN**  
*An Evaluation Case Study on a Food Prescription Program in the Saskatchewan Prairies*



Submitted.

**Melissa Dykhuizen, PhD**  
*A Narrative Inquiry into the Experiences of Cervical Cancer Screening for Transgender Men*



Submitted.

**Anne Hyde, PhD**  
*Canadian Rural and Urban Older Adults: A Comparison of Functional Status*



Submitted.

**Uchechi Opara, PhD**  
*Women’s Experiences of Cultural Beliefs and Practices that Influence Their Use of Maternal Health Services in Nigeria*

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Our alumni are special for so many reasons. Their academic achievements, extracurricular contributions, and the value they go on to offer and elevate the nursing profession are just a few reasons we celebrate them.

Here are several notable news stories from 2024 highlighting the achievements and initiatives involving College of Nursing alumni.

## USask Alumna Opens Private NP Clinic

USask College of Nursing alumna Joelynn Radbourne (BSN'13, NP'19) was feeling restricted in her nurse practitioner (NP) practice, so she decided to start her own.

"When you work as a nurse practitioner in a publicly funded position, we are generally told how long our appointments can be, how many patients we can take, and how and when to provide follow-up care," said Radbourne. "I ended up with an eight-week waiting list for my patients to see me, which I felt was having a negative impact on the quality of care I could provide."

Private NP practice is a new model of care in Saskatchewan. There was no "how-to" guide on how to start and no financial support to renovate a facility. But these things didn't stop Radbourne.

Channelling her passion for direct patient care, along with her experience in critical care, patient education and leadership, she opened her private practice, Vaida Health, in November 2023 in Emerald Park, Saskatchewan. Within three months of being open, her practice was full and she welcomed another NP to the team. Eventually, she plans to establish an interdisciplinary team, consisting of a dietitian, counselling, nursing services, and two additional NPs.

Radbourne is a Métis NP specializing in women's health. She has received many certifications from the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada and is one of a handful of NPs in Saskatchewan certified and ministry-approved to provide treatment for HIV and Hepatitis C.

"My passion project has been my involvement with the Cervical Screening Task Force at the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, which launched new guidelines in November 2023," Radbourne shared.

"I am the NP representative on the team and helped with the development and dissemination of instructional material on the new guidelines for practitioners."

Radbourne believes in continuing education and professional development. She has been a part of the USask Bachelor of Science in Nursing Curriculum Advisory Subcommittee, completed a research project with the Canadian Centre for Advanced Practice Nursing Research, and was appointed to the College of Registered Nurses of Saskatchewan provincial council in 2021.



College of Nursing alumna Joelynn Radbourne (BSN'13, NP'19) opens private nurse practitioner clinic, Vaida Health, in Emerald Park. Submitted.

## Star USask Hockey Player Reflects on Sports Journey

From Huskie hockey to the Professional Women's Hockey League (PWHL), Kaitlin Willoughby's (BSN '19) hockey career brought her to Toronto, where she became one of the first players to be part of the 2024 inaugural PWHL season during a historic time in women's pro hockey.

"We spent the last four years in the Professional Women's Hockey Players Association (PWHPA) showcasing women's hockey to the public in the hopes a professional women's league would be successful, and to see this unfolding is the most rewarding feeling," said Willoughby.

"I am aware this has also been years in the making, long before I played professional hockey, women have been fighting for a league to get paid to play hockey as a full-time job. I feel grateful to be one of the players to experience the inaugural season."

Having worked as a registered nurse for five years since graduating from USask, Willoughby has experience in labour and delivery, as well as further education in operating room nursing.

"I love my profession as a nurse, and I look forward to continuing it one day, but for now I am grateful to be playing hockey as a full-time job."

At USask, Willoughby was part of the team that won bronze at the national championship.

"The Huskie women's hockey team had never made it to nationals, and it felt special to have done that twice in my career and bring back a bronze medal."

The team also won the Canada West Championship in 2014. Willoughby scored the game-winning goal and cites that game as one of her favourite sports memories.

"Competing against the best teams in Canada at the university level was an experience I'll never forget," said Willoughby. "Our team was ranked lower in the seedings, I remember coming in as the underdog and ending up with a medal! This made me feel extremely proud of the group we had and all we accomplished that season."

Willoughby looks back fondly on her time at USask. "The friends I made playing hockey at USask will always be lifelong friends."



College of Nursing Alumna Kaitlin Willoughby (BSN'19). PWHL.

I have friends that are older and younger than me, in different graduating classes. Even though I don't live in the same cities as them, we get together at major life events (weddings) and Huskie alumni events. The bonds I made with teammates will be lasting, and I plan to stay in touch with all of them."

*This story has been adapted from an original story by Sean Conroy.*



# USask Alumna Shares Experience as a Registered Nurse in Prince Albert

Lydia Francis (BSN'20) completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at the University of Saskatchewan in April 2020. She chose USask College of Nursing to complete her degree because the BSN program was offered in Prince Albert.

"I liked the idea of a smaller campus where instructors get to know you, small classes to build relationships with classmates, and an affordable university degree, since I didn't have to move. Not to mention, we now have a beautiful new campus with a great student space to study and a big nursing lab."

She passed her national licensing exam in May 2020, then started her career as a full-time registered nurse.

"As a registered nurse, the opportunities are endless," said Francis. "I have worked on a medical floor, at a COVID testing site, taught nursing students, was part of a medical mission trip to South America and currently work in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Victoria Hospital."

When asked about being a registered nurse in Prince Albert, Francis said she has found a great team atmosphere with the different health professionals and plenty of opportunities to get to know your colleagues better.

"We're also in the process of getting a new acute care tower, which will increase PA's capacity and level of care, which is definitely exciting for the overall community and especially for medical professionals in Prince Albert!"

When Francis was asked if she would recommend becoming a registered nurse in PA, she replied, "Yes! The instructors really want to see you succeed as a student and in your career as a registered nurse."

"Whenever I return to the USask PA Campus, the professors remember me and ask me how I'm doing. And if you're planning to work in PA when you complete your degree, you get to see many areas of the hospital and experience nursing in the community during your clinical placements, which will help you decide where to apply after you graduate."

Francis signed up to teach USask nursing labs in the 2024-2025 academic year. She plans to continue working in the ICU and is looking forward to taking another medical mission trip.



Registered Nurse Lydia Francis (BSN'20) in front of the Victoria Hospital in Prince Albert. Submitted.

# I Enjoyed my Life as a Nursing Student

Five decades after she graduated, USask alumna Jo Bannatyne-Cugnet (BSN'74) continues to be grateful for the formative years she spent at USask College of Nursing.

To express her gratitude, she gifted \$100,000 to USask to support student scholarships in the College of Nursing as part of the Be What the World Needs campaign. The generous gift honours the legacy of the outstanding educators who taught Bannatyne-Cugnet and her fellow nursing students from 1970 to 1974.

"I truly appreciated those wonderful professors and instructors for passing along their knowledge, for their guidance, and for their support during my years attending," said Bannatyne-Cugnet. "Donating the funds to establish a scholarship to help future graduates continue on in their education, so they will prepare the future generations of nursing graduates seemed like a good investment in people and our province."

Bannatyne-Cugnet initially enrolled at USask as a pharmacy student. A summer job, however, changed her trajectory, and she subsequently transferred to the College of Nursing. In her final year of university, she received funding through a government program. As a condition of that bursary, she needed to remain working in the province as a public health nurse for a year post-graduation. She was assigned to work in Weyburn—a place she still calls home 50 years later. During this time, she married Ken Cugnet, raised four children, and became a farmer and entrepreneur.

After serving as a public health nurse for 20 years, Bannatyne-Cugnet embarked on a new career as an author, with her best-selling children's book *A Prairie Alphabet*, published in 1992. The book celebrates the Prairies, its rural lifestyle and the contributions of the farming families to the economy. It won the Christie Book Award and was included in the Saskatchewan Legislative Building's centennial time capsule, scheduled to be opened in 2112.

In 2016, Bannatyne-Cugnet was honoured with the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, the province's highest honour, for her impact as a retired nurse, an author, a businessperson, a mentor, a community organizer, a fundraiser, and a philanthropist. She was celebrated for playing a key role in raising \$3.5 million for the Cugnet Centre—a community, cultural and convention centre in Weyburn—and for making a generous personal gift to the facility.

She advises current USask nursing students and others beginning their academic journeys at the university to take every opportunity to learn.



USask College of Nursing alumna Jo Bannatyne-Cugnet (BSN'74) is an award-winning author and a recipient of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit. Jennifer Cugnet.

"It is a special time in your life to have the luxury of learning from so many different people," she said. "And don't be afraid to set off in a different direction than you planned when you started. It is not failure to change course; it certainly led me to many unexpected opportunities and a very blessed life."

*This story has been adapted from an original story by Shannon Boklaschuk.*



# For USask Alumna, Practicing as an NP in Yellowknife is a Privilege

USask alumna Allyson Arychuk’s (MN-NP’22) was the first student from the Northwest Territories to enter the online Master of Nursing Primary Care nurse practitioner program at USask.



College of Nursing alumna Allyson Arychuk (MN-NP’22). Submitted.

In 2011, Arychuk moved to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, for what she thought would be one or two years. She worked as a registered nurse primarily in labour and delivery/postpartum, but also held casual positions in public health and taught as an obstetric clinical instructor at Aurora College. Thirteen years later, she is still in Yellowknife and is now a nurse practitioner.

“NPs have such a valuable role in the health system, but also within the community,” said Arychuk. “It is a privilege to be in this role.”

Having started her career in 2009 as an RN in Halifax, the online master’s program was a good choice for her once she was in living in a remote community with a young family.

“The USask program provided me the opportunity to study while still continuing to work and not be displaced from my family,” said Arychuk. “It does require hard work and dedication to advance your nursing knowledge and skill, but it is so worth it! There will never be a “right time” to pursue post-secondary studies, especially as you become more established in your professional and personal life.”

Now that she’s earned her master’s degree, Arychuk recommends the program to others.

“The program contents and online delivery method set me up for success. I had the foundational knowledge and skills required to meet or exceed entry-level competencies.”

In fact, she already has colleagues in her community. “I studied part-time and ended up completing my program with another USask Master of Nursing Primary Care nurse practitioner graduate,” said Arychuk. “Now we work together in Yellowknife, and there are other Northern RNs doing their NP studies through the USask program as well.”

# PhD Graduate Now Full Professor at Top Nigerian University

Rev. Sr. Agatha Ogunkorode is a Master of Nursing and Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (MN’16, PhD’19) graduate from the University of Saskatchewan College of Nursing and now a lecturer at the Afe Babalola University of Ado-Ekiti Nigeria, an institution that has ranked best university in Nigeria for the third consecutive time.

Dr. Ogunkorode said she found great support at USask. “I found the people very friendly. They were kind to me. I made a lot of friends. Anytime I needed help, people were ready to help.”

Arriving at USask in 2014, Dr. Ogunkorode first completed her Master of Nursing in 2016, then focused her PhD research on health-seeking behaviours of women living with advanced stages of breast cancer in southwestern Nigeria. She was supervised by Drs. Lorraine Holtlander (PhD), Linda Ferguson (PhD), and June Anonson (PhD)(USask Nursing), Dr. Vivian Ramsden (PhD)(USask Medicine), and Dr. Lize Maree (PhD)(University of the Witwatersrand Johannesburg), with whom she has also published papers about her work in many journals, including the *International Journal of Africa Nursing Sciences and Cancer Nursing*.

Today, Professor Rev. Sr. Ogunkorode teaches 300 and 400 level medical and surgical nursing at the undergraduate levels, advanced pathophysiology and care of acute and chronically ill patients at the master’s level, and advanced research methodologies at both master’s and PhD levels. She has also just been assigned as the postgraduate coordinator in her Faculty of Nursing Sciences.

“I was able to bring the things I learned in Canada and introduce it into my work in Nigeria. The students enjoy it, and my colleagues respect me, and I make valuable contributions at meetings and conferences. I’m enjoying my work and I’m glad I came back to impact my society,” said Dr. Ogunkorode, noting that she especially enjoys passing along what she learned at USask about research methodologies.

Dr. Ogunkorode said she’s equally happy to be teaching as nursing because they are both giving back.



Rev. Sr. Agatha Ogunkorode (MN’16, PhD’19). Submitted.

“I like to share the knowledge I have acquired with others, and then help them to go and share with others as well,” she said, adding that her work in palliative care means her counselling education is particularly useful.

“I do my work with dedication, I’m good to my patients, and my patients love me. I develop good relationships with my patients and my education in counselling has helped me on the journey with students and patients, particularly during the terminal stages.”

Dr. Ogunkorode said she will remember her time in Canada fondly and hopes to come back for a visit sometime. “Canada is beautiful, serene. Canadians are friendly, and I like the variation in the weather. I like the snow.”



Alumni Reunions

Mixed among students eagerly awaiting convocation or anxiously beginning new programs at the University of Saskatchewan in spring and fall, are proud nursing alumni attending class reunions.

In 2024, three classes gathered to reminisce about nursing school times, share stories about their careers, and catch up about life as it is for them today.

- June 7-9, 2024 – 1994 Degree Class, 30th Anniversary
- June 13-16, 2024 – 1964 Degree Class, 60th Anniversary
- September 10-12, 2024 – 1964 Diploma Class, 60th Anniversary



The 1994 Degree Class celebrates their 30th Anniversary at the University of Saskatchewan Saskatoon Campus. Roxanne Cossette.



College of Nursing Dean Dr. Solina Richter meets with the 1964 Degree Class to celebrate their 60th Anniversary held at the Park Town Hotel in Saskatoon. Bill Sawchuk.



At the Park Town Hotel in Saskatoon, the 1964 Diploma Class meets with College of Nursing Dean Dr. Solina Richter to celebrate their 60th Anniversary. Roxanne Cossette.

Come Teach With Us



Are you a registered nurse with a passion for teaching? Have you been an RN for two years and have an RN license from the CRNS? We would love to have you join our team as a contract instructor.

Mentor undergraduate nursing students in our Bachelor of Science in Nursing program throughout Saskatchewan and our Post-Degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing program in Saskatoon.

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Philanthropy refers to the act of donating money and time to improve the lives of others, frequently requiring personal sacrifice.

The College of Nursing would like to recognize the philanthropists who have given greatly and sacrificed much in support of nursing education.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing Class of 1971A

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing Class of 1971A was the last of the five-year degree program in the (then) School of Nursing (now College of Nursing) at the University of Saskatchewan.

As they celebrated their 50-year reunion in 2023, classmates expressed a desire to commemorate their careers in nursing by creating an annual bursary for a full- or part-time student in the College of Nursing.

Members of the class have worked in all aspects of the profession – clinical practice in acute, long term and community settings, education, research and administration – and wish to support the profession by encouraging and supporting students.

The annual BSN Class of 1971A Student Award is available to a full- or part-time student in the College of Nursing demonstrating financial need. The class has generously committed to offering the award annually for three years with the potential to extend, pending fundraising efforts.

The alumnae recognize the competing demands on students’ lives today as they balance jobs, families, and other financial responsibilities. They understand these demands can have an impact on a student’s ability to complete the BSN program on a full-time basis. Through this bursary, the alumnae wish to recognize and encourage students to continue their studies, either full- or part-time, or to return to the program if their studies have been interrupted.



The Bachelor of Science in Nursing Class of 1971A. 📷 Bob and Cathy Anderson.

Theresa and Dr. Hung Fook Ma

Theresa Ma (BSN’75) and her husband Dr. Hung Fook Ma (MD) chose to support College of Nursing students as a way to give back to the college where it all started for Theresa. After both working as medical professionals for over five decades, the Ma’s are very passionate about healthcare in Saskatoon.

Now retired, Theresa was a registered nurse and Dr. Ma, a medical doctor. They spent most of their careers working in all three hospitals in Saskatoon.

Theresa and Dr. Ma spent their early years in big cities. She began her career as a nurse in both London and Scotland and he was born in Hong Kong. They moved to Canada in 1964 when Dr. Ma accepted a position in Saskatoon. Although they initially planned to develop their careers in larger centres, they quickly fell in love with the charm of Saskatchewan and decided it would be a great place to raise their children, Phillip and Priscilla.

Although initially educated overseas as a nurse, Theresa returned to university and completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at the University of Saskatchewan in 1975.

In 1986, when Theresa was working as a registered nurse, she and a colleague completed a two-week course in palliative care at St. Boniface Hospital in Winnipeg, MB. They brought the knowledge from the course back to Saskatchewan, and together with a team of other healthcare professionals, began delivering palliative care in Saskatoon, as part of a pilot project. The concept of dedicated end of life care was quite new to the province at the time.

During her years as a registered nurse helping others, Theresa learned the importance of compassion in healthcare and hopes to help others realize the importance for years to come. Through the Ma’s generous contributions to the College of Nursing, Theresa and Dr. Ma are helping to educate and shape the nursing professionals of tomorrow.



University of Saskatchewan nursing alumna Theresa Ma (BSN’75). 📷 Submitted.

A Message of Gratitude to Our Anonymous Donors

Your extraordinary generosity speaks volumes without uttering a single name. You have chosen to support USask nursing students silently yet profoundly, transforming lives and futures. Your support serves as a ray of hope for nursing students who dream of making a difference. Your gifts are not just a financial transaction; they are lifelines that allow promising students to pursue their educational dreams, support for innovative research that advances healthcare, and the creation of opportunities for students facing financial barriers.

To our unseen benefactors, please know this – every scholarship awarded, every research project funded, every student supported carries a piece of your compassionate spirit. You are unsung heroes who are quietly reshaping the future of nursing and healthcare.

From the bottom of our hearts – *Thank You.*

“ We are grateful for the opportunity to support nursing students. The nursing profession is so important. While it can be challenging, it can also be very rewarding. The students who receive our gifts and go on to become nursing professionals will make a big contribution to the province and the country. The University of Saskatchewan has been very helpful in making this happen, and it makes good use of money that we will never need or spend on luxuries that we neither need nor want. These students are taking on a very demanding course of studies, and it is a privilege to be able to help them in this small way. ”

– ANONYMOUS DONORS, COLLEGE OF NURSING



With gratitude, the College of Nursing recognizes our philanthropists who have given accumulated gifts of \$1,000 and more, as of December 31, 2024.

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Celebrating Some of our Best and Brightest

In November 2024, USask College of Nursing recognized some of its best and brightest at the annual student awards ceremony in Saskatoon. Students, friends, family, and donors came together with College of Nursing faculty and staff to celebrate the recipients of 76 awards valued at \$304,611.52.

“Receiving these awards is a testament to the commitment these students have made to their nursing studies,” said USask College of Nursing Dean Dr. Solina Richter (DCur). “Undergraduate and graduate nursing programs can be challenging, but these students are excelling in their studies.”

Donor support is instrumental to nursing students who receive scholarships and bursaries.

“These awards truly change the lives of nursing students, one student at a time,” said Dr. Richter. “Thanks to the generosity of our donors, these students have one less concern while concentrating on their studies. For some of our students, without these awards, they wouldn’t be able to complete their program. Without our donors, this support would not be possible and for that, we thank them.”

Congratulations  
to the 2024 College of Nursing award recipients!



(l to r) Donors Chuck and Nancy Weisdorff, student award recipient Amy Smith, and Dean Dr. Solina Richter. Darkstrand Visual.



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN  
STUDENT AWARDS 2024

**University of Saskatchewan Scholarship**  
Paris Appel, Rae Friesen, Emma Mickelson,  
Erika Mourre, Danika Osterwalder, Andre Justin Unahan

**University of Saskatchewan Undergraduate  
Scholarship**  
Adriena Bates, Shallan French, Jayne Gisi,  
Jaclyn Hallgrimson, Teghan Harvey, Heidi Klassen,  
Merna Mostafa, Carley Pidlisny, Abby Shiers,  
Gillian Studer, Hoi Lam Yip, Amanda Zinovich

**The University Prize in Nursing**  
Bridgitte Campbell

COLLEGE OF NURSING  
GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS 2024

**Norman and Alice Caplin Scholarship**  
Mariam Adam Al-Hassan, Etieno Essien

**College of Nursing Graduate Student Award**  
Emma Addai, Augustina Adekoya,  
Hayley Bobye-Magnusson, Sheri McPhee,  
Lisa Olien, Amy Wildeman

**Myrtle Evangeline Crawford Scholarship**  
Kathryn Kazoleas

**CRNS Nurse Practitioner Award**  
Bailey Mytopher

**Annie I. Earle Award for Nurses**  
Celise Treimans

**Ernest and Isabella Forsman Bursary**  
Effah-Frimpong Kofi Jnr

**The Judy Gajadharsingh Award for  
Graduate Student Excellence in  
Dementia/Alzheimer Research**  
Mariana dos Santos Ribeiro

**Margaret Inglis Graduate Bursary in Nursing**  
Ogechukwu Anoliefo

**Marion Ruth Jackson Quality of Patient Care Fund**  
Geneveave Barbo

**Muriel E. Kavanagh Memorial Fund**  
Emma Addai, Amy Wildeman

**Claire Kramer Award in Nursing**  
Taylor Franson, Kirsten Kotylak

**Mavis Kyle Evans Nursing Leadership Scholarship**  
Michelle Laliberte

**Nurse Practitioner Entrance Award for Indigenous Students**  
Christian-Lee Masuskapoe, Amanda Miller

**June Peterson-Barber Nurse Practitioner Award**  
Bailey Mytopher, Courtney Sideroff

**Mrs. Jane Pinkney and Dr. George H. Peacock Memorial  
Scholarship in Cancer Care or Research in Nursing**  
Gloria Vukey

**Stephanson Cooke Award in Nursing**  
Taylor Franson

**Lucy D. Willis Scholarship**  
Hannah Pytlowany Unger

COLLEGE OF NURSING  
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS 2024

**The David and May Anderson Memorial Scholarship  
in Geriatric Nursing**  
Jaclyn Hallgrimson

**Elaine Barnhart Memorial Scholarship**  
Madison Matschke

**Karen Knapp Bodnar Nursing Award in Public Health**  
Kelly Tolley-Procyk

**Margaret & William Brewster Memorial Award**  
Adriena Bates, Rebekah Yeaman

**CRNS Yvonne Brown Award for Nursing Excellence**  
Bridgitte Campbell, Shastyna Chambers,  
Omotade Shorunke

**Danny Browning Award**  
Chigozie Nwokolo, Taylor Stinson

**BSN Class of 1971A Student Award**  
Jasmine McKenzie-Grondin

**College of Nursing 75th Anniversary Award for Excellence  
in Leadership**  
Queen Tayab

**The College of Nursing Undergraduate Scholarship**  
Emily Gunson

**Custody and Caring Scholarship in Forensic Nursing**  
Jared Booth

**Degree Class of 1965 Nursing Student Bursary**  
Brandy McDonald

**Katherine Doyle Macphee Scholarship**  
Danika Osterwalder

**Marjorie and Guy Duncan Award**  
Mae Bolivar

**Elsevier Canada Health Sciences Award**  
Halle Krynowsky

**Guy and Joyce Evans Memorial Award in Nursing**  
Favour Ojokutu

**CRNS Jean Goodwill Award**  
Keyanna Hansen

**The Mary Hader Scholarship in Nursing**  
Heather Bradshaw

**The Health and Wellness Nursing Bursary for  
Indigenous Students**  
Deanna Bear-Ross, Brandy McDonald

**Shirley Hewko-Parkinson Nursing Award in  
Community Health**  
Emily Dudgeon

**Hazel B. Keeler Scholarship**  
Rayne Butler-Siemens

**The Jean Klymyshyn Meenaghan Entrance  
Bursary in Nursing**  
Anas Banigesh

**Lange Medical Publication Award**  
Amy Anquist

**Mrs. Jean A. Leech-Porter Prize in Obstetrics**  
Kelsey Nast

**W.S. Lindsay Gold Medal in Nursing**  
Bridgitte Campbell

**The Theresa Ma Bursary in Nursing**  
Lauren Bear

**The Theresa Ma Scholarship in Nursing**  
Teghan Harvey

**Mae Marcoux Mature Student Scholarship**  
WenYu Ruan, Taylor Stinson

**Brenda McCormick Weber Memorial Bursary**  
Rihanna Ahmed, Mae Bolivar, Kiana Lacusta

**Eleanor Marie McKay Reichardt Endowment**  
Ahuakagha Amarachukwu Anita,  
Jazmyne Johnson, Aidyn Ladd, Queen Tayab

**The Mitchell Scholarship**  
Lochlyn Packard

**Nursing Degree ‘60 Bursary**  
Alicia Sunshine Pederson

**Betty Anne Ohrt Entrance Scholarship**  
Emily Gunson

**The Cindy Peternelj-Taylor Award in Mental Health Nursing**  
Alexandra Lappin

**Dr. Darlene Pollock Forrest Award in Nursing**  
Leanne Miller

**The Gladys Procyshe Bursary in Public Health**  
Desiré Hoare

**Vi Reaman Memorial Award**  
Matthew Lomsnes

**Margaret B. Rouse Bursary**  
Desiré Hoare

**Royal University Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship**  
Emily Dudgeon

**Charles W. Sampson Scholarship**  
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**Barbara Elizabeth Scott Memorial Bursary**  
Candice Turkula

**Douglas Scott Memorial Bursary**  
Harshaa Grewal

**James Nelson Scott Memorial Bursary**  
Cassidy Alcrow

**Catherine Grant Sigmores Memorial Bursary**  
Ahuakagha Amarachukwu Anita

**Andrew and Olga Stefaniuk Memorial Award in Nursing**  
Vishwa Parekh

**Olive G. Suitor Entrance Scholarship**  
Emily Gunson

**Saskatchewan Union of Nurses Trust Award**  
Summerdawn Sanderson

**Catherine R. Sutherland Scholarship in Nursing**  
Kolbie Becker, Hannah McLellan

**Sutherland First Nations Student Award**  
Cassidy Alcrow, Tessah Tolentino

**Sutherland First Nations Student Graduation Prize**  
Bree Fisher

**Undergraduate Nursing Award for Indigenous Students**  
Cassidy Alcrow, Lauren Bear, Tyson Bueckert,  
Alicia Sunshine Pederson, Wyatt Roach,  
Summerdawn Sanderson

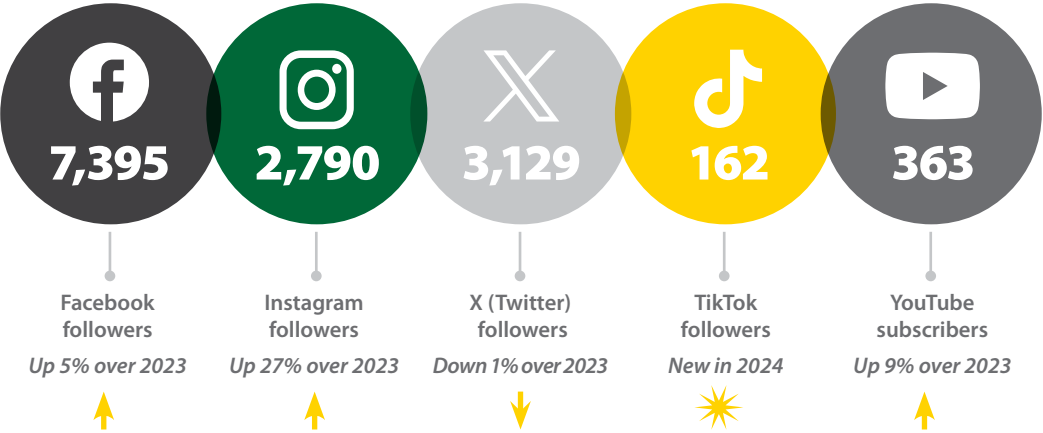
**Weisdorff Annual Nursing Award**  
Amy Smith




The University of Saskatchewan College of Nursing marketing and communications team spent 2024 celebrating college successes, recruiting future USask Nursing students, and sharing stories about faculty, staff, students, and alumni. From digital content creation to traditional advertising; managing promotional item and marketing material requests to launching USask Nursing Ambassadors, the team had their hands full.

At a glance, here are some of the marketing and communications activities from 2024.


SOCIAL MEDIA




Top Social Posts





College of Nursing Muenster Announcement July 11







USask Expands Learn Where You Live January 25






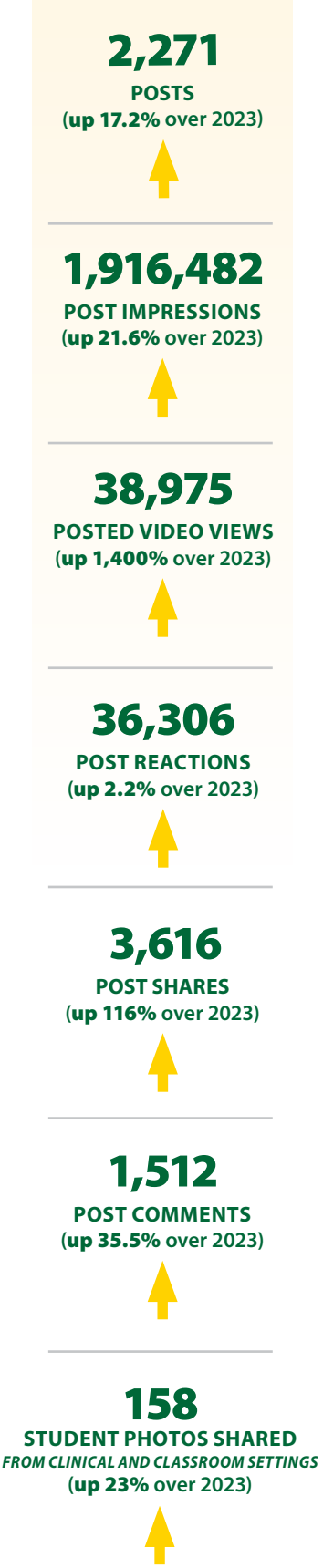
Clinical Nursing Student Photo April 23



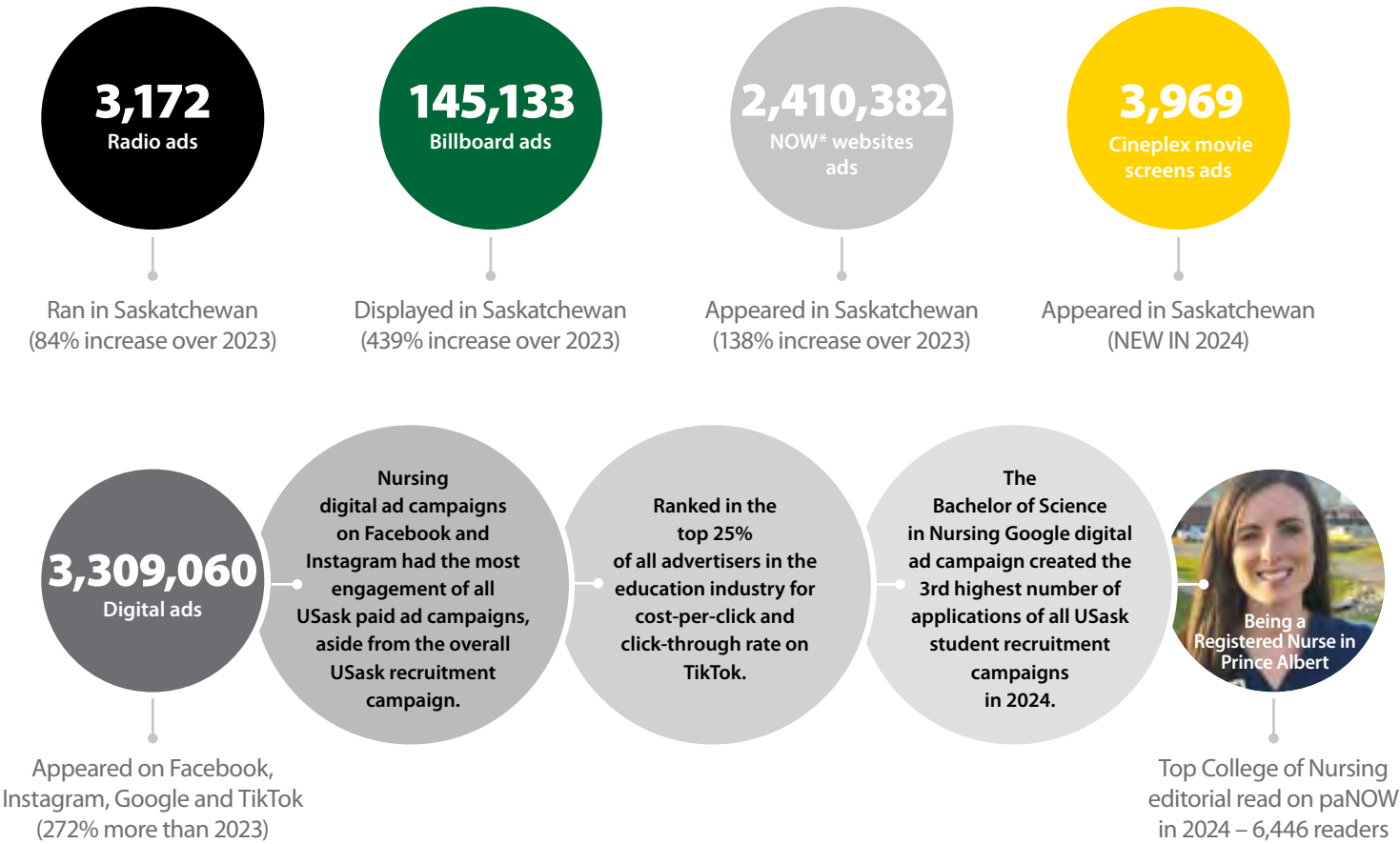


USask Nursing Ambassador March 21





ADVERTISING



Our Geographical Advertising Footprint



\*paNOW, larongeNOW, meadowlakeNOW, battlefordsNOW websites



NEW Projects Introduced and Completed in 2024

- ✓ Social Media Guidelines
- ✓ Distributed Nursing Site Brand Guidelines
- ✓ Online parent recruitment portal
- ✓ Launch of USask Nursing Ambassador Program
- ✓ 2023 Annual Report – Nursing Matters
- ✓ YouTube rebrand
- ✓ TikTok launch
- ✓ Creation of social media personas
- ✓ Nursing people page profile relaunch
- ✓ Provincial student photo shoots
- ✓ Undergraduate program welcome packages
- ✓ Creation of Google Business Profile

Student Feedback Matters!

We surveyed our incoming nursing students in 2024 to ask them about our marketing and recruitment efforts. Here are some of their suggestions:

“ I think the marketing strategy for nursing so far is great! I mean I see it on all platforms I use – maybe except TikTok. ”

– INCOMING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT

We’re there now!

“ Testimonials from actual USask Nursing students and grads posted on social media. ”

– INCOMING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT

We’ve launched USask Nursing Ambassadors based on this feedback!

“ More informative videos on social media pages. ”

– INCOMING GRADUATE STUDENT

We’re trying to post more Q&A videos, so stay tuned.



Student day in the life video



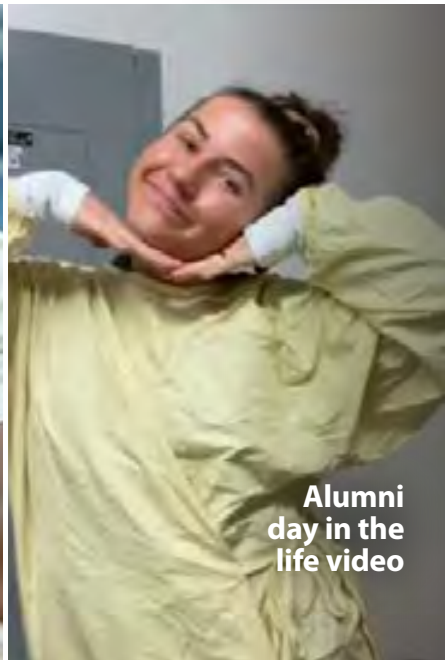
Student photo shoot



Student photo shoot



Nursing advisor day in the life video



Alumni day in the life video

Additional Activities Completed

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 13 Sponsorships processed (▲ 18% over 2023)     | 78 Videos produced (▲ 218% over 2023)                               |
| 45 Media requests facilitated (▲ 25% over 2023) | 26 Marketing materials (brochures, postcards, etc.) updated/created |
| 45 News stories posted (▲ 15% over 2023)        | 71 Promotional merchandise requests fulfilled                       |

Become a USask Nursing Ambassador

USask College of Nursing is setting out to share the stories of our students, alumni, faculty, staff, contract instructors, and preceptors. We invite you to become a USask Nursing Ambassador! Record a day in your life to share what it’s like to be a nursing student, registered nurse, nurse practitioner,

nursing instructor, or nurse researcher. Video not your thing? No problem! Be featured in a short story on our social media feed, attend a career fair with our student recruitment strategist or take part in a photo shoot! We have a number of options for USask Nursing Ambassadors!



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STAY UPDATED ONLINE!

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