

Philanthropy is often defined as the practice of giving money and time to make life better for others, often involving personal sacrifice. The College of Nursing would like to recognize the philanthropists who have given greatly and sacrificed much in support of nursing education.

Please enjoy these stories about two of our champions, then scan the donor roll that follows to see a list of our generous supporters.

**Moose Jaw Health Foundation - Vi Reaman Memorial Award**



“ Vi would have been so proud that Ashlyn was the first recipient of her memorial award. ”

– KELLY MCELREE

(l to r) Executive Director of the Moose Jaw Health Foundation Kelly McElree, with award recipient Ashlyn McElree, and College of Nursing Dean Dr. Solina Richter at annual awards ceremony in 2023. Kylie Kelso

In the ever-evolving health-care landscape, nurses stand at the forefront, offering compassion, expertise, and unwavering support to those in need. They are the unsung heroes who make a profound difference in the lives of countless individuals and their families. This is why the Moose Jaw Health Foundation believes that establishing an annual award at the University of Saskatchewan for nursing students is not just an investment in their future, but a tribute to nurses’ invaluable role in society.

As Executive Director of the Moose Jaw Health Foundation, Kelly McElree had the privilege of working with Vi Reaman for many years, as she joined the Board of Directors during her retirement. Her lifelong dedication to her patients and her mentoring of nursing students left a lasting legacy of care.

Reaman recognized the passion Kelly’s daughter, Ashlyn McElree, had for health-care. Reaman invited Ashlyn into a surgical theatre while she was in high school, and that day ignited a drive in Ashlyn to

pursue a career in nursing. Reaman would have been so proud that Ashlyn was the first recipient of her memorial award in 2023.

The power of giving, especially in post-secondary education, extends far beyond the confines of a classroom. It is a testament to the Moose Jaw Health Foundation’s belief in the potential of each student and their commitment to nurturing student’s aspirations. By providing financial support through the Vi Reaman Memorial Award, the Moose Jaw Health Foundation can assist passionate and deserving students to continue pursuing their dreams.

Investing in the education of nursing students is a direct investment in the quality of health-care in the community and beyond. These future nurses will be the ones to carry forward the legacy of excellence and compassion that is synonymous with the University of Saskatchewan’s College of Nursing and Vi Reaman. They will be the ones who bring hope and healing to many, making a tangible difference in the world.

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



College of Nursing Professor Emeritus and donor Cindy Peternelj-Taylor. Submitted

“ Developing her scholarship in mental health nursing was her way of giving back to students. ”

Professor Emeritus Cindy Peternelj-Taylor retired in June 2022, after a long and distinguished career with the University of Saskatchewan College of Nursing. During this time, she primarily taught mental health nursing theory and supervised students in clinical practice. She is a true believer that mental health nursing is part of all nursing, as well as a specialty within nursing.

Over the years, the focus of her research and scholarship addressed clinical and ethical issues that emerged from practice in a variety of mental health settings. She is most well known for her scholarship related to boundary violations, Othering, and forensic mental health nursing.

She is a co-editor of the textbook *Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing for Canadian Practice*, served as an associate editor for the *Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing*, was an editorial board member for the *Journal of Psychosocial Nursing and Mental Health Services*, and currently holds the position of editor-in-chief, *Journal of Forensic Nursing*. She is an experienced writer, editor, and scholar, who has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals and books and is a much sought-after speaker.

Currently Peternelj-Taylor is a member of the Mental Health

Commission of Canada’s Action Plan on Mental Health and Criminal Justice, Developmental Advisory Committee. In this role she is a member of two working groups: upstream prevention and early intervention; and supporting mental health across the continuum of criminal justice involvement. She is also a collaborator on a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Partnership Grant (\$2,500,000) entitled, “The trans-LINK Canada Network: Partnering to Create and Exchange Knowledge on Supporting Transgender and Gender Diverse Survivors of Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence”.

Despite all the achievements that Peternelj-Taylor has accomplished, working with students has been the highlight of her career, as they continually motivated her to be the best registered nurse, educator, and scholar that she could be.

Developing her scholarship in mental health nursing was her way of giving back to students, as a way of facilitating further exploration of mental health nursing and encouraging the recipient to consider a future career in in this rewarding nursing specialty.

Emily Dudgeon was the 2023 recipient of the Cindy Peternelj-Taylor Award in Mental Health Nursing.

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