

SRNA Awards of Excellence 2018

Every year, the SRNA Awards of Excellence acknowledge the exceptional accomplishments of members and non-members who have contributed to improving and advancing the health of people in Saskatchewan and the registered nursing profession.

This year's awards ceremony, which was held during the SRNA Conference and Annual Meeting on May 2, celebrated the nursing profession's 'bright future' by recognizing seven outstanding individuals and teams for the hard work they have done and continue to do. Here are your 2018 SRNA Awards of Excellence recipients!

Effie Feeney Award for Excellence in Nursing Research: Dr. Jill Bally



Jill Bally is a registered nurse (RN) with more than two decades of practice experience focused in pediatrics in various clinical settings in Saskatchewan including acute care pediatrics, the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and a pediatric surgical unit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Through these experiences she has worked with exceptional health care providers in caring for children and their families. In 2004, Bally joined the College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan (UofS) and in 2011 she assumed a tenure track position.

The group who nominated Bally described how her diverse clinical background informs her research interests with the primary objective of developing and disseminating clinically useful knowledge that will translate into improved health care in pediatrics through applications to nursing education and clinical practice.

Bally leads research within an interdisciplinary team of researchers, care providers, graduate students, and community members including the Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan. The team's research has been awarded in a variety of ways including funding from the Royal Bank of Canada Nurses for Kids Community Development Program, the Provost's Project Grant for Innovative Practice in Collaborative Teaching and Learning, the Canadian Association for Nurses in Oncology, and the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation.

Elizabeth Van Valkenburg Award for Excellence in Nursing Education: Dr. Elizabeth Domm

Dr. Liz Domm is described as an outstanding registered nurse who has been involved in nursing practice in Saskatchewan for more than 45 years. She has been a clinical RN in pediatrics and intensive care; an administrative RN in a trauma hospital, a manager of a surgical unit, a palliative care unit, and a medical unit; and a nursing educator at the College of Nursing, UofS. She is currently an associate professor at the Faculty of Nursing, University of Regina (UofR) in the Saskatchewan Collaborative BSCN Program. As well, Domm is a research RN and currently has several research projects underway.

Domm has demonstrated excellence in the domains of clinical, administration, education and research. She applies her clinical and administrative wisdom and experience to nursing education and research. Those who nominated Domm said it is clear from student evaluations that nursing students love her classes. As one student stated: “Liz not only teaches the subject matter, but she teaches your spirit and your heart.”

Domm exemplifies lifelong learning in her pursuit of formal education as demonstrated by her completion of her Post-RN, a master’s degree and a PhD – all while working in the clinical and administrative areas.



Granger Campbell Award for Excellence in Clinical Practice: Marlee Cossette, RN and the Medical Surveillance Unit



Over the past three years Marlee Cossette and the team on the Medical Surveillance Unit (MSU) at Regina’s Pasqua Hospital have implemented innovative and progressive ideas in health care, such as the Accountable Care Unit (ACU) model. The team’s nominators explain how through the implementation of the ACU, the MSU nursing staff deliver outstanding holistic care in collaboration with the hospitalist group of physicians and numerous other health care providers that work together, and include the patient, to achieve outstanding care.

Cosette and her team use research to apply best practice guidelines and have implemented the Early Assessment and Response System (EARS) to help staff manage more complex patient needs acting as a means of communication between physician and nursing teams to highlight the patient’s clinical condition. The MSU team has achieved great success through the work of the AUC and were recognized by their peers for demonstrating great leadership in collaborative practice to the other nursing units rolling out the ACU model of care.

The successful implementation of this model of care on MSU has led to the provincial roll out of ACU’s across Saskatchewan. As characterized by their colleagues, Cossette and her team are true nurse leaders and innovators. (See page 12 for a more detailed look into the ACU model of care).

Jean Browne Award for Excellence in Nursing Practice Leadership: Leslie Worth



Leslie Worth has been the Manager of Chronic Disease Management (CDM) in Saskatoon since 2003. Under her leadership, the programs within CDM have grown and evolved.

Worth was described in her nomination as someone who leads by example, action and passion and whose leadership style engages staff, instills enthusiasm, and finds positivity. She has a knack for finding creative solutions to problems and engaging her staff in the implementation. It's said that she maintains an open-door policy; and possesses an ability to listen and to solve issues brought to her attention, no matter what they might be. Worth tackles difficult situations with a positive, methodical approach; always with the patient at the center and while supporting the staff.

Under her leadership, the expanded chronic care model was implemented across all programs in CDM. Worth is a strong advocate of the self-management philosophy and works to embed this with her staff in all aspects of the program. Those who nominated Worth cite that her ability to bring individuals together in a collaborative way has allowed the programs, particularly the diabetes program, to be highly functioning, multi-disciplinary teams.

Colleagues acknowledged that central to all that Worth does is the client and their family acknowledging her desire to provide the best possible care lies at the heart of all actions she takes in her day-to-day work.

Nora Armstrong Award: Dr. Shelley Peacock

Dr. Shelley Peacock is an active participant in numerous committees; most notably the Academic Integrity Committee, the Search Sub-Committee, and the College Awards Committee (chair). It has been said that she consistently demonstrates professionalism, equity and fairness in all of these interactions.

The group who nominated Peacock said that she is insightful, has sound decision-making skills and most importantly, that she makes these decisions based on the evidence presented. In their opinion Peacock's membership on the committees offers invaluable expertise and a broad perspective, on which critical decisions and recommendations are made.

She has been, and is, an active member on numerous graduate committees at both the Masters' and PhD levels, in addition to participation on the Graduate Admission Committee. Her interactions with undergraduate students, graduate students, and research assistants are regarded as genuine, authentic, respectful and supportive.

Peacock was also recognized for her willingness to involve students in her own research as well to assist them in conducting their own. She is a trusted mentor in her areas of research including: older adults, caregivers and people with dementia.



Ruth Hicks Award for Student Leadership: Meghan Bend



Meghan Bend is described as an exemplary student who is currently enrolled in her fourth-year in the College of Nursing at the UofS. During her time at the College, Bend has taken on several leadership positions. She is currently President of the Saskatchewan Nursing Students Society Association for the Regina/Yorkton area and serves as vice-president and secretary during her studies. She also serves as a student representative for faculty council in the College of Nursing, and volunteers as a student mentor within the program.

During Bend's years at the College, she has organized several activities for the students' association including welcome activities during National Nursing Students' Week, student mental health awareness activities during the "Let's make a difference week", and a winter gala to promote community among the student body.

She represented the College of Nursing at two Canadian nursing student conferences in her capacity as a research assistant with the faculty in the College. This past May, Bend presented her research findings at the Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities.

Those who nominated Bend said she demonstrates a keen passion for nursing leadership and life-long learning. Her professional demeanor and positive energy have inspired many students, faculty and staff in the college.

SRNA Life Membership Award: Joanne Gartner

Joanne Gartner's commitment to nursing education and service to the provincial and international nursing communities is regarded by her peers as the hallmark of her career. Her work of organizing innovative clinical experiences and faculty workload assignments spanned different concurrent nursing programs over a 23-year period. Gartner also actively participated in the development, coordination and hands-on facilitation of international clinical practice opportunities for dozens of students from across many health faculties, including nursing.

The majority of this work took place during times of great change including health system reorganization and profound evolution in nursing education. According to those who nominated her, Gartner continually encouraged independent thinking in her students and developed a number of processes that are still in place to support their clinical education. She is known to willingly and effectively share her knowledge with program leadership, expert and novice faculty, students, colleagues in practice and the greater community.

Gartner's participation in many provincial and national committees related to clinical education not only promoted collaboration between Canadian nursing programs but has been foundational to ensuring sustainable and collaborative processes are in place between nursing programs in Saskatchewan.

Her nominators say that her legacy lives on in those who have had the opportunity to learn from and work with her. The investment she has made in many students and novice faculty has resulted in the successful education of countless nurses.



Award recipients are selected from nominations submitted by their peers and colleagues by members of SRNA's Awards Committee. Nominations for next year's Awards of Excellence, which will include a new award recognizing a member or nursing group who is moving Reconciliation forward in Saskatchewan, will open in January 2019. For more information, visit www.srna.org.