

Academy of Canadian Executive Nurses (ACEN) Scholarship For Nursing Leadership

Terms Of Reference

The Award

The Academy of Canadian Executive Nurses is offering a Scholarship of \$2,500 to be awarded annually to a nurse pursuing graduate studies in Nursing, at the Master's or PhD level. This scholarship is designed to provide support for a candidate developing nursing leadership potential within Canada.

Criteria for Eligibility and Selection

1. Demonstrated interest in and aptitude for nursing leadership based upon prior nursing experience.
2. Demonstrated commitment to the nursing profession based upon interest and involvement in associations or groups to promote high standards of client care or projects to promote 'best practices' in client care.
3. Confirmed admission to a graduate program.
4. If already registered in a program with partial completion of studies, provision of evidence of sound performance in the completed course work within that program.
5. Demonstrated interest in, and commitment to advancing nursing leadership in Canada.

Application Procedure

The completed application should be addressed to the President of ACEN, currently:

Lynette Best
Professional Practice Leader, Nursing
Providence Health Care--St. Paul's Hospital Site
1081 Burrard Street, Room 458
Vancouver, BC, V6Z 1Y6

Please include the following documentation:

1. A cover letter that describes:
 - the candidate's career goals/aspirations,
 - the significance of nursing leadership

This should be no longer than one or two typed pages.

2. A detailed curriculum vitae which includes information about:
 - applicant's name, address, phone numbers, fax and e-mail address
 - all post-secondary education.
 - all work experience within and outside of nursing.

Include information on all clinical, teaching, research and administrative experiences, as well as publications, presentations and workshops given.

3. Academic transcripts:
 - if the candidate is undertaking a Master's degree, submit undergraduate transcript
 - if undertaking a PhD, submit Master's transcript.
4. Two recent letters of reference from health care employers or supervisors. One should be from a nurse in a leadership position.

The completed application must be received no later than March 15, 2002.

Selection Process

A committee consisting of three ACEN members representing both service and educational settings (and the executive) will review applications through a blinded process and select a candidate for the Scholarship.

The committee's recommendation will be brought forward to the ACEN annual meeting for endorsement. Applicants will be notified by mid-May regarding the outcome of the selection process.

Should applicants wish to re-apply for a second year of support, the application process will need to be repeated in the same way.

The winner of the ACEN scholarship will be announced in the Canadian Journal of Nursing Leadership (CJNL).

ACEN Scholarship Winner

Congratulations are extended to Denise Malo RN, MScN who is a PhD candidate at the McGill School of Nursing. The aim of ACEN's award is to develop potential leaders of nurses within Canada.

Excerpts from the letter of application from Denise portrays ACEN's goals for future leaders.

Through the years my nursing practice has evolved toward leadership roles in various clinical settings. First and for nearly twenty years, I have devoted my interest and skills to the field of community health nursing. As one of the first consultants for quality of health care services in Quebec, community health centres and advisor to the Order of Nurses of Quebec on issues related to quality of practice in community health nursing, I was able to positively influence nursing leaders at the regional and provincial level. The guide of nursing practice in community health that emerged from this collaboration with the Order of Nurses of Quebec is now being used throughout Quebec to better define community health nursing and to improve the quality of its practice.

These last few years, I became more and more concerned by the gaps between organizations and the difficulties nurses faced in integrating their care within a seamless continuum. This concern led me to graduate studies in nursing and became the subject of my doctoral thesis. As a representative for graduate students, I sat on the Faculty Council of the Faculte des sciences infirmieres de l'Universite de Montreal and participated to decisions regarding faculty orientations and operations which gave me a sense of some major academic and political issues encountered by nursing faculties and schools. After a two-year mandate, I remained in very close contact with the decision makers within this academic institution, which, in my new capacity as Associate Director for Academic Practice within the McGill health network, enables me to continue strengthening the collaborative relationships between both schools of nursing and the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC).

As part of my academic appointment, I participate in various committees at the McGill School of Nursing including the school's curriculum council, the appointment and promotion council and the recently created consortium for the integration of the nursing curriculum across the four Quebec anglophone colleges and McGill School of Nursing. The work of this consortium and of other ones throughout Quebec will shape the future of nursing education in the province.

In terms of my career goals and aspirations, the focus for the next five to ten years will most certainly be to strengthen academic practice and professional development at the MUHC through innovation and research. I anticipate to complete my PhD thesis within the next 18-24 months and to develop a collaborative program of nursing services research between the MUHC nursing department, McGill School of Nursing and universities across the country. In this matter, I have just accepted to be co-investigator in an innovative nursing education demonstration project led by 6 nurse researchers at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

I strongly believe that this type of partnership is essential to speed up the development and dissemination of nursing knowledge. I also believe that continuous networking of Canadian nursing leaders is critical if we are to move nursing ahead on the political agenda. I have been involved in some ground work at the provincial and national level that had the potential to influence decision and health policy makers. My personal goal in this matter for the coming years is to better develop the necessary knowledge and skills to intensify and expand the influence of nursing on the political agenda.

At the MUHC, I have the privilege to work along side some of the finest nursing leaders in this country who are both my colleagues and my mentors. I am convinced that under their guidance and that of other nursing leaders across the country, I will make a difference for Canadian nursing the years to come.

Corrections Volume 14 (2)

P. 16--Table 3
Mean Scores, Correlation and
T-Test of Nurses' Perceptions
and Practices of Family-
Centered Care

P. 19--Author--C.M. LeClerc