



**THOMPSON
RIVERS
UNIVERSITY**

Foundation

TRU **FOUNDATION**

ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

TRU FOUNDATION PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This past year, the TRU Foundation raised nearly \$5.5 million for students, another milestone for fundraising. Once again, this success is owed to the continued support of our loyal donors and the hard work of our dedicated staff and volunteers.

This year marks my final term after six years on the TRU Foundation board of directors. It has been a rewarding and gratifying experience to work with students and other donors who believe in the importance of higher education. I'm pleased to conclude my term by announcing one of the largest legacy gifts in TRU's history. Over the past year, the TRU Foundation undertook the important work of administering the estate of James Douglas Bain from Lillooet. The estate has created an endowment that will provide at least 12 annual bursaries in perpetuity. The generosity of Mr. Bain will have a profound impact on students for generations to come and the TRU Foundation is honoured to have established this legacy in his name.

The TRU Foundation Breakfast celebrated the School of Business and Economics and kicked off the third annual TRU Day of Giving, which raised \$61,700. This was an increase of more than \$10,000 over 2018. Day of Giving continues to grow year after year and it will surely be a flagship fundraiser for the TRU Foundation in the decades to come. We also saw great participation across campus for our 15-day TRUly United campaign last fall and raised \$169,000.

In November, we distributed a record total of \$775,000 at the TRU Foundation Awards ceremony, where more than 650 students received a bursary, scholarship or award. It's always a pleasure to see students and donors meet, a reminder how important these fundraising efforts are.



The TRU Foundation Gala in February took on a new format that proved highly successful. The event raised funds for the School of Nursing in a reverse-auction activity we call Fund-A-Need. Donors gave \$130,000, allowing the School of Nursing to purchase a lifelike infant mannequin used to train future nurses. Staff and volunteers truly outdid themselves to make this Gala exceptional.

Finally, the Limitless campaign launched in October with a goal of bringing our years-long fundraising total to \$50 million alongside TRU's 50th anniversary in 2020. At the end of our fiscal year, the campaign total had reached \$44.3 million, on its way to reaching its goal by the end of the university's 50th anniversary.

In the final weeks of our fiscal term, COVID-19 severely impacted the work of fundraisers. The next year will see new and creative means of fundraising to continue supporting higher education and helping students achieve at their highest level. I know staff and volunteers will meet this challenge and continue the mission to put education within reach for all.

It has been an inspiration to work with the TRU Foundation and witness the generosity of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Garrish". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greg Garrish | President, TRU Foundation

TRU PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Last fall, when TRU launched the Limitless campaign, I noted that quiet work over a period of years had brought together \$41 million from donors. Though often quiet, this work plays a critical role in transforming our university into an accessible, high-quality place of learning. The hard work of the TRU Foundation and the essential role of donors throughout our history makes TRU extraordinary.

As I look to our current place in time—navigating our way forward in the ever-changing nature of a global pandemic—the work of the Foundation and the involvement of donors is more critical than ever. COVID-19 forced an astonishing amount of change in a very short period of time. As we adapted our operations, we were reminded that our communities look to us to be an island of hope and stability. The TRU Foundation is a bridge to our community, one forged over decades of happy congruence of purpose. Our common goal now is to shape society's recovery.

If the last 12 months are any indication, we will rise to this historical challenge together. Our community came forward for students this year in ways we had not yet seen. The TRU Foundation Gala and the TRU Foundation Awards brought new milestones for support. We announced the largest campaign in TRU's history. Donors such as yourselves propelled us forward, enhancing the quality of education and the experience of our students.

Your support is a tangible indication to students that someone cares about their future. Now more than ever this is a powerful message for TRU students.

Thank you for your continued support as we strive to provide hope and opportunity and build a society where no one is left behind.

Sincerely,

Brett Fairbairn
TRU President and Vice-Chancellor

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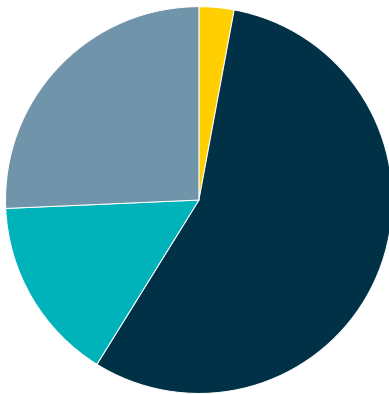
2019/20 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED

\$5,490,219

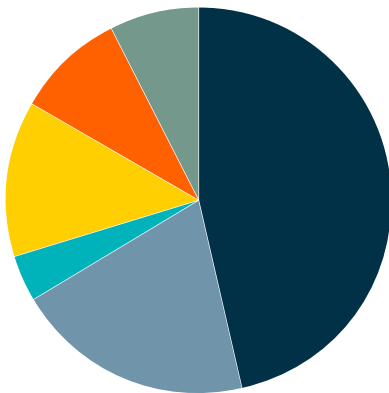
OPERATING EXPENSES

\$248,067



GIVING BY CATEGORY

● Alumni	\$160,266
● Corporations	\$3,070,390
● Foundations	\$849,072
● Individuals	\$1,410,491
TOTAL	\$5,490,219



DISBURSEMENTS

● Support for Students	\$1,894,727
● Buildings	\$809,451
● Research	\$151,194
● Department Initiatives	\$531,894
● Gifts In Kind	\$375,939
● Operating Transfer	\$300,230
TOTAL	\$4,063,435

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

1,059
students received
donor-funded awards

\$1.75 million
disbursed for bursaries
and awards

Donors reach new peak in awards to students at annual ceremony

Lucas Warner was one of 655 students to receive a financial boost at the annual TRU Foundation Awards ceremony on Nov. 28, 2019.

Students received \$775,000—the most ever awarded—in donor-funded scholarships, bursaries and awards at the annual TRU Foundation Awards ceremony. University donors gathered in the gymnasium to personally present their awards to students.

For Warner, awards played a huge role in enabling him to focus on nursing school and get involved in the community. Without financial aid, he would have missed out on opportunities like joining the BC Nurses' Union as student liaison.

How would you characterize your experience at TRU?

I studied at TRU prior to my nursing studies and have witnessed how the university has grown both physically and in terms of opportunities available to students and campus community. My experience of TRU is that it offers smaller class sizes than larger institutions while providing excellent education. The campus is highly diverse and conveniently situated near amenities and entertainment in Kamloops.

What does receiving a scholarship or bursary mean to you?

Receiving a scholarship or bursary means that I can worry less about my financial situation and spend more time engaging with my studies and my community. It also means reduced stress and increased time to practice self-care.

How have these awards influenced the course of your education?

Because of the opportunities I have pursued with the financial support of awards I have been better able to build a sense of direction in my career. I feel that I would not have as strong a sense of self heading into the nursing profession if I had been occupied more with financial constraints.

—LUCAS WARNER

TRUly United 2019 raises \$169,000

The TRU community once again showed just how generous it is. The 15-day TRUly United campaign wrapped up Nov. 15, 2019 and raised \$169,264.50. TRUly United is a joint internal campaign between TRU and the United Way Thompson Nicola Cariboo.

In addition to payroll deductions, payroll lottery and one-time donations, the campaign received great

participation across campus, with more than 50 percent involvement. Over 600 employees helped raise money with the TRU Foundation and United Way to help people in our region that are in need. Many departments designed events in support of the campaign. Lunches, office raffles, bake sales and 50/50 raffles all contributed to the success of TRUly United!



Unprecedented TRU campaign focuses on Limitless potential

Education empowers students on their way to greater futures, opens new worlds through research and builds better communities. These are the reasons driving Limitless, the largest-ever fundraising campaign launched by Thompson Rivers University.

With a goal of \$50-million, Limitless is even more significant an undertaking in that it is taking place during the university's landmark 50th anniversary in 2020.

TRU President and Vice-Chancellor Brett Fairbairn unveiled the public campaign on October 10, 2019 to a room packed with more than 300 people, including students, staff, faculty, donors and community members.

"The power of education to change lives is limitless. Education empowers our students on their way to greater futures, opens new worlds through research and builds better communities," he said.

Limitless launched publicly in the Fall 2019, but the campaign toward such an ambitious goal had been in a quiet phase for several years. The campaign launched with \$41 million raised, and reached \$44.3 million by the end of the 2019-2020 academic year.

"Many of our supporters—new and old—have been with us through the past few years helping us to get to where we are today. Now we look to others in our communities to consider helping us surpass our \$50-million goal," said Fairbairn at the campaign launch, noting no amount contributed is too small.

Business and theatre student Kennedy Aberdeen asked the other students in the room to stand, then she addressed the audience:

"TRU is a place of promise and potential, just like us," she said, also noting students don't often get the opportunity to thank the people who support them through scholarships and bursaries. Limitless will increase the number of those awards to ease financial pressures for more students.

"A gift can be anything. But to us, it is worth everything," Aberdeen said.



The Limitless campaign consists of four pillars:



Supporting students establishes more scholarships and bursaries to open doors for more students and ease their financial worries so they focus on their education, discoveries and achievements.



Innovating for the future provides funding for more research initiatives; TRU's researchers often collaborate with businesses or organizations in surrounding communities. They are exploring solutions to problems that affect people's lives, from land reclamation to retaining early childhood educators to justice for people with mental health issues.



Building capacity establishes better spaces on campus and provides the latest equipment, enhancing learning experiences for students and researchers. The Nursing and Population Health building is a prime example of a facility that will help our community by training health-care workers on state-of-the-art equipment so they can care for the people where they live.



Collaborating with community helps build more of the services and relationships that TRU has been increasingly developing in all of the communities it serves.

During the launch event, long-time TRU supporter Frank Quinn summed up the heart of the Limitless campaign.

"One thing we know for sure is the growth of post-secondary education is critical to our community."

Limitless Campaign Cabinet

Co Chairs

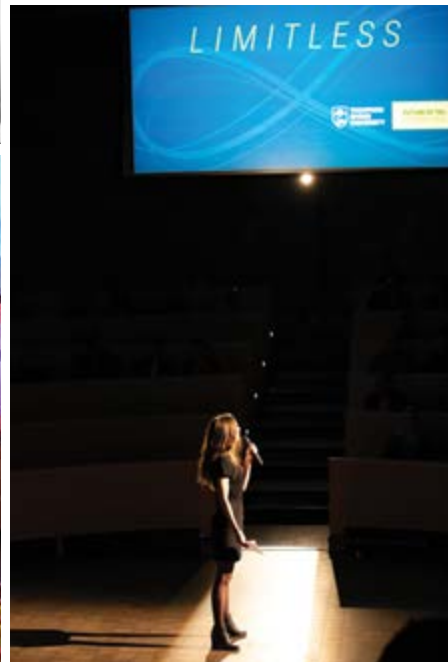
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James McCreath
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Tim Shoults
Eleanor Thompson





TRU Foundation Gala: A Walk Through Time

Donors raise a paddle for health-care education

Health-care education is getting more lifelike at TRU with the purchase of a new mannequin that can simulate the behaviour of a sick infant.

The TRU Foundation dedicated its 2020 Gala on Feb. 8 to the cause, raising \$130,000 to buy a high-fidelity infant mannequin for nursing and respiratory therapy programs. Donors raised their paddles to give between \$50 and \$7,500 per bid, while the TB Vets Charitable Foundation donated \$20,000. The funds contributed to TRU's Limitless campaign to raise \$50 million as the university celebrates its 50th anniversary.

"I had no idea the community would support us that much," said Wendy McKenzie, simulation co-ordinator and faculty member in the School of Nursing.

"It felt really good because it meant we got the message out that this is critical for students. We see this as a crisis, and we'd like to have the support of the community to help us overcome it."



Students have few opportunities to work with critically ill child patients in Kamloops. Because of medical advancements, patients are managed at home and, if their conditions become serious, they are transferred to hospitals in the Lower Mainland, McKenzie said. This has prompted a need for more expensive training equipment at TRU to simulate situations students aren't exposed to during their clinical training.

"The real world is ever changing. They can give you the basic skills in your program, but to really practice on the floor you have to think and act quickly," said Kalen Hutton, a student in the health-care assistant program.

"I'm definitely learning to think as I go," he said.

TRU's newly built Nursing and Population Health Building will open a whole new learning environment for students, including patient simulation labs where future nurses will work with high-fidelity mannequins.

These mannequins can simulate complex conditions and respond to interventions incredibly realistically. Some have cameras in their eyes. Some can even talk. Sick children behave differently than adults, however, and instructors have been using dolls to teach about infants.

"These are expensive pieces of equipment," McKenzie said. "The more realistic we can make it, the more prepared they are when they see it in practice. We can stop, redirect and try again. Students just get better and better and better."

Community shows overwhelming support

Fundraising at the TRU Foundation Gala for the equipment far exceeded its \$100,000 goal.

The TB Vets Charitable Foundation and its board of directors contributed \$20,000 toward the infant mannequin because they understand its enormous value.

"I was very moved by the experience at the TRU Gala as I could see how important this grant was," said Kandys Merola, executive director of the TB Vets Charitable Foundation. *"Many excited students and staff came to thank me."*

Dean of Science Tom Dickinson said the respiratory therapy and nursing programs have collaborated for several years to develop and use simulation to teach students about the importance of inter-professional co-operation in providing quality health care.

"It was heartwarming to see the community come together to support Thompson Rivers University," said Rani Srivastava, dean of the School of Nursing. *"I am filled with gratitude that so many people raised their paddle to support us."*



Foundation Breakfast spotlights School of Business and Economics

Scholarships and bursaries change the lives of students who have the potential to do great things. Helping these students so they can create a better world is the goal of the annual TRU Foundation Breakfast.

The 2019 Breakfast, held Nov. 7, featured the School of Business and Economics (SoBE) and the people who support that department. RBC Royal Bank sponsored the event and two students from SoBE shared their stories.

Those students were Haley Coss from the Bachelor of Business Administration accounting program, who won the KPMG Student Scholars to Business Scholarship (\$5,000) and Hemisha Sanghvi, a post-baccalaureate finance student who received the RBC Student Scholars to Business Scholarship (\$5,000). Both students were awarded for their top academic standing and are also granted employment opportunities as part of their scholarships.



Photo, far left: RBC Royal Bank representatives Sean Kehler, Dawn Desjardins, Dave Maurer

Photo, left: Dr. Stella Black, TRU Foundation Breakfast Committee Chair

Day of Giving exceeds goal

On the heels of the Foundation Breakfast, Day of Giving 2019 raised \$61,700 for scholarships and bursaries on Nov. 7 and 8. That total includes \$25,000 from long-time TRU donors Roland and Anne Neave.

This year's goal was to raise \$36,000 in 36 hours for student support during the third annual Day of Giving. The Neaves pledged to match every dollar given, up to \$25,000.

Roland and Anne Neave fund 12 scholarships and bursaries every year. Awards like theirs make university more affordable. Last year, 1,030 TRU students received more than \$1.5 million total in donor-funded awards—an average of \$1,532 per student.

Day of Giving supported TRU's Limitless Campaign to raise \$50 million by the end of 2020.

"I know students struggle nowadays to get through the school year while worrying about their finances," Roland Neave said. "It's better that some students can be helped with a scholarship or bursary."





What donors said:

“As both an alumna and faculty member whose daughter has benefited from several TRU scholarship and bursaries, I feel it is very important to pay it forward!”

—Christine Petersen

“I am a proud TRU alumnus from the academic years ‘88-‘89 and ‘89-‘90. TRU prepared me well for moving on to UBC and to other interesting things in my career. I’ve been so impressed with the growth of TRU over the years. Go TRU!”

—Troy Sarich

“I was the recipient of a couple of bursaries while I was a student, which greatly helped lessen the burden of student loans. Everyone should have the right to an education regardless of financial ability.”

—Anonymous

“My daughter and youngest brother both received financial awards while attending TRU. My daughter is now a senior lecturer in the School of Business and Economics. It is so rewarding to know that you are helping a student achieve their goal and hopefully taking a little stress away.”

—Sandra Dever



SAVE THE DATE
Day of Giving 2020
November 5–6

Help us raise \$36,000 in 36 hours!

Donations of all sizes make an impact.
Watch tru.ca/dayofgiving for more information. Thank you for your support!



Generosity that is taking us to new heights

Highlighting some of this year's gifts

Retired geologist gives \$300,000 to upgrade geology lab

A \$300,000 gift from retired geologist Nels Vollo will give new life to TRU's geology lab. The donation will allow TRU to upgrade 1980s-era lab space amid efforts to develop a full degree program in geoscience. Vollo's donation will improve technology in the geology lab, particularly for introductory courses.

"What we're aiming to do is bring the geology lab into the 21st century with the kind of technology that didn't exist when the program was established," said Dean of Science Tom Dickinson. "Equipment will be fundamental in taking geology beyond the first two years and ensuring we can be positioned to develop a four-year Bachelor of Science in Geoscience."

Donor gives \$250,000 for single-parent law students

Lawyer and long-time TRU supporter Frank Quinn provided TRU with \$250,000 for new bursaries benefiting single parents studying law. The Norma Quinn Memorial Law Bursary will be awarded to the same two students over three consecutive years, to help them complete their education. In other words, two ongoing bursaries of up to \$5,000 each that follow single-parent students through all three years of law school.

"The meaning of the award is to honour my mother who was a very, very smart lady but never had an opportunity to get an education," Quinn said.



Generosity that is taking us to new heights

Scholarship honours legacy of Chinese-Canadian soldier

The legacy of Chinese-Canadian soldier Frederick Lee will be memorialized through a scholarship at TRU in recognition of his life and character. The Jack and Sylvia Gin Foundation pledged \$20,000 to create the Private Frederick Lee Scholarship in honour of Lee, who was killed in action as one of 300 Chinese Canadians who served in the First World War. Two scholarships of \$1,000 will be awarded annually to a student entering their first year of study in any field, with preference given to those who have demonstrated involvement in Kamloops or another community.



Abbott Wealth Management kick-starts WolfPack 50 with \$50,000 donation to athletics

Abbott Wealth Management donated \$50,000 in matching funds to the WolfPack 50 campaign, which is funding more scholarships and bursaries for student-athletes. The donation will benefit all WolfPack teams: U SPORTS affiliated programs, and club programs.

"We know the burden student-athletes carry," said Mark Bertoli, partner and investment advisor of Abbott Wealth Management Inc. "With so many hours dedicated to their studies, let alone practices, training, and game responsibilities, it makes it very difficult to pick up part-time work while in school. We believe this donation, which has a community matching component, will help many students, and that is important to us."



2019/20 DONORS

Thank you to these donors who have made contributions this past fiscal year (April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020)

Pacesetters \$100,000—\$499,999.99

Frank & Cathy Quinn
Law Foundation of BC
Nels Vollo
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Contributors \$5,000—\$9,999.99

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	Johnson Controls		
	Jon Shephard		

All efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If an error or omission has occurred, please call the Foundation office at 250-828-5264.

Generosity that is taking us to new heights



Highlighting some of this year's gifts

Nursing faculty create award for students interested in working with refugees

Nursing students interested in the care of refugees now have an opportunity to receive financial aid through a new award established by two faculty members. Retired faculty member Penelope Heaslip and current faculty member and TRU alum Wendy McKenzie established an endowment that will fund an annual award for a third- or fourth-year nursing student who has demonstrated a commitment to the care of refugees, immigrants and vulnerable populations—especially women and children. Both Heaslip and

McKenzie have travelled to foreign countries with students for global health field courses. The Wendy McKenzie and Penelope Heaslip Nursing Award was presented for the first time in Fall 2019.

"There's an opportunity for students who may never go global, but can act local and get involved in community organizations or a nursing project where they are supporting refugees, immigrants, women and vulnerable children," Heaslip said.

Tourism Kamloops funds Tourism Innovation Lab with \$50,000 donation

Tourism Kamloops announced at the 4th Annual BOLD Hospitality Awards a \$50,000 donation to fund hands-on learning opportunities for students at TRU. The \$50,000 donation goes toward the Tourism Innovation Lab founded by Tourism Kamloops, a collaboration with the Kamloops Innovation Centre (KIC) and the department of Tourism Management. This funding gives students the opportunity to take ideas developed in class and, when successfully pitched, incubate and accelerate in partnership with KIC to transform them into new tourism businesses.

"Our partnership with TRU and KIC and investment in our students is a dedicated effort directly supporting the future of Kamloops as a robust tourism destination," said Beverley DeSantis, Tourism Kamloops chief executive officer.



Generosity that is taking us to new heights



Wiegele donation funds 14 new awards

The founder of Mike Wiegele Helicopter Skiing donated \$50,000 to fund 14 awards for students in the Faculty of Adventure, Culinary Arts and Tourism. This is also the 50th anniversary season of Wiegele’s legendary heli-ski operation in Blue River, BC. Wiegele continues to fuel the tourism economy by working with TRU to create new opportunities for students—especially those who call the North Thompson home.

“It’s important to reach younger generations and to make education available to those who will enhance the future of tourism. Now, we want the whole valley to benefit from what has been built here over the last 50 years,” Wiegele said.

Donation prepares students for hospital work

Thanks to an alumni connection, Peak Medical Group donated nine pulmonary-function stations to TRU’s respiratory therapy program. The stations are used to conduct respiratory testing to diagnose chronic lung conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (often known as COPD) or asthma. They allow respiratory therapists to measure how well a patient’s lungs take in and release air, how well they move gases into the body’s circulation and whether treatment will work. Purchasing the equipment new would have cost the university upwards of \$600,000.

“We rely heavily on donations from companies that usually have our graduates working for them—and that’s very helpful for us,” said RT program chair Mike Lemphers. “With the small amount of money that’s available for capital equipment, we just wouldn’t be able to do it.”



Windsor Plywood Foundation donates \$75,000 to School of Trades

A \$75,000 donation from the Windsor Plywood Foundation supplied TRU’s carpentry program with new, state-of-the-art equipment. Local Windsor Plywood Kamloops owners Bryan and Karie Ghering worked to have TRU receive a donation from the company’s foundation. The School of Trades and Technology was able to purchase a Grizzly 40-inch variable speed helical blade planer in addition to other equipment for the carpentry program.

“I had such a good experience at TRU. I loved it, every second I was there,” Ghering said. “After I graduated, I didn’t want that relationship to end. It was an amazing experience to have this come to fruition and I think it’s so great the Windsor Plywood Foundation is giving back.”



TRU Grit awards \$23,000 to students in Williams Lake



TRU Grit handed out more than \$20,000 in student awards at its annual celebration on Dec. 12, 2019. The ceremony brings together individuals, businesses and organizations who believe in the importance of learning and education—so much so, that they commit funds and volunteer hours to financially assist TRU Williams Lake students.

The annual awards ceremony recognized 14 students at the Williams Lake campus with awards, scholarships and bursaries.

Students in Williams Lake have benefitted greatly from the work of TRU Grit, an active group of volunteers who have fundraised since 2012 to support students and projects at the Williams Lake campus.



Graduate awards fuel stronger master's programs at TRU

Dr. Sherman Jen Graduate Awards

Four exceptional grad students were recognized for their outstanding academic achievement, receiving the 2019 Dr. Sherman Jen Graduate Awards.

The awards are available to graduate students in their first year of a full-time, on campus program, and were awarded based on academic achievement in course work and research, taking leadership activities into consideration. The awards are valued at \$6,000 each.

"I feel so fortunate to have received the award," said Kristi Gordon, a Master of Science in Environmental Science (MScES) student. "I can now focus fully on my research without the added pressures of tuition and fees. It's really a dream come true!"

"This sort of funding makes an incredible difference in my ability to pursue graduate studies," said recipient Fauve Garson, also an MScES student. "As a child of an only parent, tuition support means the world. Now I can move forward in my education with substantially less stress."

"We are so grateful to our donors, as these awards enable TRU to provide invaluable supports to our graduate students, and build strong graduate programs," said Troy Fuller, Director of Research and Graduate Studies.

In 2017, Dr. Sherman Jen of Maple Leaf Educational Systems gave TRU a personal donation of \$5 million, making it the largest individual private donation in the university's history.

Ken Lepin Graduate Student Awards

Eight exceptional TRU graduate students were recognized in the fall, each receiving \$6,000 Ken Lepin Graduate Student Awards during an Oct. 17 ceremony. This marked an investment of \$48,000 in graduate education.

The Kamloops philanthropist also presented three Business Excellence Entrepreneur and Communication MBA Awards valued at \$3,500 each.

This is the sixth year the awards have been offered, for a total investment of more than \$250,000 in TRU's graduate students. The Ken Lepin Graduate Student Awards are available to domestic students entering their first or second year of a full-time graduate program, and are given on the basis of outstanding academic achievement in course work, research, and leadership activities. Students who are originally from Kamloops and who completed their undergraduate studies at TRU are prioritized.

The awards have an immediate impact on the lives of the students who receive them.

"As a mother of two children, and as a registered nurse completing my masters, life is very busy. I appreciate this prestigious Ken Lepin Award, which supports my learning journey, academic growth, plus school and work-life balance. This award makes my Master of Nursing studies productive and enriching," said recipient Angela Achoba-Omajali.

"I am humbled to be a recipient of the Ken Lepin Research and Graduate Studies Award. This award will make it possible for me to continue my research in A/R/Tography and will allow me to further examine concepts of power, privilege, and inclusion," said Master of Education student Sultan Sandur.





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