

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Northern Nursing Research Day celebrates Aurora College students

YELLOWKNIFE, NT – Aurora College Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students and faculty celebrated and shared their knowledge at the annual Northern Nursing Research Day, held on November 30. The School of Health and Human Services Research Day is an opportunity to showcase and honour scholarship and academic work of students, faculty and invited scholars, and to celebrate student success.

This year, the event was hosted by Aurora College and Hoti ts'eeda. A total of 23 posters were featured – 19 literature review researches from fourth-year BSN students and four research projects led by the faculty.

Guest speakers shared information about cultural safety and safe nursing practice, as well as how to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in health research and services in the North.

The theme of this year's Research Day was "Clinical Safety in our Northern Context" and was divided into three broad areas: Moving Towards Health Equity; Supporting Nursing Education & Workforce; and Clinical Innovations for Nursing Practice. The topics chosen for the research posters and the unique approaches taken by the students underscore the importance of developing and applying research that is for the North, by the North and with the North, to improve the quality of care and to prioritize decolonizing approaches to advance nursing knowledge.

Three awards were presented to students at the event:

Creativity Award – Angela Roy for *Managed Alcohol Programs: MAP-ping Out the NWT's Response to Alcohol Use Disorders in Homeless Populations*;

Scientific Rigour Award – Brook Dwyer for *Colorectal Cancer in Indigenous Peoples: A Call to Action*; and

People's Choice Award - Obiageri Zita Korie for *Why Are Nurses Leaving: Could Stanton Become a Magnet Hospital?*

The research projects are the culmination of the fourth-year students' Nursing Research course. The intent of the course is to increase understanding of nursing scholarship and enhance the students' ability to comprehend, critique and utilize nursing research. To create the final product, students developed a research question, search and collected literature and evidence, appraised the evidence, organized their findings, and then created recommendations for the clinical, research, education, and/or policy level, applicable to a northern context.

Students were also invited by Hoti ts'eeda to display their research posters again for the Dene Nation during their leadership meetings on December 14. Check out their research posters [here](#).

Quotes:

"Colorectal cancer is the second most common cancer to cause mortality in Indigenous Peoples and is under reported in Indigenous Peoples in the North. It is important to collect this data to find ways to reduce these incidences. Northern research is imperative to reduce the current inequities and disparities amongst this population."

- Brooke Dwyer, Bachelor of Science in Nursing student, recipient of Scientific Rigour Award

"Northern-based research is key for inclusivity and cultural safety as it relates to Indigenous communities. The variations in the territory's population (ethnicity, culture, age, geography) require special consideration to ensure any interventions are suitable; the rurality of the NWT makes it difficult to generalize and apply findings from other studies; and Indigenous Peoples deserve recognition in the research domain if findings are to be applied to them."

- Angela Roy, Bachelor of Science in Nursing Student, recipient of Creativity Award

"My research focused on Magnet Hospitals and their ability to attract high-quality health professionals, improve patient outcomes and retain hired nurses. Magnet hospitals create structures that involve nurses in decision-making, policies and research – ensuring that nurses have all the resources to do their jobs. The current rate of nurses leaving bedside care globally and in the NWT threatens the health care system, patient safety, quality of patient care and nurse retention."

- Obiageri Zita Korie, Bachelor of Science in Nursing student, recipient of Peoples' Choice Award

****Photos included in email***

Aurora College delivers academic upgrading, trades and industrial training, certificate, diploma and degree programs to more than 3,000 full and part-time students at three campuses, 21 Community Learning Centres and other community sites in the Northwest Territories. Community-centred post-secondary programs reflect Northern culture and the needs of the Northern labour market. Aurora College's research division, Aurora Research Institute, conducts, supports, and licenses research in the NWT. Research centres are located in Inuvik, Yellowknife and Fort Smith.

For more information, please contact:

Jayne Murray
Manager, Communications & College Relations
Aurora College
Phone: 867-872-7021
Email: jmurray@auroracollege.nt.ca