

November 23, 2020

Dear Sponsor of The Delaney Scholarship,

Thank you for awarding me with such a significant opportunity for my education. I am beyond excited to be receiving financial support for my path as a visual artist. This assistance will help me to cover my tuition and living costs in Toronto. I am currently in my first year at OCAD University for my Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in the Indigenous Visual Culture program.

I am proud to be Nehiyaw (Plains Cree) from Thunderchild First Nation in Saskatchewan, which is where my relatives from my mother's side resides. Before the pandemic, I worked as a frontline On-Call support worker at DFC high school for Indigenous youth in Thunder Bay, Ontario. My line of work involved connecting with students and providing transportation whenever needed.

Previously, I accepted an offer in 2014 to play NCAA DIII women's hockey at SUNY Potsdam in upstate New York. I also committed to another season with the UW-Eau Claire Blugolds in 2015, relocating to Wisconsin. I retired my hockey career after one and a half seasons in the NCAA and took some time off from school to focus on my mental health. While I am grateful for those experiences, changing my direction away from hockey has inspired me to start exploring other activities and hobbies. With a renewed love for visual art, I have found healing in creating and am so delighted to embark on a new chapter in my journey.

In the future, I would like to be a mentor for other youth and to encourage healing through art for both individuals and communities. If we can each focus on helping individuals, I think that these small actions will collectively make a difference and help to improve our systems.

Thank you so much for your support and for believing in me.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brianna Fiddler', with a stylized, overlapping flourish at the end.

Brianna Fiddler