

October 2, 2022

Dear Koulikkwa Legacy Award committee,

I would like to thank you so much for selecting me to be a recipient for the Koulikkwa Legacy Award received from Indspire, to help fund my second year at Native Education College, where I am studying to become an Indigenous Family and Community Counsellor and support worker.

I am truly blessed to have been one of the recipients of this generous award and I am grateful for your contribution to my education. Having returned to school this Fall 2022, to obtain my diploma, this bursary will be an immense help to relieve some of the financial burden that comes with studying and not having an income.

I am originally from Williams Lake BC, Esk'etemic Nation at Alkali Lake reserve. I have returned to Native Education College for my second year to pursue my education as an Indigenous Family and Community Counsellor. I have always been a very caring and nurturing person, I returned to school later in life, in my forties, as I had spent my earlier years raising my son and being my mother's full-time care aid. Sadly, after my mom passed away in 2019, I knew I had time to give back to our relations. I researched many programs at various colleges, and when I found Native Education College, (NEC), I felt having cultural teachings would be imperative to my learning this new role. I have never felt so blessed to have found my identity, a sense of belonging and to be taught our Indigenous traditional and cultural teachings. I plan to continue learning throughout this next year in school, to share my lessons and new skills to help others in my Esk'etemic community after I graduate.

Being a recipient of the Koulikkwa Legacy award is an honor, and I raise my hands to you all for gifting this award and for helping Indigenous students pursue their education to grow and learn! Thank you so much.

Kukwstsetsemc, (Thank you)

All my Relations,

Sherri Marino.

