



Ryerson Faculty Association Student Awards

2019-20 Impact Report



About the Awards

Thank you, for your profound investment in the young people who are so deserving of a Ryerson education. Because of your generosity, we are providing greater access to high quality education that is focused on inclusivity and problem-solving.

The Ryerson Faculty Association Scholarships support promising students in need. Awards like this provide much deserved acknowledgement, inspiration and financial support.

We are pleased to update you on the 2019-20 recipients of the Ryerson Faculty Association Scholarships.



Award Recipients

RFA Indigenous Award

Emma Bilodeau
Midwifery, 2021
Faculty of Community Services

Levi Marshall
Film Studies, 2020
Faculty of Communication and Design

RFA Full-time Student Award

Samantha Howden
Social Work, 2021
Faculty of Community Services

Levi Marshall
Film Studies, 2020
Faculty of Communication and Design

RFA Part-time Student Award

Rabiah Choksi
History, 2020
Faculty of Arts

Radcha Mestoewa
Entrepreneurship, 2020
Ted Rogers School of Management



“I am extremely grateful to have been granted this award.”

Emma Bilodeau

Midwifery, 2021

Faculty of Community Services

Recipient of the RFA Indigenous Student Award

My name is Emma Bilodeau and I am Mohawk from Six Nations but I grew up in London, Ontario.

I am currently in my third year of the Midwifery Education Program. I chose Ryerson because of its commitment to social justice and equity, which is a significant part of midwifery. I decided to pursue an education in midwifery because I am passionate about giving back, and helping other people.

I would like to say a very sincere thank you to the Ryerson Faculty Association for creating this award for Aboriginal students like me. The Midwifery program poses unique financial challenges as it requires students to own a vehicle, and students are not able to work while in placements. This award has made a significant impact in my ability to continue studying something that I am very passionate about.



Samantha Howden

Social Work, 2021

Faculty of Community Services

Recipient of the RFA Full-Time Student Award

Samantha Howden is in her third year of the Bachelor of Social Work program at Ryerson, having chosen this program for its focus on anti-oppressive practice. Her major areas of study emphasize both policy-making and human rights.

Samantha was one of the student co-chairs for the 2019 Canadian Association for Social Work Education Vancouver conference and has been an active member of Ryerson's Social Work Student Union from 2017-2019, serving as a first year student representative and treasurer.

Samantha plans to pursue her Masters in Social Work within the policy-making field and is thankful for the Ryerson Faculty Association Award, which continues to inspire her to help others and to give back to her community.



“I am thankful to finish my studies with a lot less stress and financial strain than I would have felt otherwise. I promise that your investment into the future leaders of our country, and in me, will not be taken for granted. Wela'lin, Thank you.”

Levi Marshall

Film Studies, 2020

Faculty of Communication and Design

Recipient of the RFA Indigenous Student Award and the Full-time Student Award

Kwe’/Hello, my name is Levi Marshall and I am a Mi’kmaq student in the Film Studies program, working towards a minor in Business Essentials and Public Relations.

I was born and raised in Membertou, First Nation, located in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, also known as Unama’ki. I have had a strong connection to my culture, as well as a passion for filmmaking, from a young age.

Today, I strive to connect to my community as often as I can, and with my education in Film Studies, I have had the opportunity to work with my people and use my videography skills towards my passion for community involvement and advancing my profession.

Two years ago, I began an initiative called The Preservation Project, which is a virtual library featuring interviews with community leaders, elders, and youth on a wide range of Indigenous topics.

I have produced videos on the significance of the smudging ceremony, herbal medicines, arts and crafts, and video biographies on jingle-dress, fancy shawl, traditional, and grass-dancers.

I have also had the opportunity to work at TD Securities on a media and communications team for two years and have served as a writer for several episodes on a children's television series on the Aboriginal People's Television Network.

I plan on continuing my community involvement, particularly on my reserve, whether it is creating videos to preserve the Mi'kmaq culture, or teaching youth the videography skills that I have learned while at school.

Professionally, I plan on building on to my foundation of Business education, perhaps to study Marketing or Real-Estate in Grad School, where I can take the skills that I have learned and apply them to these fields.

“I would like to thank you for your generosity and kindness for offering Ryerson students, before me and after me, the opportunity of receiving this award. ”



Radha Mestoewa

Business Management, 2020

Ted Rogers School of Management

Recipient of the RFA Part-Time Student Award

Radha is an artist and entrepreneur, studying Entrepreneurship and Strategy at Ryerson's Ted Rogers School of Management. Initially, she picked Ryerson University because of its diversity and because of the creativity she saw in its graduates. Ryerson is also one of the leading entrepreneurship schools in Canada, which is another reason she is proud to be studying here.

Outside of Ryerson, Radha is involved in many programs, workshops, and extra-curricular activities throughout Toronto, ranging from public speaking for Eva's Initiatives fundraising events, leading a peer mentorship group, fashion, business, photography, DJing, music, performing arts, bike building programs, as well as engaging in fencing, karate, and Muay Thai.

Currently, Radha is also pursuing her own artist career as an actor, singer, writer, and operating a small business that sells eco-friendly leather backpacks, called Royal & Rich.

Most importantly, Radha is trying to find an avenue to share her past experiences and her story which has helped her get to the place where she is, to inspire and lead change.

To students like Radha, this award is more than just financial help: it is a reminder that hard work and dedication are noticed and rewarded.



Thank You for choosing Ryerson

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