



# Board of Trustees' **Recognition of Staff Academic Achievement**

May 30, 2024



Rocky View Schools (RVS) promotes life-long learning for our students and our staff. This continual growth helps create a world-class learning organization where all students achieve their absolute best.

The Board of Trustees is proud to recognize the accomplishments of 33 staff members who not only exemplify RVS' vision that we are all learners, but who also demonstrate leadership in learning.

### **Omolola Alawiye**

Child Development Advisor, W.H. Croxford High School

**Bachelor of Education – University of Calgary**

*"Omolola has brought energy and joy to her role as a CDA for five years at W.H. Croxford. Previously, she excelled in roles at Windsong Heights School and Chestermere High School. She has had a massive impact on students in our school in the role of CDA and we are excited for her to start a new journey in teaching! Congratulations Omolola!"*

Derek Keenan, Principal

### **Breanna Baxter**

Teacher, Prairie Waters Elementary School

**Master of Education – University of Calgary**

*"Breanna is a highly engaged, professional and enthusiastic educator. As a teacher, she is dedicated to the learning and development of her students. As a PYP coordinator, she is passionate about curriculum development and instruction. And as a leader, she focuses on ensuring all staff are supported and given the tools they need to be the best they can be."*

Michelle Doz, Principal

### **Shali Baziuk**

Trustee, Education Centre

**Trustee Governance Program Certificate – University of Calgary**

*"Shali's dedication to her role as trustee inspires us all. Her innovative perspective and insightful discourse contribute significantly to the work of the Board, while her commitment to educational excellence is unwavering. Shali's dedication to advocating for student success sets a remarkable standard. Congratulations Shali!"*

Fiona Gilbert, Board Chair

### **Melyssa Bowen**

Trustee, Education Centre

**Trustee Governance Program Certificate – University of Calgary**

*"Melyssa's passion for learning and natural curiosity come to life as she undertakes new opportunities to expand her professional knowledge and master the practice of leadership and governance. Melyssa is not afraid to ask tough questions, and her commitment to excellence and meaningful contributions to advance the work of the Board sets a high standard for others to follow. Congratulations Melyssa!"*

Fiona Gilbert, Board Chair

### **Jo–El Buerlen**

Administrative Assistant III, Education Centre

**Advanced Administrative Certificate – Mount Royal University**

*"Jo-El eagerly brings her new learning to her work each day. She shares her enthusiasm for learning with her colleagues and strives to use her learning to improve and elevate practices. Her positivity and commitment to lifelong learning will continue to serve her well within and beyond her work at RVS."*

Sherri Black, Director of Learning Supports

### **Nicole Couillard**

Teacher, Glenbow Elementary School

**Master of Arts: Counselling Psychology – Yorkville University**

*"Nicole has worked hard to pursue this degree while continuing to do an excellent job as a classroom and literacy teacher. Nicole is passionate about student success and works to ensure all students are supported, cared for and successful. Congratulations Nicole!"*

Jason Billings, Principal

## **Jim Cove**

Teacher, Sarah Thompson School

**Master of Education: Educational Studies – University of Alberta**

*“Jim has been an excellent teacher for many years at Sarah Thompson School. His pursuit of professional improvement is intentional and ongoing. He is always looking to grow his practise to better serve his students. Jim is an instrumental leader in building a positive culture at our school and he has successfully led several initiatives that have resulted in a more inclusive space for all learners.”*

Ryan Siemens, Principal

## **Vicky Coverdale**

Teacher, Cochrane Christian Academy

**Master of Education – University of Calgary**

*“Vicky is a collaborative team player, actively contributing to the leadership team of educators at CCA. She prioritizes building strong relationships with her students and fosters a supportive and inclusive learning environment. Completing her degree deepened her empathy for the challenges learners face. Her new learning will help her foster perseverance in her students by emphasizing continuous reflection, which strengthens their journey toward success and personal growth.”*

Allan Elkin, Principal

## **Trish Cull**

Divisional Supervisor of Learning Supports, Education Centre

**Master of Education – University of Calgary**

*“Trish’s passion for student-centered inclusive education has been enhanced by her new learning. Her thoughtful, steady commitment to her work, through the lens of an educational leader, has benefited every member of the Learning Supports leadership team, as well as everyone she works with and serves. Trish’s dedication to excellence and lifelong learning will continue to serve her well as she continues her work advocating for children, youth and families.”*

Sherri Black, Director of Learning Supports

## **Rahna Dad Mohammad**

Teacher, Chestermere High School

**Graduate Diploma: Inclusive Education – University of Calgary**

*“Rahna’s achievements exemplify her dedication to advancing inclusive education. Throughout her studies, she demonstrated an exceptional ability to blend theoretical knowledge with practical application, focusing on creating inclusive Kindergarten – Grade 12 environments. Rhana is committed to supporting diversity and understanding learner needs; this has enabled her to craft informed educational practices and policies. Her work is characterized by critical analysis and collaborative efforts, and addresses complex educational challenges, promoting high expectations and reducing barriers for all learners.”*

Aaron Hiebert, Assistant Principal

## **Chloe De Bokx**

Transportation Coordinator, Education Centre

**Administrative Assistant Certificate – Bow Valley College**

*“Chloe solidified her role with Transportation by completing her Administrative Assistant Certificate in 2023. Demonstrating impeccable organizational skills, she vaulted quickly from Transportation’s Administrative Assistant II to her current role. She has used those exceptional organizational skills and administrative knowledge into a model of customer service excellence.”*

Morley Kostecky, Senior Manager of Transportation

## **Whitney Edworthy**

Teacher, RancheView School

**Master of Counselling Psychology – Yorkville University**

*“Whitney is a wonderful teacher who cares deeply about all students. She applies her understanding of school counselling to help support students both in and out of the classroom. Whitney provides a safe and caring environment where students are able to be their best selves.”*

Lynette LePan-Smith, Principal

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## **Adrienne Fossheim**

Teacher, Bow Valley High School

**Graduate Certificate: Master of Education – University of Calgary**

*"Adrienne is a caring and passionate educator. She brings energy and love to our school, and cares deeply for students and staff. Adrienne creates an amazing drama and performing experience for students each and every year. Bow Valley staff are so proud of Adrienne!"*

Shane Dempster, Principal

## **Gerry Gaudet**

Principal, Elizabeth Barrett Elementary School

**Certificate in Human Resources Management – University of Calgary**

*"Gerry began his certification in Human Resource Management in August 2021. He demonstrates a keen interest in Human Resources and strives to integrate his learning in his day-to-day work at his school. He genuinely strives to ensure his people are cared for and supported. Congratulations Gerry!"*

Sandy McDuffe, Area Director

## **Fiona Gilbert**

Board Chair, Education Centre

**Trustee Governance Program Certificate – University of Calgary**

*"Congratulations to our esteemed Board Chair! Fiona's unwavering commitment to excellence has been truly remarkable and benefits us all. Leadership in today's uncertain and changing world requires tenacity, intelligence and grit. Her dedication and commitment to Rocky View Schools and its staff and students is an inspiration to us all! Well done, Fiona."*

Judi Hunter, Vice Chair

## **Tiffany Harris**

Teacher, École Edwards Elementary School

**Master of Education – University of Victoria**

*"Tiffany's completion of her degree is an example of her commitment to lifelong learning. With over a decade of teaching experience, she infuses her classes with enthusiasm, making learning a joyous journey for her students."*

Rachelle Prud'Homme, Principal

## **Trista Harrison**

Learning Support Specialist, Education Centre

**Diploma: Education of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students – York University**

*"Trista's passion and enthusiasm for her work with all students – particularly those who are deaf – is felt by all who have the privilege of working with her. Trista's perseverance and dedication to the students, families and colleagues she serves is further enhanced by her new learning, which will continue to serve her well and will benefit and increase quality of life for those she works with."*

Sherri Black, Director of Learning Supports

## **Shelley Kinley**

Trustee, Education Centre

**Trustee Governance Program Certificate – University of Calgary**

*"Always a learner, Shelley is committed to expanding her professional knowledge of effective governance in her role as a school board trustee. Always a teacher, she shares this new knowledge and understanding with her colleagues, making invaluable contributions in support of student, staff and organizational success. Well done Shelley!"*

Fiona Gilbert, Board Chair

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## **Jillian Knoblauch**

Learning Support Specialist, Education Centre

**Master of Education – University of Calgary**

*“Jillian’s enthusiasm and passion is evident in her work as a learning support specialist. Her advocacy for children and youth and her support of colleagues has been enhanced by her new learning and the ever-growing experiences she shares in her day-to-day work. Jillian’s dedication to lifelong learning and sharing that learning within her work will continue to serve her well as she continues her journey in education and beyond.”*

Sherri Black, Director of Learning Supports

## **Lindsay Leptich**

Teacher, Elbow Valley Elementary School

**Master of Education: Curriculum and Pedagogy –  
St. Francis Xavier University**

*“Lindsay is eager to bring her new learning to her classroom and share with her colleagues. Her enthusiasm for working with curriculum and understanding the scope and sequence, while supporting others is an incredible asset to Elbow Valley. Her dedication to education and lifelong learning will continue to serve our community and her students. She is an exceptional educator with a deep understanding of curriculum. Congrats Lindsay! We couldn’t be happier for you.”*

Alanna Berger, Assistant Principal

## **Carolynn Martin**

Learning Assistant, Cooper’s Crossing School

**Bachelor of Education – University of Calgary**

*“Carolynn has been a learning assistant at Cooper’s Crossing since 2016. In the past few years, as well as working full time and supporting a busy family, she has pursued her Bachelor of Education. Carolynn is always effervescent, positive, and contributes her energy and love for learning to the work she does in our school with all students and staff she encounters. We are so proud of Carolynn’s accomplishment and know she will excel in her new role as a teacher.”*

Diana Logan, Principal

## **Denice McKinnon**

Benefits Administrator – Education Centre

**Certificate: Psychological Health & Safety in the Workplace –  
University of Fredericton**

*“Denice’s latest academic achievement signifies yet another milestone in a distinguished career with RVS that has spanned almost two decades. Her certificate in psychological health and safety has paved her way to a third successful RVS career change as a benefits administrator.”*

Morley Kostecky, Senior Manager of Transportation

**Certificate: Fundamentals in Group Benefits –  
International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans**

*“Denice started her education in group benefit plans prior to becoming a benefits administrator – a true testament to her passion for benefits. This certification builds on her knowledge of benefits and expertise. She supports RVS’ employee benefit needs through all life events with empathy and exemplary customer service. She consistently demonstrates her ability to ensure our benefit remittances are reconciled and accurate.”*

Melanie Watt, Manager of Payroll

## **Jody Moore**

Assistant Principal, Windsong Heights School

**Superintendent Leadership Certificate – University of Calgary**

*“In the fall, Jody completed the Superintendent Leadership Certificate program. She has been an instrumental leader at Windsong Heights in her time at the school. Her dedication to student and staff learning through her leadership and exemplary practice is remarkable in all areas, particularly in literacy. Jody cares deeply about each and every student she comes into contact with, always going above and beyond what is expected to ensure their success. This achievement is evidence of her commitment to learning, both for herself and across our system.”*

Scott Woodward, Principal

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## **Brian Morgotch**

Learning Support Teacher, Bow Valley High School

**Master of Counselling – University of Lethbridge**

*“Brian is a kind and caring professional with experience in many areas that make him a strong staff member. His experience in middle school and now high school gives him a great vision of student development and a unique lens for school improvement. Bow Valley is so proud of Brian for this amazing accomplishment.”*

Shane Dempster, Principal

## **Caitlyn Pezderic**

Learning Support Teacher, RancheView School

**Master of Education: Interdisciplinary Studies – University of Calgary**

*“Caitlyn is an amazing teacher and leader. She meets students where they are in their academic, social and emotional journey. Caitlyn uses the knowledge she has gained in her degree to help support teachers, learning assistants and families. She creates a kind and safe learning environment for all to flourish.”*

Lynette LePan-Smith, Principal

## **Adam Pratt**

Teacher, Heloise Lorimer School

**Master of Education: Elementary Education, Curriculum and Pedagogy – University of Alberta**

*“Adam is a dedicated wellness champion who is driven by a desire to continue to learn and grow as an educator. His recent learning will be used to better his pedagogy in all things physical education, health and wellness, as well as to pursue leadership opportunities in RVS in the near future. Congratulations on your accomplishment!”*

Terry Lewis, Principal

## **Jennifer Raitz**

Learning Support Specialist, Education Centre

**Master of Education - University of Calgary**

*“Jennifer completed a Master of Education in Educational Research, with specialization in fostering transformative change in education, blending Universal Design for Learning with a focus on children’s mental health. Her research focused on how effective school leaders empower challenging change through school-wide frameworks. Her advocacy for children, youth and for supporting colleagues has been further enhanced by her new learning and the ever-growing experiences she brings and shares in her day-to-day work. Jen’s dedication to lifelong learning and sharing that learning in her work will continue to serve her, her colleagues and RVS well as she continues her journey within education and beyond.”*

Sherri Black, Director of Learning Supports

## **Kim Ridley**

Learning Specialist, Education Centre

**Master of Education: Interdisciplinary Studies – University of Calgary**

*“Kim exemplifies extraordinary leadership through her unwavering commitment, dedication and genuine care for our English as an Additional Language learners and their families. Her passion to make a meaningful difference resonates in every interaction, as she wholeheartedly supports students and fosters an inclusive environment. Kim’s thoughtful approach underscores her deep concern for people, extending her support to teachers, empowering them to better serve our students. Her profound care and dedication are the cornerstones of our community’s success. Her learning has helped deepen her overall commitment and dedication. She is an asset to the Learning Services team and to RVS in general.”*

Sharon Cronin, Director of Instructional Leadership

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## **Chelsey Schubert**

Learning Specialist, Education Centre

**Graduate Diploma: Educational Neuroscience – University of Calgary**

*“Chelsey is a beacon of creativity and innovation in education. Approachable and passionate, she constantly seeks fresh ways to captivate both students and teachers alike. Fondly describing herself as ‘nerdy,’ she delves into the intricacies of the brain, leveraging this fascination to craft dynamic learning experiences. Her exemplary leadership inspires and motivates colleagues to reach new heights, fostering a culture of enthusiasm and growth within our division. She continues to be an amazing leader in Learning Services and RVS!”*

Sharon Cronin, Director of Instructional Leadership

## **Shauna Simpson**

Learning Assistant, Cooper’s Crossing School

**Graduate Certificate in Education: Decolonizing and Indigenizing Teaching and Learning – Yorkville University**

*“Shauna is a champion of Indigenous learning and knowledge at Cooper’s Crossing School. She teaches staff and students many ways we can be thoughtful and intentional about decolonizing our practices and instruction. Most of all, Shauna is a champion for all students and helps to support the students she works closely with by being kind, caring, patient and honouring their unique skills and spirit. Well done, Shauna!”*

Diana Logan, Principal

## **Tiffany Speers**

Teacher, Rainbow Creek Elementary School

**Master of Education: Educational Leadership – Yorkville University**

*“Tiffany embraces the opportunity to bring her learning into practice. She is the acting administrator at the school and spearheads the PBIS Committee. She is an enthusiastic learner who shares her knowledge with staff. Tiffany’s love of learning and the teaching profession will continue to be an asset to RVS.”*

Tammy Rahn, Principal

## **Holly Srayko**

Teacher, Heloise Lorimer School

**Graduate Certificate in Educational Studies: Early Childhood Education – University of Alberta**

*“With unwavering commitment and passion for early childhood education, Holly has made a significant impact on our students’ learning journeys. Her positive influence continues to shape young minds and is noticeable to all who work with her. Holly’s commitment to the profession and her willingness to invest in her career growth will continue to open opportunities for leadership roles within the education system. Congratulations, Holly, on this well-deserved recognition!”*

Terry Lewis, Principal

## **Famya Virk**

Teacher, Windsong Heights School

**Master of Education: Interdisciplinary Studies – University of Calgary**

*“Famya is a valuable member of the Grade 8 teaching team at Windsong Heights. She provides a strong learning environment built first and foremost on care, compassion and respect for her students. Beyond her classroom, she is an integral member of our Wolf Pack through her work with our staff and community. Her graduate coursework specializing in mental health and wellbeing in schools is well suited for education at the middle school level. We are all very proud of Famya’s accomplishment and contribution to our school and RVS.”*

Scott Woodward, Principal

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