

Brittany Pickering – the 2016 Mary Donaldson Award of Merit Recipient

The Mary Donaldson Award of Merit was established in 1977 to recognize library support workers and the essential services that they perform in Saskatchewan libraries. The Mary Donaldson Award of Merit is an award given annually since 1977 to a graduating Library Technician student enrolled at a library education institution in Saskatchewan.

This year's recipient, Brittany Pickering, is completing her final year in the Library and Information Technology Diploma Program at Kelsey Campus of the SaskPolytechnic, Saskatoon. Brittany has maintained grades in good standing, has worked in a post-secondary library setting as a casual employee over the last two years and at the University of Saskatchewan as a research assistant and teaching assistant, has a Bachelor and Masters' degree in English, and has been involved in as a volunteer in various research projects..

Brittany says, "I have chosen a career in the library field because I enjoy the pursuit of knowledge and helping people with their research needs. I want to be able to help people find the kind of information they need and allow them to trust they are getting information of substance and authority. I have learned from taking the SaskPolytechnic Library and Information Technology program, I am in the right place and I have made the right decision for my career path."

Brittany has submitted an article explaining the impact of this award for her.

"I am so grateful to be this year's recipient of the Saskatchewan Library Association's Mary Donaldson Award of Merit. Receiving this award near the end of my studies is a nice form of recognition for the hard work and dedication that have made my studies a successful, meaningful endeavour. The award has been a helpful tool for promoting further success as I make the transition between being a full-time student, applying for jobs, and incorporating myself into the library workforce and community. As a student, the financial help this generous award has given me relieves some of the financial stress that often plagues students.

Further, I greatly appreciate the full conference privileges that come with the award, as they allowed me to attend my first SLA conference, and first library-focussed conference for that matter. My experience at the conference was informative and fun, so I will definitely be back in the future to experience more insightful speakers, passionate presenters, and all-around interesting people, who make me all-the-more excited about the career I have chosen! Thank you to the SLA for selecting me as the recipient for the generous Mary Donaldson Award

of Merit, and adding the icing to the cake as I exit my student days to enter the workforce.

I am looking forward to the future of my chosen field, and the life-long learning it promotes. I have greatly enjoyed my studies at Saskatchewan Polytechnic, and I am proud of all the skills I have gained and can now apply to my work environment. I will apply the same hard work and dedication that made my studies a success to my work, becoming one of the assets that make libraries so important and special to the patrons they serve.”