

## Excellence in Teaching and Learning (ETaL)

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The **Excellence in Teaching and Learning (ETaL)** program is a Career Development Certificate credentialed through the School of Extended Education at Red Deer Polytechnic. This program is currently offered internally to Red Deer Polytechnic faculty as a voluntary program and is taught by the faculty Learning Designers in the Centre for Teaching and Learning.

Grounded in the foundations of learner-centred teaching, evidence-based practice, and self-reflection, participants are able to incorporate and apply the work of the program to their current teaching. During the three years of the program, faculty meet in interprofessional groups to explore teaching and learning in post-secondary in Canada.

Capstone is a celebration of RDP faculty who are completing the Excellence in Teaching and Learning Certificate, where they showcase their accomplishments.

### Congratulations to the 2023 ETaL CERTIFICATE RECIPIENTS



**Jones Adjei, PhD**  
Creating a Culturally Responsive Classroom: A Literature Synthesis



**Heather Brandt, RPh, BScPharm**  
Pharmacy Technician Program Analysis of Non-Sterile Compounding Dosage Forms



**Natalie Ford, RN MN**  
Engagement and Brave Spaces in the Classroom: A Nursing Ethics Perspective

## THE 2023 RECOGNITION OF SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY AWARDS

In 2006, Red Deer Polytechnic (formerly Red Deer College) and the Faculty Association of Red Deer Polytechnic agreed to create an annual fund of \$10,000 to recognize significant scholarly undertakings by faculty members. Each year, a committee comprised of faculty members and administration calls for applications for the monetary awards to recognize exemplary scholarly work by RDP faculty from the previous calendar year. The Recognition of Scholarly Activity (RoSA) committee follows the guidelines set out by a task force that recommended the model presented by Ernest Boyer (1990). This model recognizes four distinct categories into which scholarly activities could be designated and then considered for recognition:

- Scholarship of Discovery
- Scholarship of Integration
- Scholarship of Application/Engagement
- Scholarship of Teaching

### CRITERIA

The applicant's scholarly activity must directly involve or grow out of the person's employment at Red Deer Polytechnic. While all scholarly activity is of value to the researcher and their teaching, the Recognition of Scholarly Activity program at Red Deer Polytechnic will reward scholarly activity that is disseminated. In determining which applicants will be recognized in each category, the Committee will appraise the scholarship by the extent to which it is:

- innovative and creative,
- original,
- influential,
- broadly disseminated



**Congratulations to the 2023**

**RECOGNITION OF SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY  
AWARD RECIPIENTS**



**DR. CHOON-LEE CHAI AND DR. JONES ADJEI** – *Scholarly work in partnership with the Central Alberta Immigrant Women’s Association supporting immigrant victims of domestic violence.*

**Dr. Jones Adjei** is a sociologist who specializes in social demography and population studies. Jones had his early to master’s level education in his native country of Ghana, West Africa. He completed his doctoral training in Ontario and a post-doctoral fellowship in British Columbia before joining Red Deer Polytechnic as a Sociology Instructor, where he teaches both introductory and senior level sociology courses. His current research interests include population health inequities and settlement experiences among recent immigrants to Canada. His research has been published in academic peer review journals such as the *Journal of Biosocial Science*, *Canadian Studies in Population*, and *Ethnicity and Health*.



**Dr. Choon-Lee Chai** teaches Sociology at Red Deer Polytechnic, with a focus on social inequality and race and ethnic relations. He regularly engages students in experiential learning through community-based research. He embraces visual pedagogy by incorporating visual methods, such as photo-elicitation, in his teaching. His current research interest revolves around issues of immigrant settlement and integration. He has in recent years completed community-based research funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and in partnership with local immigrant settlement service provider organizations. His work in research and teaching has been published in the *Journal of International Migration and Integration*, *Journal of Visual Literacy*, and *Canadian Ethnic Studies*.



**JASON FRIZZELL** – *Scholarly work that culminated in two art exhibitions, ‘And We Will Dream of El Dorado’ and ‘We’ll Build a Palace Upon the Ruins’*

Jason Frizzell is a long-time employee of Red Deer Polytechnic and is currently a full-time faculty member in the Animation and Visual Effects degree. Born in Edmonton, Jason has spent most of his life in Red Deer with short stays in Calgary where he received a BFA in 1996 and Victoria where he received his MFA in 1998. Jason’s main area of research is his personal studio practice. His work explores themes of isolation, transition, denial, and discovery within imaginary landscapes and environments depicting an undefined future state blending imagery of Dystopia, Industrial Revolutions, and Time Travel.



**DR. HEATHER MARCOVITCH** – *Scholarly work ‘White Magic, Black Humour: Ella D’Arcy’s Narrative Strategies, Cahiers victoriens et edouardiens’*

**Dr. Heather Marcovitch** teaches courses in Victorian Literature, literary theory, and children’s literature. She is the author of a book on Oscar Wilde and is completing a companion to Oscar Wilde’s works, to be published in 2025. In addition to Oscar Wilde, she researches the writers of the late Victorian period associated with the art and literary journal *The Yellow Book*, where she looks at the contributions made by diverse figures such as women, Jewish writers, and LGBT writers. She is currently the president of the Victorian Studies Association of Western Canada.



**KRISTEN GULBRANSEN** – *Scholarly work on “A Scoping Review of Interprofessional Care Models and Best Practice Guidelines for Pregnant Individuals who use Substances.”*

Kristen is a Nursing Instructor at RDP and has taught here for the past 19 years. She is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Manitoba, College of Nursing. She has 23 years of nursing experience working with birthing and postpartum persons and families. Her program of research focuses on pregnant persons who use substances. Along with being an educator she is passionate about research and positive policy development that addresses inequities and promotes access to healthcare resulting in improved outcomes for newborns and families.

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**DR. FOLAJINMI OLUWASINA** – *Scholarly work ‘Evaluating the Prevalence and Correlates of Major Depressive Disorder among Residents of Fort McMurray, Canada one year after a devastating flood.’*

Dr. Folajinmi Oluwasina has an extensive academic foundation in Public Health. He holds a bachelor’s degree in microbiology, a master’s degree in public health with a concentration in Epidemiology and Medical Statistics, and a Ph.D. in Public Health [Epidemiology]. Dr. Oluwasina is passionate about health innovations that increase access to high-quality mental health care, especially for African, Black, and Caribbean communities. He seeks to identify the pathways associated with a variety of stress-related health disorders, including psychosis, anxiety, suicide, depression, burnout, depersonalization, emotional exhaustion, and interpersonal disengagement. He aims to identify novel therapeutic mechanisms for treating these diseases through his research.

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**DR. CYRUS TAHERI** – *Scholarly work on the presence of MRSA in High Touch Objects in Washrooms on RDP’s Main Campus and your work looking at fungal communities associated with two tree species in the Red Deer area.*

Cyrus completed his Ph.D. in Applied Microbiology from the University of Saskatchewan, where he investigated microbial community dynamics using pyrosequencing and plate culture. In 2014, he received a postdoctoral research fellowship from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) to conduct microbial community research at Lethbridge Research and Development Centre.

His primary research interests are applied microbiology and microbial molecular ecology using different next generation sequencing technologies, qPCR, and Sanger sequencing. Dr. Taheri has led research projects as principal investigator, co-authored several peer-reviewed articles and one book chapter, and acted as a peer reviewer for several scientific journals. Since 2016, Cyrus has been a faculty member in the Donald School Business, Science, and Technology at RDP and teaches Microbiology, Introductory Cell Biology, and Molecular Cell Biology. He also has supervised undergraduate research projects in applied and environmental microbiology.

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## THANK YOU

Thank you to the 2022-2023 Recognition of Scholarly Activity (RoSA) Committee:  
Erin Lowe (Chair), Kasey Fulton, Brandi Ward, Natalie Ford, Ryan Butler, Robbie Halonen, Sharon Hamilton

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