



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NINE STUDENTS INVESTED INTO ORDER OF GABRIEL DUMONT

GDI NAMES RECIPIENTS OF THE 2023 ORDER OF GABRIEL DUMONT BRONZE MEDALS

(SASKATOON, SK)— The Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research (GDI) is proud to announce nine students will receive bronze medals and be invested into the Order of Gabriel Dumont for 2023.

The Order of Gabriel Dumont has been awarded since the 1980s, honouring individuals with gold and silver medals for their contributions to the Métis of Canada. In 2010, the bronze medal was introduced, which recognizes and honours outstanding GDI students and alumni. Since its inception, 54 students and alumni have been awarded the bronze medal.

“We are proud of the nine 2023 bronze medal inductees, as they strive for excellence, inside and outside of the classroom. They are recognized as outstanding students who are motivated to serve their communities, and show pride for their Métis heritage,” said Lisa Bird-Wilson, Executive Director.

The Order of Gabriel Dumont is one of the Métis Nation’s highest civilian honours. Medals are awarded annually by GDI to a small number of persons who have serviced the Métis of Canada with distinction. The Order is presented in the form of a medallion with a certificate signed by the officers of the Institute over the seal, which enrolls the recipient in the Order.

“The bronze medal awards offer a valuable opportunity to showcase students who go above and beyond, contributing to the overall excellence within the Institute,” said Tim Roussin, Chair of the GDI Board of Governors.

For more information about the Order of Gabriel Dumont Bronze Medal Awards, [please visit our website](#). Each recipient will be presented a bronze medal at their designated program’s awards ceremony. A list of recipients with citations is included below.

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For more information and media inquiries:

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About Gabriel Dumont Institute:

GDI is a Métis-owned post-secondary and cultural institution in Saskatchewan. Since 1980, GDI has prided itself as a conservator of Métis culture and history. Together with its subsidiaries; the Dumont Technical Institute, Gabriel Dumont College, GDI Training & Employment, GDI Culture & Heritage, and the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP), GDI provides Métis-specific education programs and services in 13 communities across the province. GDI is affiliated with the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN–S) and is governed by a 12-member Board of Governors plus a chair who is the MN–S Minister of Education.



RECIPIENT CITATIONS

THE ORDER OF GABRIEL DUMONT—Bronze

Leah McCallum

NSITEP Student, La Ronge, SK

Leah is a proud Métis woman from Pinehouse Lake, Saskatchewan. She is a third-year student at GDI's Northern Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NSITEP), working towards her Bachelor of Education degree with the University of Regina. Leah is a mother to four beautiful children and balances student life and motherhood seamlessly. She is a supportive classmate and goes above and beyond to help others around her. Leah spends a tremendous amount of time perfecting her teaching craft and finding ways to showcase culture. A notable accomplishment of Leah's was her Ribbon Skirt bulletin board that featured Cree words; this beautiful display featured the importance of culture and assisted in teaching her treaty unit to students in her classroom. Leah excels at curating specialized learning experiences and infuses the curriculum with Indigenous culture where she can. She is an excellent ambassador of NSITEP and has distinguished herself through perseverance, leadership, and cultural pride.



Randon Herman

DTI Student, La Loche, SK



Randon is an Adult Basic Education (ABE) Level Four student at the Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) campus in La Loche, graduating at the end of May 2023. Randon has been the author of his success, and has shown an incredible ability to persevere during his lifetime. After leaving school as a teenager and spending many years at home, Randon returned to school in September 2022. He quickly showed his aptitude for learning and love of knowledge. Randon is determined in the pursuit of his goal to complete a computer science degree. He is committed to his academic success, even enrolling in additional courses to meet the University of Regina's enrollment requirements. He finished his first semester with the highest overall marks in the class and has been conditionally accepted to the University of Regina's Computer Science Degree program. His success has been an inspiration to his peers, who look to him as a role model.



Christine (Krissy) Malboeuf
DTI Student, Île-à-la-Crosse, SK

Krissy is an ABE Level Three student at the DTI in Île-à-la-Crosse. Her tenacity and determination have served her well this past year. She encountered many obstacles during her time at DTI, but these obstacles have only reinforced her drive to succeed. Krissy is focused on completing her grade 12, with a long-term goal of becoming a culinary entrepreneur. Her strong Métis roots have played a key role in her cultural pride by being a role model and a leader within the classroom and community. She comes to class with a positive mindset and a great attitude. She works single-mindedly toward her goals and shares her cultural knowledge expressively. Krissy's passion and commitment to learning her Michif language and history shines through in everything she does. She gathers local medicines and sweetgrass and has strong ties to her culture. She is constantly looking for opportunities to learn and keep Métis traditions strong.



Ronalda Park
DTI Student, La Loche, SK



Ronalda is a leader, mother, storyteller, and proud Dene woman. She is an ABE Level Four student at the DTI campus in La Loche. Ronalda leads by example, welcoming all visitors to La Loche, participating in community days, and sharing her knowledge. She is a gifted storyteller and enjoys sharing the history of her culture with those around her. Ronalda maintained nearly perfect attendance in her classes, achieving honours marks in all her coursework. She will begin her next education journey in DTI's Educational Assistant program in La Loche, starting Fall 2023. Outside of her coursework, Ronalda serves her community with grace. She tends to the community garden and organizes food hampers within the community for those facing difficulties and needing support. She is a devoted mother, and centers her life on providing the best she can for her daughters and sons. She balances being a student and mother exceptionally, and consistently demonstrates the internal fortitude to persevere.



Brianne McLennan
SUNTEP PA Student, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

Brianne is a fourth-year SUNTEP student, set to complete her Bachelor of Education degree through the University of Saskatchewan in June 2023. Brianne has been a committed student, a dedicated student-teacher, and an active member of her SUNTEP community. Brianne has shown courage, perseverance, and commitment throughout her program, navigating changes in the learning environment as a student and educator in 2020 while adjusting to changes in her family. Brianne volunteers within local schools, conducting workshops at Culture Camps and facilitating classroom activities. She also worked at the Saskatchewan Western Region II office last summer. During this term, Brianne helped clients learn about the Métis registry process and coordinated projects for summer students aimed at helping Métis residents with household maintenance. During her time at Gabriel Dumont Institute, Brianne has represented her Métis and SUNTEP communities with honour and pride and has become an advocate for Indigenous education.



Sheri-lyn Kadachuk
SUNTEP Saskatoon Student, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



Sheri-lyn is a strong, gracious Indigenous woman and mother of seven children, working towards her Bachelor of Education through GDI's Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) at the University of Saskatchewan. Sheri-lyn speaks proudly of her family and is very involved in their lives. As a teacher candidate, she naturally shares her joy, compassion, and kindness with her classmates and students. Sheri-lyn is passionate and destined to do great things within the Métis community and the education sector. Sheri-lyn advocates for change to bureaucratic and educational systems to honour her daughter, who has a global developmental delay. Her passion for teaching comes from her love of children and helping them enjoy learning. She is aware of children's varying needs and works to ensure all her students feel seen, heard, and empowered. Sheri-lyn has well-planned lessons and units, showcasing the early learning outcomes that personified her Métis cultural roots.



Cody Ludwig

*Gabriel Dumont Institute Training & Employment Client
Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan*

Cody is an exceptional Métis role model for his home community and the Saskatchewan Métis community as a whole. He is currently a GDI Training & Employment client taking the Power Engineering diploma program at Saskatchewan Polytechnic and working towards his second class. In addition to school, Cody excels as an athlete. In track and field, he won three gold medals and one silver at the North American Indigenous Games. The same year, Cody won the Bob Adams Foundation Award for Saskatchewan Midget Male Track Athlete of the Year. He also loves hockey, having played in several Western Canada Native Minor Hockey Championships. Cody is an excellent teammate, conducting himself with sportsmanship. Cody is also community-minded; he spent time with King's Hockey School, where he helped teach children hockey skills, and also volunteered at the Meadow Lake and District Humane Society.



Travis Spriggs

Métis Nation University Sponsorship Student, Leask, Saskatchewan



Travis is a dedicated Métis student at the University of Saskatchewan. He is in his third year of the Juris Doctorate Program, working towards a law degree. His academic focus is Aboriginal Law—Indigenous Governance with a minor in Criminal Law. Travis is passionate about the law and ensuring Indigenous people are treated fairly and respectfully in the legal system. He has identified a significant barrier of understanding between the legal system and Indigenous people. In an effort to educate others, Travis has travelled to northern communities to study, support, and share knowledge on legal studies and various law situations. He takes his commitment to community very seriously and intends to continue this passion project after convocation. Travis will graduate this spring and is excited to begin his practice. This summer, he will be interning with the Department of Federal Justice working directly with Indigenous communities.



Tavia Terry
SUNTEP Regina Student, White City, Saskatchewan

Tavia is a third-year SUNTEP student at the University of Regina who has demonstrated a love of learning and the commitment needed to succeed as a student and future educator. In her first two years of the program, Tavia balanced being a student-athlete, playing on the University's hockey team. In the classroom, Tavia is known for her big heart, caring nature, and positive attitude. She creates a sense of belonging within the SUNTEP student body. Tavia is known as a leader, as is evident in class discussions and exceptional coursework. She is on track to graduate with Distinction in 2024. Tavia's desire to reclaim her Métis culture has led her to participate in many opportunities within the SUNTEP community and the Indigenous Student Centre. She uses this knowledge to integrate Métis history and content into the lessons she plans for her students during her field placements.

