



Student Awards Ceremony

2024 Academic Year

SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

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Acknowledgement of Country

With respect for Aboriginal cultural protocol and out of recognition that its campuses occupy their traditional lands. Western Sydney University acknowledges the Darug, Eora, Dharawal (also referred to as Tharawal) and Wiradjuri peoples and thanks them for their support of its work in their lands (Greater Western Sydney and beyond).

Message from the Executive Director, Advancement



At Western Sydney University, student success is at the heart of everything we do. The Student Awards Ceremony are a chance to celebrate the hard work, dedication, and achievements of our hardworking and ambitious students – recognising not just academic excellence, but also the passion and perseverance that will shape their and our collective futures.

These awards would not be possible without the generosity of our donors. By funding prizes and academic awards, donors play a vital role in encouraging students to aim high, supporting their aspirations, and giving them an edge as they step into the workforce. To our donors—thank you for believing in our students and helping them reach their full potential.

The Western Sydney region continues to grow and evolve, so do the opportunities for our students. The University is focused on preparing graduates who are adaptable, innovative, and ready to make an impact. These awards help ensure our students have the recognition, motivation, and confidence to take on the challenges ahead.

To our award recipients – congratulations! We are proud of all that you have achieved and can't wait to see where your journey takes you next.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CBurden'.

Christian Burden
Executive Director, Advancement
Western Sydney University



Acuneeds Prize for Fourth Year TCM Practicum



Donor	<p>Acuneeds Australia</p> <p>Acuneeds Australia is Australia's leading supplier of acupuncture needles and equipment, Chinese herbs and medicines, and textbooks for the practice of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM). Acuneeds objective is to provide high-quality products, efficient and timely distribution of orders and to meet and exceed the expectation of customers. Acuneeds offers fair and competitive prices across their entire product range to practitioners, students and distributors throughout Australia, New Zealand and around the world.</p> <p>acuneeds.com</p>
Prize	<p>Acuneeds Prize for Fourth Year TCM Practicum</p>
Criteria	<p>Awarded to the most outstanding fourth year student across the following practicum units: Block Clinical Practicum (CMPL4001), Traditional Chinese Medicine Practice 4 (CMPL4008) and Traditional Chinese Medicine Practice 3 (CMPL4007).</p>
Recipient	<p>Anya Yi-Ting Liu</p>

Alison M Johnston Award for Excellence in Nursing or Health

Donor	Professor Alison M Johnston Alison M Johnston began this prize in 1997 in order to recognise and reward students who produced an outstanding thesis in the field of nursing or health studies. For more than 10 years Alison's generous donation has encouraged students to conduct pioneering industry research.
Prize	Alison M Johnston Award for Excellence in Nursing or Health
Criteria	Awarded to the most outstanding higher degree research thesis in Nursing or Health Studies.
Recipient	Sophiya Dulal

APA Physiotherapy Prize



Donor	<p>Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA)</p> <p>As the physiotherapy professional body, we represent the interests of all Australian physiotherapists and patients. APA advocates on the behalf of physiotherapy professionals to government and community bodies. We also provide physiotherapists with insurance and guidance on running practices and offer opportunities to continue professional development throughout their careers. Congratulations on receiving this prize.</p> <p>australian.physio</p>
Prize	<p>APA Physiotherapy Prize</p>
Criteria	<p>Awarded to the graduating student with the highest GPA in Physiotherapy.</p>
Recipient	<p>Jasmin Young</p>

Donor

Australasian College of Paramedicine

The Australasian College of Paramedicine (ACP) is the peak professional organisation supporting and representing over 10,000 paramedics and student paramedics from across Australia and New Zealand. Our members include paramedics at all clinical levels, paramedicine academics and researchers, student paramedics, doctors and nurses working in the emergency medicine field, non-paramedic qualified staff working in paramedicine, retrievalists, first responders and volunteers.

ACP is focussed on providing high quality services to our members and leadership for the paramedic profession. The College delivers conferences, professional development workshops, online learning, research events and opportunities, a peer-reviewed journal and member grants for education and research activities. We support our members through assistance with meeting the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency registration standards and the provision of other career and wellbeing services.

We provide a respected voice in determining how changes in health service provision, legislation and clinical practice are shaped and implemented to enhance the quality of patient care.

paramedics.org

Prize

Australasian College of Paramedicine Prize for Clinical Practice Excellence

Criteria

Awarded to the most outstanding paramedicine student in Clinical Practice.

Recipient

Tiarne Morrow

Prize

Australasian College of Paramedicine Prize for Overall Achievement and Excellence

Criteria

Awarded to the most outstanding paramedicine student for overall achievement and excellence.

Recipients

Kiara Kirimoglou
Charli-Jane Holden

Cerebral Palsy Alliance Award



Donor	Cerebral Palsy Alliance Through the School of Science and Health, the University shares our organisation's vision for a viable, well-supported infrastructure of services for people with a disability in New South Wales. As part of this vision, the Cerebral Palsy Alliance has established this award for Occupational Therapy students. cerebralpalsy.org.au
Prize	Cerebral Palsy Alliance Award for Occupational Therapy
Criteria	Awarded to an Occupational Therapy student who demonstrates an interest and outstanding practicum performance in the field of disability and paediatrics.
Recipient	Rebecca Abraham
Prize	Cerebral Palsy Alliance Award for Physiotherapy
Criteria	Awarded to a Physiotherapy student who demonstrates an interest and outstanding practicum performance in the field of disability and paediatrics.
Recipient	Rai Jassal

Chatterbox Speech Pathology Prize



Donor	<p>Chatterbox Speech Pathology</p> <p>The Chatterbox mission is simple: “Helping therapists, help families”. At Chatterbox, we’re dedicated to empowering our local Western Sydney community through investing in the clinical, professional and personal development of our clinicians so they can provide quality care and support. Our therapists are committed to empowering children and their families with the skills they need to thrive in their world.</p> <p>Just like us, Western Sydney University shares a passion for nurturing students and therapists, ensuring they’re equipped to make a real difference in the lives of families right here in Western Sydney. Together, we’re building a more inclusive and vibrant community for all.</p> <p>chatterbox.com.au</p>
Prize	Chatterbox Speech Pathology Prize
Criteria	Awarded for outstanding performance in Paediatric academic and practice subjects.
Recipient	Zahra Sajadi

Fay Collins Traditional Chinese Medicine Prize (Postgraduate: Clinical Stream)

Donor	<p>Fay Collins</p> <p>Western Sydney University is one of the world's leading universities in the field of complementary medicine. The Chinese Medicine Centre supports a vibrant academic program and fosters major international collaborations, most notably with Beijing University of Chinese Medicine. The CMC has a focus on traditional Chinese medicine and has been assessed by the Australian Research Council's Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) evaluation as a '5 rating', identifying it as 'well above world standard'.</p> <p>The Centre facilitates close cooperation between governments, academic institutions, and industries, for the development and communication of traditional Chinese medicine.</p> <p>The Fay Collins Traditional Chinese Medicine Prize is generously supported by Emeritus Professor Barney Glover AO in honour of his mother-in-law, Fay Collins, a great supporter of traditional Chinese medicine. This prize will encourage talented students to continue their studies and practice of traditional Chinese medicine with a vision to achieving better health for themselves, their families and friends and the wider Australian community.</p>
Prize	Fay Collins Traditional Chinese Medicine Prize (Postgraduate: Clinical Stream)
Criteria	Awarded to a graduating student in Master of Chinese Medicine (Clinical Stream) who has demonstrated both a high academic achievement, with the highest GPA over the degree study, and active participation in activities run by Chinese Medicine Centre.
Recipients	Wing Yu Jianping Luo

Helio Prize for Acupuncture



Donor	<p>Helio</p> <p>Helio has been an industry partner with the Complementary Medicine Community since 2000, catering especially to those practitioners of Chinese herbal medicine and acupuncture within the East Asian Medicine traditions. Helio's product range includes a broad range of acupuncture needles, Chinese herbal medicine, clinical supplies and associated products.</p> <p>Helio is not just a supplier but a partner in the future success of its customers. For over 20 years Helio has striven to support the community in many ways: sponsoring educational and community events, trade shows, offering student discounts and supporting the not-for profit ventures of its practitioners. Helio has always donated student prizes to recognise those who excel in their undergraduate studies.</p> <p>heliosupply.com.au</p>
Prize	<p>Helio Prize for Acupuncture</p>
Criteria	<p>Awarded to the most outstanding student across acupuncture units: Channels and Points 1, Channels and Points 2 and Acupuncture Techniques.</p>
Recipient	<p>Yuan-Chin Chang</p>

Laerdal Australia Prize for Academic Excellence



Donor	<p>Laerdal Australia Pty Ltd</p> <p>Laerdal Australia is dedicated to helping save lives with products for CPR training, Airway Management, Advanced Life Support Training, Spinal Motion restriction, Trauma Training, Monitoring, Defibrillation, Patient Simulation made for using traditional basic, intermediate and advanced training techniques combined with micro simulation and virtual reality. Our vision is that no-one should unnecessarily die or be disabled during birth or from sudden illness or trauma. We achieve this through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ reaching more laypeople with CPR training→ providing better healthcare and training through simulation→ helping babies breathe in developing countries→ improving the quality of CPR <p>We congratulate the recipient of the Laerdal Medical Prize for Academic Excellence and hope that this recognition encourages you to make a significant contribution to improved survival and helping to save lives.</p> <p>laerdal.com/au</p>
Prize	Laerdal Australia Prize for Academic Excellence
Criteria	Awarded to the most outstanding paramedicine student for Academic Excellence.
Recipient	Alyssa Ludewig

Penkala Podiatry Legacy Award



Donor	<p>The Penkala Family</p> <p>The Penkala Podiatry Legacy Awards have been donated by the Penkala family to award excellence in educational and profession practice, promoting active and mobile populations across the lifespan.</p> <p>These awards recognise Dr Stefania Penkala, a Podiatry Academic for over 20 years at Western Sydney University, with a legacy in applied musculoskeletal education, mentoring the next generation of podiatrists.</p> <p>The awards are also in memory of Stefania's brother John Penkala, who passed away within five days of a misdiagnosis of an ankle sprain, which was instead a life-threatening medical alert. This tragedy, further highlighted the importance of translational clinical training and these awards: recognising knowledge translation to excellence in practice.</p>
Prize	Penkala Podiatry Graduate Legacy Award
Criteria	Awarded to the most outstanding graduating student in Musculoskeletal Diagnosis and Rehabilitation.
Recipient	David Wassef
Prize	Penkala Podiatry Undergraduate Legacy Award
Criteria	Awarded to the most outstanding undergraduate student in Anatomy and Translation to Practice.
Recipient	Ritika Santhosh Panikkar

SMSA Award in Health



Donor	<p>Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts (SMSA)</p> <p>In 1833, Henry Carmichael founded the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts as an educational and recreational organisation for working people at the request of artisans and tradesmen, some of whom had studied with him aboard the Stirling Castle on their voyage to Sydney. Carmichael drew on the burgeoning Mechanics' Institutes and Schools of Arts movement, and his efforts resulted in the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts being formed on 22nd March 1833 at a public meeting attended by around 200 people.</p> <p>The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts hosts a lending library, presents public lectures and holds classes in subjects as diverse as art, architecture, mathematics, anatomy and simple surgery.</p> <p>smsa.org.au</p>
Prize	<p>SMSA Award in Health</p>
Criteria	<p>Awarded to the most outstanding graduating student in a health related undergraduate degree.</p>
Recipient	<p>Aaron Cram</p>

Speech Pathology Australia Award



Donor	<p>Speech Pathology Australia</p> <p>Speech Pathology Australia is the national peak body for speech pathologists in Australia, representing more than 14,000 members.</p> <p>Our members are speech pathologists who work in hospitals, rehabilitation centres, schools and education centres, community health centres, aged care facilities, private practice, and agencies for those with specific communication or swallowing difficulties.</p> <p>Our purpose is to empower speech pathologists and strengthen access to speech pathology.</p> <p>speechpathologyaustralia.org.au</p>
Prize	<p>Speech Pathology Australia Award</p>
Criteria	<p>Awarded to a graduating student who demonstrates academic excellence, upholds high levels of ethical practice during interactions with peers and educators and actively contributes to a positive learning culture throughout the program.</p>
Recipient	<p>Alexandra Gooley</p>

Talk About Prize for Speech Pathology



Donor	<p>Talk About Speech Therapy</p> <p>Talk About is a speech pathology practice dedicated to helping individuals in the local community with their communication difficulties. Our vision aims to afford each individual the opportunity for success, fostering their engagement within the community and recognition of their aspirations.</p> <p>Talk About is honoured to have a relationship with Western Sydney University to provide learning opportunities for all students throughout their speech pathology degree.</p> <p>We congratulate the recipient of this award. We hope that your achievements motivate you to continue to work with children and families in the community to ensure everyone has access to services.</p> <p>talkabouttherapy.com.au</p>
Prize	<p>Talk About Prize for Speech Pathology</p>
Criteria	<p>Awarded to a student who demonstrates Excellence in Working with Children, Families and Communities.</p>
Recipient	<p>Jasmine Maxwell</p>

Ted & Grace Renton Perpetual Memorial Award in Podiatry



Donor	<p>Australian Podiatry Association (NSW)</p> <p>As the professional body for registered podiatrists in NSW, The Australian Podiatry Association (NSW) are proud to be recipients of a trust fund which administers the Ted & Grace Renton Perpetual Memorial Award.</p> <p>The fund was set up through a donation from the family of the late Ted and Grace Renton to the Australian Podiatry Association (NSW) in 1991. Mr Ted Renton OAM was one of the founding fathers of podiatry in Australia and his efforts were crucial to the profession's development for half a century. He was president of the Australian Podiatry Association (NSW) from 1957 to 1975 and he achieved international recognition by being awarded the rare distinction of honorary membership of the American Podiatry Association.</p> <p>In recognition of his tireless work for the profession, he was further awarded the Order of Australia Medal. Mrs Grace Renton gave her husband continuous support, often to the detriment of her health, and the Renton family wanted her contribution to also be recognised in this award.</p> <p>podiatry.asn.au</p>
Prize	<p>Ted & Grace Renton Perpetual Memorial Award in Podiatry</p>
Criteria	<p>Awarded to the most outstanding student in the final year examination for biomechanics, in the discipline of podiatry.</p>
Recipient	<p>Caitlyn Callaghan</p>

Willow Health Services Outstanding Achievement Award



Donor	<p>Willow Health Services</p> <p>Willow Health Services provides quality speech pathology care for children and adults in the Wollondilly and Wingecarribee shires. The business is owned and operated by Dr Michelle Bennett and was founded with a desire to establish a high-quality speech pathology service; and a workplace where clinicians are supported to think flexibly as well as continue to learn and enjoy what they do.</p> <p>At Willow Health we take the time to work ‘with’ our clients, we act to inspire self-belief in ourselves and others, and we work to empower our clients to set goals for themselves and to believe these goals can be achieved.</p> <p>We are proud to be associated Western Sydney University and to support each new wave of speech pathologists as they begin their career. We congratulate the recipient of the Willow Health Services Outstanding Achievement Award and encourage them to continue a journey of lifelong learning and outstanding contribution to the speech pathology profession.</p> <p>willowhealth.com.au</p>
Prize	Willow Health Services Outstanding Achievement Award
Criteria	Awarded to a student who has demonstrated excellent engagement and results in the subject Speech Pathology Professional Issues.
Recipient	Jacqueline Peck





GIVING TO WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

Western Sydney University changes lives and shapes the social, economic, environmental and educational development of the region in which we live, and the world.

You are part of this journey.

The gift of knowledge empowers our students to embrace opportunity, growth and change. Your support of Western Sydney University students through awards, scholarships and research encourages them to strive for excellence and reach their potential.

For information on how you can support Western Sydney University and our students, please contact the Office of Advancement.

02 9685 9511
giving@westernsydney.edu.au
westernsydney.edu.au/giving



Western Sydney University
Locked Bag 1797
Penrith NSW 2751 Australia

westernsydney.edu.au