



Student Awards Ceremony

2024 Academic Year

SCHOOL OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

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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

Associate Professor Cecily Hengstberger-Sims Memorial Prize



Donor	<p>Associate Professor Cecily Hengstberger-Sims Memorial</p> <p>Cecily had a thirty-year association with the University and Campbelltown campus which began in 1987 when she joined the Macarthur Institute of Higher Education. She held many leadership roles during that time, the most recent as the Deputy Dean of the School of Nursing and Midwifery. She was a Fellow of the Royal College of Nursing Australia and the College of Nursing, and foundation member of the Western Sydney University Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International.</p> <p>Throughout her career Cecily's research and teaching focus was on curriculum development, implementation and evaluation in nursing, transition to graduate practice, workforce issues and education related to preparation for practice. She made outstanding contributions to the Nursing programs, guiding and nurturing the next generation of students and nurse academics. Her work directly contributed to the success of the school and students as evidenced by the QS top 100 world ranking and the standing of our Nursing students in the industry.</p> <p>Cecily was much loved and respected by students and colleagues alike and is missed by her many friends at Western Sydney University.</p>
Prize	Associate Professor Cecily Hengstberger-Sims Memorial Prize
Criteria	Awarded to a second year Campbelltown undergraduate nursing student for academic excellence.
Recipient	Jeanine Dizon

Donor	<p>CleftPALS NSW</p> <p>CleftPALS is a volunteer-based non-profit organisation of parents and professionals involved in the treatment of the cleft condition.</p> <p>CleftPALS works most actively to support parents who have young children that have been born with a cleft. CleftPALS can assist with reliable and supportive information if an Ultrasound Detection of a cleft condition has occurred.</p> <p>CleftPALS is also available to provide ongoing support to older children and adults who have been affected with a cleft condition, and we've been providing phone contact and advice throughout the years. CleftPALS has been supplying services to parents whose children are born with a cleft for over 30 years throughout Australia.</p> <p>CleftPALS NSW has a committee supported by regional members and contact parents.</p> <p>cleftpalsnsw.org.au</p>
Prize	<p>CleftPALS NSW Prize</p>
Criteria	<p>Awarded for the best clinical performance during the 1st year of Bachelor of Midwifery.</p>
Recipient	<p>Rachel Moulds</p>

Evelyn Cullen Nursing Award



Donor	<p>Evelyn Cullen Memorial supported by Jill Kenard</p> <p>This prize was established in memory of Evelyn Cullen. Evelyn was a kind, generous and compassionate person who had a love for her profession, nursing. Evelyn enrolled at Western Sydney University to study nursing in 1985.</p> <p>It was through the University and her personal determination that Evelyn fulfilled her lifelong dream of becoming a nurse. Evelyn was in the first class of student nurses to graduate from the University. Evelyn managed to complete her studies whilst raising three children on her own without any family support as her father had died and her mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's when she was in her 50s.</p> <p>Evelyn was employed at Bankstown Hospital for many years in various roles including a CRN on a surgical ward, a community nurse, nursing unit manager and a surgical liaison nurse. Evelyn was liked and respected by her patients and her colleagues. Evelyn was an extremely dedicated nurse and fiercely loyal to her family, her friends, her patients, her colleagues and her country. Evelyn was truly an exceptional person. Unfortunately, she had a heart attack at home, and she died at Bankstown Hospital on the 13th August 2003.</p> <p>This prize was established in memory of an outstanding human being that made a significant contribution to the nursing profession - Evelyn Cullen.</p>
Prize	Evelyn Cullen Nursing Award
Criteria	Awarded annually to the most outstanding first year student in nursing.
Recipient	Kyla Caliwag

Karitane Award for Master of Child and Family Health



Donor	<p>Karitane</p> <p>Karitane is an organisation that provides parenting services and programs for families and communities with a focus on prevention, early intervention and empowerment, as well as education, training and research.</p> <p>Karitane has a long-standing relationship with Western Sydney University to provide postgraduate entry level training to registered nurses and midwives looking for a career in child and family health. Karitane works in partnership to develop and deliver the Master of Child and Family Health, providing industry expertise and clinical knowledge for this course.</p> <p>karitane.com.au</p>
Prize	<p>Karitane Award for Master of Child and Family Health</p>
Criteria	<p>Awarded to the most outstanding student in Master of Child and Family Health (Karitane).</p>
Recipient	<p>Lauren Fisher</p>

Laerdal Prize for Nursing



Donor	<p>Laerdal Australia</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.</p> <p>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">→ eaching more laypeople with CPR training→ providing better healthcare and training through simulation→ helping babies breathe in developing countries→ improving the quality of CPR We congratulate the recipient of the <p>Laerdal Prize 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 Prize for Bachelor of Nursing
Criteria	Awarded to an outstanding nursing student based on involvement in the discipline, attitude to learning and excellence in clinical practice.
Recipient	Kyla Caliwag
Prize	Laerdal Prize for Masters of Nursing Practice (Pre-registration)
Criteria	Awarded to an outstanding nursing student (with a minimum of 80 CP) based on involvement in the discipline, attitude to learning and excellence in clinical practice.
Recipient	Bianca Luna

Louie Piper Memorial Prize for Midwifery

Donor	<p>Ray and Aileen Villarica</p> <p>The Louie Piper Memorial Prize for Midwifery was established by Ray and Aileen Villarica in loving memory of two children they lost before birth, and to honour the great help and care received from midwife, Wendy Pickup, at the loss of baby Piper in May 2017.</p> <p>Louie and Piper are survived by five siblings in Jed, Kasey, Murray, Noah and Oran who themselves were the beneficiaries of the wonderful care of midwives at Liverpool and Auburn hospitals at birth. Thankfully, the five siblings do their best to provide more than enough love (and anxiety) to Ray and Aileen on behalf of Louie and Piper.</p> <p>Ray and Aileen congratulate the recipient of the Louie Piper Memorial Prize for Midwifery and acknowledge their great potential to touch many lives with their expertise and care.</p>
Prize	<p>Louie Piper Memorial Prize for Midwifery</p>
Criteria	<p>Awarded to the most outstanding graduating student in the Bachelor of Midwifery degree.</p>
Recipient	<p>Chloe Hill</p>

School of Nursing & Midwifery Prize for Best Clinical Performance by an International Student

Donor	<p>School of Nursing & Midwifery</p> <p>This prize is proudly supported by Academic and Professional staff within the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Western Sydney University.</p> <p>Western is ranked number one for Nursing in Australia, and in the world's Top 100. Our students emerge with a solid grasp of theory and have access to world's-best clinical simulation technology. Our nursing and midwifery campuses are close to some of Western Sydney's biggest hospitals and healthcare facilities.</p> <p>westernsydney.edu.au/schools/sonm</p>
Prize	<p>School of Nursing & Midwifery Prize for Best Clinical Performance by an International Student</p>
Criteria	<p>Awarded to an international student for the best clinical performance during the second year of a Bachelor of Nursing, Bachelor of Nursing (Graduate Entry) or Advanced degree program.</p>
Recipient	<p>Maryam Hamza</p>

SMSA Award in Nursing



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 Nursing</p>
Criteria	<p>Awarded to the most outstanding graduating student in the Bachelor of Nursing degree.</p>
Recipient	<p>Allison Lee</p>

The Vincent Egan 2/5 Australian General Hospital Association Award



Donor

2/5 Australian General Hospital Award in Nursing

The 2/5 Australian General Hospital was the fifth hospital raised by the Australian Army in the Second World War (1939-1945). It was formed in May-June 1940 to be a completely self-contained fully equipped 1,200 bed hospital. It had surgeons, physicians, dentists, nurses, physiotherapists and support staff that were necessary for running such a large hospital.

The 2/5 Australian General Hospital was pivotal in helping the sick and injured in countries such as Greece, Ethiopia, Palestine, Australia, New Guinea as well as casualties from other countries in Europe and the Middle East.

In 1943, the Australian Army Medical Women's Service (AAMWS) sent reinforcements to replace some of the male staff so they could be sent to the frontline. Over the six years of the Second World War, 1,300 men and women served in the 2/5 Australian General Hospital, including 173 officers, 75 doctors, 312 nurses, 185 members of the AAMWS and 630 other ranks. Of these, 169 were taken as Prisoners of War when the unit was captured by the German forces in Greece on 27 April 1941.

In excess of 15,000 patients were treated. After the war, members formed the 2/5 Australian General Hospital Association with the aim of keeping up old friendships and assisting other people. The association has funded this prize, with the intent of supporting the next generation of health professionals who care for those in desperate need.

2-5agh.org

Prize	The Vincent Egan 2/5 Australian General Hospital Association Award
Criteria	Awarded to the highest performing final year student in the Bachelor of Nursing.
Recipient	Justin Cudmore



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.

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