



CPA HELEN SAARINEN RAHIKKA STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

Philosophy

Students who promote the profession within the student community are highly valued contributors to physiotherapy. Students who are notably involved in professional activities provide other students with the essential role models of professional behaviours and practice. Student professional leadership should be fostered and supported by the Association and the profession by recognizing outstanding contributions.

History

Helen Saarinen Rahikka devoted her professional life to the educational development of caring and capable clinicians in Canada and around the world. First with the Mohawk-McMaster Program and then within the School of Rehabilitation Science at McMaster University, her leadership, knowledge and compassion fostered two generations of students. Her ability to act as a mentor, recognize potential and facilitate excellence in others was unsurpassed within the physiotherapy profession. This award acknowledges her commitment to promoting leadership within students and the profession.

Purpose

The purpose of the Helen Saarinen Rahikka Student Leadership Award reflects the philosophy and is to recognize the importance of student professional leadership and outstanding contributions made by a student to the promotion of the profession through praiseworthy endeavors and service at a local, provincial and/or national level.

Criteria for Selection

The individual must be recognized by his/her peers and by physical therapists as being a leader committed to the promotion of the physical therapy profession. Activities that will be considered may include, but not limited to:

- development of a means of promoting the physical therapy profession locally and/or nationally.
- leadership which serves to motivate and engage other students in CPA activities and in the physiotherapy profession, preferably at a national level.
- Being a role model for other physical therapy students in her/his enthusiastic participation in CPA activities and active promotion of the association.



- involvement in raising the profile of the student community within the Association.
- involvement in raising the profile of the Association within the student community.

Eligibility

The individual must be a CPA member, and have been a student registered in a physiotherapy entry-level program in the previous calendar year.

Selection of Candidate

The CPA Awards Committee will select the recipient.

Presentation

The award will be presented annually.

Form of Award

- Recognition at Congress
- \$200 towards Congress
- A framed certificate signed by the CPA President and CPA Awards Committee Chair

Nomination Procedure

Nominations must be made by either a CPA member or CPA Component (CPA Branch, CPA Division, or CPA Assembly). All nominations are confidential between the nominator(s) and the CPA Awards Committee.

The nomination must include:

- Four letters of recommendation, two of which are from students, one from a CPA physiotherapist member and one from a university faculty member who is involved with an entry level PT program. None of the letters shall exceed four pages. The letters must outline the leadership qualities of the individual and how she/he meets the criteria for the award.
- One of the nominators must be identified as the primary nominator. The primary nominator must be a CPA member.
- Curriculum Vitae of the candidate.
- A summary of the student's professional involvement. This document outlines the present and past professional activities of the candidate and states the evidence that illustrates the student's outstanding leadership and achievements in promoting or raising the public profile of the physical therapy profession and the association.



Canadian
Physiotherapy
Association

Association
canadienne de
physiothérapie

Nomination Process

The call for nominations typically launches at the end of the year (December), through a CPA member e-blast. Nominations must be submitted online, typically by the end of February the following year. Award winners and primary nominators will be notified in April.