

# Winners Announced at School of Nursing and Midwifery UCC Annual Achievement Awards 2021

Took place yesterday Friday May 7th marking a moment between International Day of the Midwife and International Day of the Nurse.

The Awards can be viewed here: <https://www.ucc.ie/en/nursingmidwifery/conferences/schoolawards/theachievementawards/>

## UCC's School of Nursing and Midwifery Annual Achievement Awards took place virtually May 7th.

Following on from the success of last year's first online awards ceremony, the School of Nursing and Midwifery Annual Achievement Awards 2021 was a celebratory occasion marking the valiant efforts of students who have exhibited excellence in all aspects of university life and acknowledged students and healthcare workers who have made broader societal contributions. Winners were selected based on their exemplary performance in the 2020/2021 academic year. Professor John O'Halloran interim UCC President introduced the award ceremony. Phil Healy the accomplished international athlete and

prior awardee took time out to record a special address to the recipients and spoke of her fond memories of studying in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, UCC.

**Prof Josephine Hegarty**, Head of the School of Nursing and Midwifery commented on the Awards,

*"Covid-19 has highlighted the importance of nurses and midwives as core front line workers and reinforced the WHO decision to make 2020/2021 the International Years of the Nurse and Midwife. Nurses and midwives take for granted how special and unique they are, they often forget how much of an impact they make on a person's life. Nurses and midwives truly make a difference. Our*

*frontline healthcare workers have inspired us all in these uncertain and difficult times and our nursing and midwifery students have shown great passion, creativity, dedication and resilience. While we cannot hold a physical award's ceremony, we are delighted to have a virtual awards ceremony celebrating outstanding nursing and midwifery students over the past year. The School is in the top 50 schools in the world according to the QS World University Subject Rankings for Nursing - we are very proud of this; this is testament to the combined efforts of students and staff."*

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## There are 13 categories of Awards for the School of Nursing and Midwifery Annual Achievement Awards.



Andrew Hawkins



Deirdre Callanan



Dean Murray Cantwell



Katie Curtin



Frances O'Connell



Michelle Stack



Aoife McCarthy



Nwanneka Judith Uduh



Reema Antony



Local Injury Unit, Mallow General Hospital



Margaret Kelleher



Mary Dwan



Phyllis Cremin

**The Undergraduate Student of the Year 2021 is presented to Andrew Hawkins**, BSc in Mental Health Nursing Year 2. Andrew is a student who has demonstrated overall excellence and significant contributions in all aspects of university life. As an international and mature student, Andrew has shown the ability to persevere academically while balancing family and personal interests. He received a Quercus scholarship and passionately advocates for increased mental health awareness amongst his peers. Outside of academia, he remains actively engaged in the arts and sport, pursuing regular practice in both visual art, music, yoga, and running.

**The Postgraduate Student of the Year 2021 is presented to Deirdre Callanan** who is Ireland's first registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner in head and neck oncology. Deirdre is based at the South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital where she runs two clinics a week with patients following head and neck cancer. The clinics have a strong focus on communication and teaching of self-examination skills. Deirdre conducts full physical examinations and fiberoptic scoping in addition to taking biopsies, prescribing medication and requesting scans. In Deirdre's own words, *"the ANP role just makes sense. Patients have an improved understanding of the delayed side effects of treatment and once examined patients feel more in control and reassured, that is the biggest reward for me"*.

**Student Leader of the Year 2021 is presented to Dean Murray Cantwell**, BSc in Mental Health Nursing, Year 4 student. Dean was nominated by several of his peers for this award who cited his exceptional work as class representative particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic with his positive demeanour ready to support and rally his peers. He is the epitome of a student leader. Other students have noted that *"Dean is such a positive person throughout this pandemic and our class really couldn't have gotten through the last few months without him being available night and day to help and support us"*.

**The Award for Outstanding Contribution to Student Life 2021 is presented to Katie Curtin**, BSc General Nursing Year 3. Katie is based at Cork University Hospital for her clinical rotations. Katie plays a very active role in day-to-day student life in UCC and is active in several student committees including Suicide Awareness & Mental Health Society, the School's Athena Swan committee, Student Experience Committee, and she acts as a Peer Support for 1st Year Nursing students. Katie is one of these students that makes the UCC campus a more enjoyable, and inclusive environment for every student through her hard work and advocacy for all.

**The Award for Recognition in Sport 2021 is presented to Frances O'Connell** BSc Intellectual Disability Nursing Year 4 student. Frances is based in COPE Foundation for her internship. Frances has been playing squash from a young age representing her club, Munster and UCC. She captained UCC Squash Club and has used her sporting ability to raise money for charity while a student at the School. She is an example for her classmates encouraging them to engage in sport.

**Community Engagement award 2021 is presented to Michelle Stack** BSc in General Nursing Year 4 student who is doing her internship at the Mercy University Hospital. Michelle is committed to engaging and supporting peers across the wider UCC community. Michelle is the peer support 1st year medicine and health representative. She is a member of the Student's Union wellbeing crew, in which she discusses ways to improve student's mental health and seeks to enact change. She is also committee member for the UCC Simpsons' and Alzheimer's societies.

**The Award for Recognition in the Arts and Entertainment 2021 is presented to Aoife McCarthy** a BSc in General Nursing Year 4 students who completes her clinical rotations at the Mercy University Hospital. To honour her late grandmother, who passed away in a nursing home, but whom she

was unable to visit due to COVID-19 restrictions, Aoife developed a non-profit project called 'A Painting Speaks a Thousand Words'. She painted over 40 canvases and posted them to nursing home residents across Ireland and to patients of the Mercy University Hospital for Christmas to let them know that they were being thought of during these unique times.

**Community Activist Award 2021 is presented to Nwanneka Judith Uduh**. Nwanneka is a BSc Nursing Studies student from Nigeria. She is working on an innovative project that will ensure she brings what she has learnt in UCC back to Africa. Her project entitled 'Improving Patients Experience through Interpersonal Relationship and Respectful Communication' will be delivered to Ugandan healthcare workers.

**The Promoting Equality and Diversity Award 2021 is presented to Reema Antony**, Clinical Nurse Manager 2, Stroke Unit, Cork University Hospital. Reema coordinated the Cork Indian Nurses to perform the Jerusalem Dance Challenge. Reema in conjunction with fellow nurses working in hospitals and nursing homes throughout the County of Cork, danced in solidarity during this unforgettable year. Reema skilfully choreographed the dancing and selected marvellous locations to show-case an incredible engaging presentation of strength of unity whilst caring for patients during COVID-19.

This fabulous performance has received great appreciation and wide acceptance in social media with over 1k likes on YouTube [https://youtu.be/b\\_P1oJZv-ZA](https://youtu.be/b_P1oJZv-ZA). The videography and editing was conducted by Vaisakh Raghu.

**Best Clinical & Quality Learning Environment of the Year 2021** is presented to the area/unit that has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to prioritising excellence and leadership as a learning environment. This year it is awarded to **Local Injury Unit, Mallow General Hospital**. One student said

*"All staff in the Local Injury Unit were accommodating and were great teachers, especially the doctors and the nurses were a wealth of information. I felt welcomed, appreciated and my learning was prioritised, I would go back there in a heartbeat."*

**Preceptor of the Year award 2021 is presented to Margaret Kelleher**. Margaret is a Midwife on 4 South Ward at Cork University Maternity Hospital. Margaret was nominated by four midwifery students who said that she is kind and caring. They said *"Margaret always takes the time to engage with students and ensure that we are comfortable with our caseload. She is a wealth of knowledge, and she shares this with students willingly and in a way that is easy to understand and at our level."*

**Keady Clifford Award for Excellence in Children's Nursing 2021 is presented to Mary Dwan** a BSc Children & General Nursing student based in Cork University Hospital for her internship. Mary has shown great dedication to her studies, acquiring excellent knowledge, which she humbly translates into clinical practice, providing compassionate and competent patient care. This was evident in her lovely ability to relate with children of all ages and her kind respect and sensitivity for parents and family, and meticulous attention to detail when assessing and caring for children. Mary's professional relationship with peers, colleagues and members of the multidisciplinary team is greatly enhanced because of her exceptional communication and interpersonal skill. She was regularly praised by preceptors and staff for her organisational skills, work ethic, critical thinking, knowledge, analytical and problem-solving ability. Mary deserves this award for her exemplary knowledge, real dedication, role model aptitude, high quality performance, kindness, sensitivity and provider of beautiful nursing care. She is a great ambassador for children's nursing and a deserving candidate for the Keady Clifford Award 2021. This award seeks to honour Keady Clifford's memory and to recognize an

exemplary student in the context of children's nursing. We are grateful to the anonymous donor who has enabled this special award in memory of the late Keady Clifford.

**Patricia J. Power Excellence in Clinical Practice Award** is presented by the Power family to honour the late Patricia Power. This year it is awarded to **Phyllis Cremin** 4th Year Intellectual Disability Nursing Student based at COPE Foundation. Phyllis has excelled in all of her clinical placements. Her desire to learn is always motivated by the drive to provide excellence in client care. Phyllis is very humble in her approach to learning and reflects learning gains back into her practice. She is hard working and committed to her continuing professional development. She willingly shares her knowledge and expertise with junior colleagues and is a very good role model for junior students. She has very well-developed interpersonal skills and functions well within the health care team. She is a valued member of the team in each placement. She is professional, kind, caring and committed to the discipline of Intellectual Disability Nursing.

This year 85 nominations were received for these awards, demonstrating the enthusiasm and passion that nurses and midwives in this region have for education. UCC's School of Nursing and Midwifery would like to thank all those who have supported the education of nursing and midwifery students over the past year.

