



Kimberly Laing

Nominator: Sierra McCann

Kim Laing is the instructor for VCC's 3rd year Community Practice class and because of her passion for public health and dental hygiene she has created the most amazing student experience and should be recognized! It is hard for me to describe my experience in Kim's class as it has been very demanding but completely revolutionary for me. I have never felt as engaged and excited in school or work as I do in Kim's community class. But to call it a class would be a major understatement. Kim spends-what would seem every waking hour, many evenings from her family, every lunch without food- supporting us absolutely to pursue her passionate vision for public health and dental hygiene. Through the VCC program and her unfathomable efforts, we spend the majority of our third year out in the community, teaching vulnerable children about oral health, meeting with parents and promoting oral health, providing screening for low income populations, providing care for elderly members in our community, working with preschools/care homes/community centres/public health organizations to provide care to vulnerable populations. I have never been so engaged, excited, and surprised by the prospect of my future career until Kimberly Laing, in jubilation and honest dedication, taught community practice. In every encounter, Kim exudes the values of a dental hygienist, an advocate, a leader, and a true empathetic care provider. I have applied to the UBC degree program with dreams of pursuing a masters and eventually public health, policy, and advocacy because of Kim. She has shown our class that dental hygiene is more than an operator. I am proud to be a dental hygienist when I go into the community with Kim's vision of care for the populations of Canada unable to access care and tackle the barriers to health and freedom from illness and stigma. I think Kim and her vision is the future of dental hygiene! She is leading (year after year, with hundreds of emails and lesson plan revisions) VCC graduating classes to becoming the oral health care provider Canadas public needs. As I go into my community rotation, creating lesson plans and building resources for age 3-5 vulnerable preschool children, their care facility, and their families - to provide education, screening, and fun experiences- I just wish that when I graduated there could be more Kim's.



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