The FGSR is pleased to announce the details of the 2021-22 Dr. Gary McPherson Leadership Scholarship, funded by Alberta Student Aid, Government of Alberta. FGSR is eligible to select 6 recipients; scholarships are valued at $2,000 each. For complete details and eligibility requirements, visit FGSR’s and Alberta Student Aid’s websites.

Dr. Gary McPherson was a renowned advocate for people with disabilities. He devoted himself to inspiring leadership and bringing out the best in everyone. He was a member of the Order of Canada, the Alberta Order of Excellence and both the Edmonton and Alberta Sports Hall of Fame. This scholarship recognizes students who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, especially in the area of disability, and/or the initiative to improve the conditions and lives of others.

Departmental nomination is not required; however, FGSR would appreciate your assistance with disseminating this year’s competition information to eligible graduate students who exemplify the above noted qualities of Dr. McPherson. Applicants must apply directly to the FGSR through the GSMS Awards Portal. Note that graduate students’ must apply through FGSR, not Student Financial Support, Office of the Registrar, in order to be considered for this scholarship.

The following documents must be uploaded to the online application in GSMS by December 15, 2021; complete application instructions are available on FGSR’s website:

- Alberta Student Aid Application Form. Application fields must be completed in their entirety; missing information will result in the application being deemed incomplete and such will be rejected.
- a resume highlighting leadership involvement and other activities related to improving the lives of other people
- a maximum of one related letter of reference, and
- after reading the biography of Dr. Gary McPherson, an essay up to a maximum of 1,000 words using examples of how leadership has been shown, especially in the area of disability, and/or the initiative to improve the lives of others. Refer to page 2 of the Alberta Student Aid Application form for the biography and essay format. Essays with pages exceeding the maximum will be rejected.
- an up to date unofficial UofA transcript printed from BearTracks; must show current Fall 2021 full time registration (courses/thesis in progress).

The announcement of successful recipients will be made by FGSR; payment of the award is a non-standard payment plan and will be made by Student Financial Support, Office of the Registrar.

Sincerely,

Award Services