Congrats to Chair's Award winners!

Congratulations are in order for several Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority employees who earned recognition for their outstanding contributions.

At the Oct. 5 AGM, board chair Michele Polinuk announced four winners of the Chair's Award, which acknowledge staff who are an inspiration to their colleagues, going above and beyond in delivering care to clients and staff. Any staff member can submit a nomination.

"I had the tough job of narrowing it down from 41 nominations to four very deserving individuals who embody the values of the IERHA in their day-to-day work," said Michele, who personally phoned the nominees and presented them with their awards in person at their facility.

Melissa Ireland, a pharmacist from Ashern and Eriksdale, has a wealth of pharmacy knowledge and is a respected member of the team at both hospitals.

"Melissa is friendly, approachable and helps wherever she can," Michele said. "She's a strong patient advocate who always puts her patients well-being at the forefront."

Selkirk-based Krystal Irvine shows exemplary leadership, integrity and commitment to residents, families and staff in her role as infection prevention and control coordinator for the long-term care program.

"Krystal fosters a collaborative work environment where staff, residents and families feel valued, respected, empowered," Michele said.

"Krystal advocates for high-quality health care. She inspires confidence and encourages others to bring forward ideas and solutions to improve outcomes and strengthen care in our region."

Based in Oakbank, Monica Penner is a caring occupational therapist who goes above and beyond in her role.

"She listens to her clients' needs and gets to know them on a more personal level, paying attention to details few would be aware of," Michele said.

"Monica spends time teaching new skills to the rehab assistants so they better understand their role and capabilities in helping people remain or become independent."

Marlo Gusberti is hard-working, diligent and trustworthy in every aspect of her role as health information services clerk.

"She manages her administrative responsibilities with professionalism and care, while maintaining a calm, organized and dependable presence that benefits both staff and patients," Michele said.

"What particularly distinguishes Marlo is her consistent kindness and approachability – making time for patients and treating them with respect and compassion. She helps create a welcoming environment at the Pinawa Hospital where patients feel heard and supported, which is essential to accessible and person-centred care."

Michele extended her congratulations to all four Chair's award winners.

“All our recipients are examples of excellence in a variety of areas through the region, providing service with professionalism, kindness and compassion. We thank all our recipients for their significant contributions to our mission and strategic priorities for the benefit of both patients and staff,” she said.

“I am very pleased to honour all with this well-deserved award.”