

2018 PAS Award of Merit Recipients

Recognizes pharmacists, individuals or organizations, who through their active participation have promoted the profession of pharmacy in Saskatchewan



Donna and Keith Schmidt

with Presenter Janet Bradshaw (PAS Awards Committee Chair)

Throughout the past four years, Donna and Keith have promoted the profession of pharmacy in Saskatchewan by supporting multiple students during their SPEP rotations in Swift Current, SK. For many pharmacy students and preceptors, finding reliable accommodation during SPEP rotations outside of the two main city centers (Saskatoon and Regina) can be difficult. These logistics compounded with financial burdens, short placement duration, and homesickness, often leave students feeling stressed and displaced as they leave the familiarity of their homes for experiential rotations.

Donna and Keith have opened their home to multiple pharmacy students (at least five) in need of a place to stay during their community and experiential hospital rotations. The hospitality and support the Schmidts have offered these students have been unsurpassable. Throughout the full duration of each SPEP block, Keith and Donna ensure the students feel comfortable in their home; offering meals, providing words of support and encouragement all while reiterating how much they appreciate the profession themselves. The Schmidts continue to provide this support and kindness for these students as they believe in education, the experiences Swift Current has to offer as a smaller center, the value of the pharmacy profession in the community, and the fact that the future of the profession lies in the hands of the students they host.

Speaking from our experiences with the Schmidt family, the support provided allowed for the students hosted to concentrate more on studying and investing time in research, projects and overall academics. During the rotations, students would frequently come home to meals prepped and words of encouragement to study and not worry about cooking or other tasks within their home. During meal times and in the evenings the Schmidts would talk to the students and provide a unique learning opportunity by offering a perspective outside of the pharmacy world. Donna and Keith provided a public view on pharmacy and the general perception of pharmacists; reiterating the trust and respect the community has for the pharmacists these students worked with and the exceptional care they provided to the public.

Ultimately, the Schmidts offered not just a place for students to stay, but also a home away from home. The Schmidts' hospitality has repeatedly been offered with no expectation of any remuneration, just the advice to continue paying the kindness forward to the community by becoming the best pharmacists possible. By opening their home to multiple students during the past four years, Donna and Keith have promoted the profession of pharmacy, pharmacy education and the future of the profession. Providing a safe place to live and learn in the community of Swift Current allowed these students to focus on the educational experiences offered to them in the pharmacy and greater community. The kindness the Schmidts have offered students has left a lasting impression on attitudes in providing compassionate care as pharmacists and as well-rounded, active community members.