Supporting Agents of Change
Scholarships for the Master of Public Health Program

Key Challenges Facing Society
Public health challenges are among the key challenges facing communities and countries today. Globalization has shrunk distances, broken down cultural barriers and linked the world together. It has also made the separation between domestic and international health problems much less distinct, as more than a million people travel from developing to industrialized countries each week (Centre for Disease Control). According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the main challenges facing public health today include widening economic inequalities; aging populations; increasing levels of chronic disease; migration and urbanization; and environmental damage and climate change.

These challenges demand future healthcare professionals who can ask the right questions and become agents of change who will drive public health policy and improve how healthcare is delivered across our lifespans.

In response to this need, Western’s Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry created a new Master of Public Health (MPH) program that is unlike any in North America. Graduating in one year, students will integrate theory and practice through a case-based method to develop the leadership skills necessary to become agents of change for healthcare policy and public health.

In turn, the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry is reaching out to our alumni, friends and private partners to help us support these future leaders. We are committed to building a financial support program that provides MPH students with scholarships of meaningful value. We define this as awards valued at a minimum of $5,000.

The Intersection of Leadership, Sustainability and Policy
The new Schulich Interfaculty Program in Public Health is offering a one-year, case-based MPH program that will immerse students in some of the most significant and complex health crises from across the country and around the world. For example, students will be introduced to the complexities surrounding Canada’s most serious case of water contamination—the E. Coli water crisis in Walkerton, Ontario.

The 12-week practicum and case method of learning sets this program apart. Housed in a new medical building on campus, students will have access to individual study spaces, team collaboration spaces and a modern classroom in which to prepare cases for review. The three-step case method learning process (individual preparation, team preparation and facilitated class discussion) gives students the skills to:

• Synthesize information from a variety of social disciplines
• Learn and hone problem identification and critical thinking skills
• Develop real-world leadership skills including effective collaboration, proposing and analyzing alternatives, making decisions, and defending those decisions
MPH Scholarships

Health Matters to Everyone: Supporting Future Leaders

The structure of the MPH program is intense and demands significant time and financial commitment on behalf of the students to learn the leadership skills necessary to take responsibility and promote change. As health matters to everyone, everywhere, we are reaching out to our alumni, friends and private partners to help support these future leaders through a series of scholarships.

Our goal is to establish a total of 30 scholarships, valued at $5,000 each.

These MPH scholarships may be established on an endowed or expendable basis by donors. A five-year commitment for expendable gifts will give five different students valuable experiences, while endowed gifts will support many generations of students and may be pledged over a multi-year period.

MPH Fast Facts

• In September 2013, Western will welcome the inaugural class to the Master of Public Health (MPH) Program. Each year will bring 30-60 students to campus.
• Students will learn from a diverse group of public health experts and professionals from Schulich, as well as from the Faculties of Education, Engineering, Information and Media Studies, Health Sciences, Law, Science, Social Science, Ivey Business School and Brescia University College.
• Students will actively participate in the learning process by taking on the role of decision-maker, and working with a team to create solutions to real-world problems.
• Every student will have the opportunity to experience an international practicum.
• The MPH program will prepare students to address public health challenges in Canada and abroad, providing opportunities for students to serve not just in their local communities, but also contribute to and lead in national and international public health initiatives.
• The MPH program will adhere to criteria required for international accreditation.

A New Space for Case-Based Education

Western is currently constructing a new 66,700 square-foot building, The Western Centre for Public Health and Family Medicine, that will house the Department of Family Medicine, researchers in the Centre for Studies in Family Medicine and the new Schulich Interfaculty Program in Public Health. The Centre will unite researchers and educators from both disciplines under one roof, creating an environment that supports Western’s ongoing leadership in producing exceptional family physicians and future leaders in public health.

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