

RNAO Windsor-Essex Chapter Award of Distinction

Nurses Name: Heather Gartner

Nurses Place of Employment: Windsor-Essex County Health Unit

Current Position: Public Health Nurse on the Comprehensive School Health Dept.

Why Heather Gartner is EXCEPTIONAL!

Heather Gartner has been a nurse for over 20 years. She is an active member of RNAO and formerly the RNAO Workplace Liaison at the Health Unit. She is pro-nurse and a strong advocate for our profession, and our clients. She is a wealth of knowledge.

Heather is caring and compassionate to the youth she works with and with her team members. She is non-judgmental of the teens she works with. She engages them in dialogue respectfully to quickly establish a therapeutic relationship in order to educate and help health them reduce or quit using tobacco.

She acts as a mentor to new staff, and many nursing students which demonstrate her commitment to her profession. She is a wonderful mentor and preceptor. She demonstrates an unconditional positive regard for learners.

Heather strives for nursing excellence and goes above and beyond. Recently, she sought funding to champion the Smoking Cessation Best Practice Guideline. In collaboration with the facilitator Heather trained all 70 Public Health Nurses how to apply the Smoking Cessation BPG to their daily work with clients. She arranged 2 full day workshops, provided resources to every nurse in attendance, evaluated the workshops and followed-up to ensure the knowledge was being implemented by following up with each dept. to see how the new training changed the charts,/forms and how we were referring clients to the provincial Smokers Helpline. She is dedicated to Public Health Nursing and her client, the population of Windsor-Essex.

In conclusion, Heather is an exceptional nurse. The Health Unit is fortunate to have her as an employee, and Windsor-Essex is blessed to have her promoting wellness through public health nursing.

Thank you to the nomination committee for considering our colleague and friend for the RNAO Windsor-Essex Chapter Award of Distinction ~ if chosen, she will be honored and humbled by it.

Sincerely, Brenda Kir & Dana Boyd