

## 2022 Master Packaging Scholarship Award – Lydia Cudmore

I have always wanted a career in health care, specifically as a registered nurse. This goal was shut down many times throughout my high school years by faculty at my school due to my grades. School never came easy to me, and I felt that I had to work harder than my classmates to come out even with them.

I noticed this even more after I received two concussions during tenth grade while playing soccer. I had severe effects from these concussions which was detrimental to my grades, attendance, and my mental health. This was just the beginning of a long road to understanding and bettering my mental health. With a lot of hard work, I graduated high school with an overall average of 85%. This was a significant mark to many, but it was not enough for a future in nursing.

When I saw an ad for the Essential Skills Employability program with the PEI Literacy Alliance, I thought it would be a great first step to get myself into the field of healthcare. This program made me feel that I could do anything if I worked hard enough and showed me that it's okay to take time to figure out your path. I was inspired to enroll in Adult Education to upgrade my high school marks and was accepted into the Practical Nursing program at Holland College.

In the Practical Nursing program, I gained even more hands-on experience and wanted to give myself a second chance at the UPEI nursing program. During my second semester in the practical nursing program, I got a call that I was accepted into the Bachelor of Science Nursing program at UPEI. I am now in my first year of Nursing program at UPEI and I love it.

I am thankful to be on my path in the nursing program and am thankful for this scholarship from the PEI Literacy Alliance to help me on my way. I look forward to my future as an RN and a member of the healthcare field.