

SNIPS & SNAPS



Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre Morning In-service OR Fashion Show

From Left to Right: Jessica Weenk, Melena Fisher, Julie Melchor, Kristen Paradis

Do you have a Promising Star in your Department?

This award is to be presented to an Alberta Operating Room Registered Nurse who is currently working in a surgical suite and who has less than TWO (2) years experience in this role. The nominee exceeds the expectations of their employers and/or colleagues and shows promise as an exceptional member of the Perioperative Registered Nursing profession.

This award is presented at the annual ORNAA AGM and the winner from each district will receive an annual ORNAC membership

- The nominee must be currently working, as a registered nurse, in a surgical suite and have less than TWO (2) years experience in this role.
- The nominee does not have to be an ORNAC member.
- An ORNAA Promising Star Award nomination form must be completed.
- As per the nomination form, the nominee must be nominated by a Registered Perioperative Nurse with an active ORNAC membership who writes a supporting letter that demonstrates how the nominee fulfills the criteria of the award.
- Forward complete nominations to the Education Director at education@ornaa.org by Tuesday September 2, 2025.

CORNA's 2024 Promising Star Award Recipient



Ericka started at Red Deer Regional Hospital OR in 2023 as a fourth year preceptorship student from Red Deer Polytechnic. As a student, Erika stood out because of her great attitude, communication skills and her receptiveness to feedback. Ericka had a total of four preceptors and she learned from each of them. Multiple preceptors can be a challenge for students, but Ericka excelled with her many teachers. This is a true testament to her ability to be adaptable and flexible in her learning. Upon finishing her preceptorship, she started in a full-time RN position in the Department.

Ericka shows up to work prepared for the day and excited to learn new things. She is very perceptive and anticipates the surgical needs. She is often found looking at the next case cart and getting supplies and equipment organized. She works well with all members of our interdisciplinary team in the operating room.

She is excellent at being able to 'read the room' – a skill that can take years for some staff to develop. She understands when there is time to ask questions or socialize with the team and when the patient and procedure need undivided attention.

Claudia Huska, the CNE RDCH OR, recalled an emergent case in which Erika was involved in and recognized how calm Erika was under pressure and professional in a stressful situation. Even though Erika is relatively new to the OR, she is sought after by many speciality teams. Erika is also becoming a mentor by teaching students the scrubbing and other basic OR nursing skills.

Erika has a quiet and gentle manner that endears her to many of our staff members and physicians. Her ability to listen and learn quickly has earned her high praise from her colleagues. She is a calm, reliable, organized nurse who has a bright future ahead of her.