

2021 ABVTA Appreciation Award Presentation

This year the ABVTA received two nominees for the Appreciation Award. The ABVTA board is happy to present both Kate Simon and Fiona Kowalczyk with this year's award. We cannot think of more deserving women than these two to share the honor.

Fiona Kowalczyk has been an RVT since 1990 after graduating from the Fairview College Animal Health Technology program. Fiona has seen many changes in veterinary profession during her time in this field. She has been a mentor and leader during her career to many RVT's. Fiona joined the ABVTA board in 2015 and soon started her climb into the executive committee. With the support and encouragement of her fellow board members, Fiona became the ABVTA President for 2019-2020. During her presidency position, Fiona also held positions on the Policy Task Force, the wage survey task force and the Wellness Task Force. It was during this time, that we were all hit with the unknown pandemic and no one was sure where this would lead us or what fate was bestowed upon us. Fiona stood as a strong leader and was able to face any challenges thrown her way. Fiona is an advocate in our profession and truly demonstrates our core values and mission. It was these attributes that helped the ABVTA move into the future of technology and hold our our first virtual AGM and support for our members through these trying times. Thank you, Fiona, for all your hard work over the past year and we congratulate you on your new position on the RVTTC. We cannot wait to see what your future holds for leadership in the technologist world.

Another exemplary woman is Kate Simon. Kate became an RVT in 2001 after graduating from NAIT. She has fostered many relationships over the years and has become an RVT leader and mentor for upcoming generations of veterinary professionals. Kate joined the ABVTA board as an ex-officio position who represents Alberta on the RVTTC board. She also currently sits on the ABVMA council as one of the two RVT member representatives. However, it was when the ABVTA board decided to start the Mentorship Task Force that Kate signed on to become the chair and start a group for our student members that she has been recognized for this award. Kate has spent the last year, in the inaugural year for this task force to help members grow in their field. Kate herself having a VTS in Emergency and Critical Care has helped build and organize resources for students and members to engage in growing their skills. Kate Simon is a strong voice for the profession and believes in supporting one another. We thank Kate for all her hard work over the past year and setting up the Mentorship group.

There is a huge Appreciation for both these ladies, and we are lucky to have them on our leadership group to represent RVT's across Alberta and Canada. Thank you, Fiona and Kate.