

June 2, 2025

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing to provide a reference for Dr. Salima Sulaiman's application for RNFOO Nursing Innovation Grants. She has been involved in teaching Community health nursing within the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at Brock University for five years. During this time, she has actively integrated various teaching and learning strategies to engage students and deepen their understanding of Community Health concepts.

Simulation is a core component of experiential learning in nursing education. Salima has consistently incorporated simulation into her teaching to enhance student engagement and bridge the gap between theory and practice. One notable example includes a class-based simulation in the Community Health Nursing course where students conducted a mock home visit with a client recently diagnosed with type 2 diabetes. In this role-play, students assessed social determinants of health, identified potential barriers to diabetes management, and collaboratively developed a culturally appropriate care plan. Another student assumed the role of a family member, adding depth and realism to the scenario by highlighting conflicting health beliefs and challenges with medication adherence. This immersive activity was well received by students, as it allowed them to apply theoretical knowledge to a community-based context and practice communication, assessment, and critical thinking skills in a safe environment. These types of simulations are particularly effective when clinical placement experiences are limited, helping students develop competence in managing complex community health situations.

With the recent implementation of a new curriculum at Brock University, clinical placement opportunities have become limited for some students. In response, Salima is proposing the development of a practice-based simulation to enhance community health learning through the lens of Indigenous health. The simulation focuses on identifying health needs of Indigenous populations, understanding access barriers, and planning targeted health promotion. It aligns with core competencies to improve culturally safe, equitable, and quality care. These simulations will

include scripted scenarios followed by structured questions to promote critical thinking and knowledge development. Using Agent.ai software, a simulated patient agent will be created to provide students with realistic, interactive exposure to community health issues. This innovation is particularly timely, as there are currently no widely available online simulations that use generative AI to deliver interactive community-based learning experiences. This initiative not only has the potential to transform the learning experience for nursing students at Brock University, but it could also be made available as an open educational resource to benefit nursing education across Canada.

Thank you for considering this reference in support of her application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dawn Prentice".

Dawn Prentice, RN PhD dprentice@brocku.ca