2025 Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Awards Recipients

Kai Barcellos-Roy (not pictured): Kai Barcellos-Roy is a dedicated Creative Writing student whose leadership and advocacy have made a lasting impact on the KPU community. Kai is being recognized for his deep commitment to fostering inclusivity, advancing decolonization, and building meaningful connections through his work at The Gathering Place. His contributions include helping develop a culturally respectful digital library program to preserve and honor Indigenous resources. Through his unwavering advocacy and cultural respect, Kai exemplifies the values of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion at KPU.

Melinda Kachina Bige: Melinda (Kachina) Bige is an Associate Dean in the Faculty of Arts at KPU. She is being recognized for her extraordinary and transformative leadership which is rooted in her enduring commitment to community, her deep ethics, and humility. From her early work as a KPU student and faculty member to her current role in administration, Melinda has tirelessly opened doors for others and served as a powerful voice for institutional change. She played a key role in expanding Indigenous Studies at KPU and made space for new Indigenous faculty.

Andhra Rei Goundrey: Andhra Rei Goundrey is the Dean of the Wilson School of Design at KPU. Andhra is being recognized for her transformative leadership in promoting equity, diversity, inclusion, and justice through initiatives such as leading the Wilson School of Design to gold certification from the Rick Hansen Foundation and securing funding for the Indigenous Designer in Residence program. Her tireless advocacy on the Anti-Racism Task Force, dedication to student mental health with the Mindful Campus Initiative, and commitment to decolonizing the curriculum have made a profound and lasting impact on KPU.

Dr. Seanna Takacs: Dr. Seanna Takacs is a Learning Specialist with KPU Accessibility Services. She is also the co-founder of the Canadian Higher Education UDL Collective, Co-Chair of the Accessibility and Inclusion Community of Practice at the Canadian Association for College and University Student Services - CACUSS, and the Accessibility Lead for KPU Wild Spaces. In addition to these roles, Dr. Takacs currently serves as the inaugural Practice Lead for Accessibility Services at KPU. Her unwavering dedication to inclusive learning environments and her leadership in Universal Design for Learning (UDL) continue to drive systemic change at KPU and beyond.

Dr. Fiona Whittington-Walsh: Dr. Fiona Whittington-Walsh is being recognized for her tireless advocacy for disability rights and her transformative work in advancing inclusion and accessibility in higher education. As the founder of the Including All Citizens Pathway (IACP), she has championed the full inclusion of students with intellectual/developmental disabilities at

KPU and has led efforts in inclusive pedagogy, intersectional disability justice, and institutional change through policy, research, and community engagement. In 2022, she was named KPU's first Lead Advisor in Disability, Accessibility, and Inclusion, a role in which she continues to advocate for systemic change and support across the broader KPU community.