



# **The Julie Patel Foundation Award**

Your 2021 Confidential Impact Report



Please note that this is a confidential donor impact report not intended for public promotion. The students featured in your impact report have contributed their story in confidence with the intention of showing the difference you have made in their lives.



## Celebrating Your Impact

Thank you for creating the Julie Patel Foundation Award, in loving memory of your mother.

Supporting Ryerson students, this award speaks to the way that Julie touched and influenced the lives of many who had the pleasure to know her. Julie understood the importance of an education leading to an enriched life. In her lifetime she had a vision of financially assisting students to pursue their educational goals.

Through this award, you have chosen to support racialized students who demonstrate financial need. Amid these uncertain times brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the students you support are especially grateful for your belief in them.

Thank you for making higher education accessible to students who are passionate about strengthening their skills and knowledge to make a difference in society.

**XXX**

2021-22 Recipient

**"Law school is an expensive proposition, and coming from an average-income firstgeneration immigrant family, any financial aid is very helpful."**

I typically stand out because of how I look. Because of this, I grew up carrying with me an incredibly potent inferiority complex. This took an enormous toll, but I eventually moved past this regretful era of my life. Although these sentiments occasionally weigh on me to this day, I decided that I needed to start seeing my racial identity as something other than a liability. I am now in the final year of my criminology degree and I plan to apply to law school next.

While at Ryerson, I decided to begin associating myself with members of the Black community that carried qualities I admired. In 2019, I joined the Black Future Lawyers' Association at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law. I always knew I wanted to be a lawyer, but I was also aware of the appallingly small number of Black lawyers. Little by little, my participation in this club taught me how to set my sights on my end goal (legal practice) and use the diversity I offer to my advantage. I was able to smoothly navigate the demands of undergraduate studies with this mentality and challenged myself in positions of responsibility that I previously would have been too intimidated to hold.

One example of these positions includes my role as the Director of Corporate Relations for the Students' Law Network (formerly Ryerson Law Network). Through this organization, I have been able to foster legal interest among my peers by offering them the opportunity to attend and participate in intriguing and eye-opening events and workshops.

With respect to my goals, I have greatly shifted my view on what role my race places in my life. Previously, it was a shameful part of my identity. Now, it's something that I believe makes me unique and important in the pursuit of a diverse legal profession.

With my grades and heavy extracurricular involvement, I think I have a great chance of materializing my dream of being a lawyer by attending one of my dream law schools. This foundational award will greatly help me cover living costs associated with attending law school, including the tuition and price of books and materials. This award will support me in my journey to be of service to other racialized families. Thank you.

**XXX**

2021-22 Recipient

**"I am very thankful for the donors, as the Julie Patel Foundation Award came at just the right time to alleviate my financial struggle and support me in doing what I enjoy the most: learning."**





My name is XXX. I am currently in my fourth year of the Early Childhood Studies Program at Ryerson University. I joined this program as a direct entry student from Seneca College. I chose this program because I wanted to gain more knowledge as to how educators can make a great impact on the lives of families and children.

I am striving to become the first member of my family to graduate from university and make my family proud. Not only do I want to graduate but graduate with a high GPA so that I can go to a teacher's college program at York University.

The pandemic has affected me in unimaginable ways but through dedication and meaningful support by those around me, I did my best not to let my family and myself down.

I am very thankful for the donors, as the Julie Patel Foundation Award came at just the right time to alleviate my financial struggle and support me in doing what I enjoy the most: learning.

**Thank you for choosing Ryerson.**

**Krishan Mehta, PhD (he/him)**

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Impact report prepared by the Donor Relations and Stewardship department at Ryerson University.



\*Renaming in process

In August 2021, the university announced that it would begin a renaming process to address the legacy of Egerton Ryerson and build a more inclusive future. Let's write the next chapter together.

[ryerson.ca/next-chapter](https://ryerson.ca/next-chapter)