



UPEI's Twenty-fourth Recognition of Founders Ceremony
Schurman Market Square
Don and Marion McDougall Hall
Thursday, February 26, 2026, 1:30 pm

Citation for Donna Barnes
Read by Rebecca Michelin

Good afternoon,

I am proud to introduce Donna Barnes, a founding staff member of the Atlantic Veterinary College's Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Donna served as a veterinary technician in AVC's veterinary teaching hospital for 28 years, retiring in 2015. During her time at the College, her dedication to her work, patient care, and student learning, and to fostering a positive work environment was unmatched.

She supported and helped train hundreds of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine students, as well as veterinary technician students, post-doctoral students, and many staff members. She was well known and highly respected for her compassion, patience, and understanding, even in the most stressful of situations.

Donna was one of the founding members of the College's community practice service and participated in many outreach events as a team member. She was responsible for the introduction of the Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture's veterinary technician student externship program at AVC. Her extensive experience and unwavering professionalism set a standard against which all others in the veterinary technician profession were measured.

She always held respect, professionalism, excellent service, and advancements in veterinary medicine in high regard—this was obvious in her day-to-day interactions with clients, staff, patients, and students. She was the recipient of the AVC Class of 2002 Technician Appreciation Award many times—an indication of the influential role she played at AVC and UPEI. This award recognizes a technician at the AVC who demonstrates an enthusiastic spirit and effective teaching, and who enhances a positive learning environment for students.

Today, we are proud to name Donna Barnes a Founder of the University of Prince Edward Island for her dedication and service to the Atlantic Veterinary College.