

# BROCK UNIVERSITY

## Board of Trustees Spirit of Brock Medal

**Date:** April 21, 2011

**Student Candidate Name:** Monique Marie Finley

**Student I.D#** 8185250

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**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Spirit of Brock Medal Candidate Information

List involvements where you feel you have demonstrated the spirit of Sir Isaac Brock in one or more of the required areas listed: leadership, courage, innovation, inspiration, community involvement

Description\Involvement Position(s) Held	Dates of Involvement	Invested Time Commitment	Achievements\ Accomplishments	Paid Position (Y/N)	Related to a Course (Y/N)
Welland's Food Drive – Coordinator City-wide event,	2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010	60 hours each Fall	Lead core committee (10) in city wide initiative collecting/sorting of 35+ tons of collected food	N	N
Committee for Fund Raising for Susan Liske	Fall of 2010	Approximately 55 hours	Fund raising/organizing committee raised \$57,000	N	N
Brock MBA Return to School	January 2009 - April 2011	25 hours per week	At 49 years old I returned to school, completed the MBA degree in 29 months; maintaining an A average while working simultaneously full-time	N	
Health Educator	1995-2000	3 hours weekly	Presented over 80 health education seminars to groups from 5-100 throughout workplaces in Toronto, Hamilton and Niagara region	Y	N

## **Spirit of Brock Medal Personal Statement**

**Candidate:** In the space below, please submit a personal statement detailing for the Dean/Selection Committee your suitability for this award. Please speak to your achievements and involvement in the following areas:

- Leadership
- Innovation
- Community
- Courage
- Inspiration
- Involvement

### **Inspiration/Courage**

Completing my MBA was a call to lead by example. It was an opportunity to be a positive influence on my classmates, the students I teach and my three incredible children. The decision to return to school was a difficult, frightening experience, one that many people have to face as they move to their ‘second career’. My decision was one of choice, not necessity. After a 30 year absence I returned to school on the same day I took a new teaching position at Niagara College. As a *near 50 year old*, with two children attending university and a third about to start, I was concerned about the debt that would be incurred going back to school, my ability to learn at a masters level, and my ability to complete this degree while simultaneously starting a new career. I knew that if I could successfully earn my MBA, it would make me a more credible, empathetic role model for the college students I am supposed to inspire and my three children who were managing through their own post secondary careers. I completed the 20 courses for my degree ‘part-time’ in 7 consecutive semesters with a mid-80 average.

### **Leadership/Community Involvement**

There comes a point in a person’s life when one must be a catalyst for change and a servant of your community. The Welland Food Drive is a massive, city-wide event that has taken place on the first Saturday in November for nearly 20 years. A wonderful, fledgling committee of people worked incredibly hard to roll it out annually but as a volunteer I could see that they were exhausted and worn thin. I knew I could help. As a new co-ordinator (2006) I increased the committee number from four to ten members and through delegation and streamlined duties, I helped make the event more manageable for the committee members. I delegated, organized and promoted the event and helped recruit and coordinate the volunteers (450+). Over the last 5 years we increased the food collected during the 4 hour blitz through Welland to approximately 35+ tons.

So many dear friends of mine have had to recently deal with sickness and the fear that illness brings. I had just met Susan a few months after I started at Brock. Her courage and fight to live continues to move me to re-evaluate my priorities. The Liske family needed help with the costs of Susan’s treatment. I worked passionately with a few of her friends and on November 6 (the same day as the 2010 Welland Food Drive) held a 400 person, dinner dance raising a total of \$57,000. As the Master of Ceremonies for the evening I felt it important to make all those attending part of a community’s celebration of life; Susan’s life. It was a marvelous experience to be a part of.

### **Innovation**

As an employee of Glaxo Smith Kline, I was asked to participate in a ‘new, undefined’ position, Manager of Health Strategies. The role of this position was to partner with businesses who were reeling with the costs associated with their employees’ ill health; drug plan costs, and productivity loss due to illness and absenteeism. I believe that health care education is an individual’s personal responsibility and education with respect to health issues is a mandatory first step in taking control of your health. Over the five year period as a Manager of Health Strategies I planned, helped write, designed then taught the *Inspire* series of

health education workshops for employers across Canada to offer to their employees. Four modules were created: Take Control of Your Health, Migraine, Smoking Cessation and Asthma Management. This initiative brought international recognition to my department.

Truth be told I don't know if I best exemplified the spirit of Sir Isaac Brock or if I simply allowed the spirit of Brock; the professors, students and administrators, to reside in me. What I do know is that my individual growth while thriving in the Brock community has been profound. I am a wiser, more self assured, more determined person because of my time at Brock. I can only hope that I will continue to be a worthy ambassador for our institution.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_

## Description

The Board of Trustees Spirit of Brock medal is intended to recognize those students who best exemplify the spirit of Sir Isaac Brock. The medals will be presented to the graduating recipient(s) at the convocation ceremonies held in the spring and fall. Students who demonstrate any one or more of the following qualities can be recommended:

- Leadership
- Courage
- Innovation
- Inspiration
- Community Involvement

Graduating students may apply to the Office of Student Awards and Financial Aid who will ensure the applications review by their respective Deans/Faculty Awards Committees.

The awards will be made on the recommendations of the Deans of Applied Health Sciences, Business, Education, Humanities, Mathematics and Science, Social Sciences and at the graduate level (Masters and PhD) the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies in consultation with the Deans of Applied Health Sciences, Business, Education, Humanities, Mathematics and Science, Social Sciences. Nominations will be sent to the Office of the Student Awards and Financial Aid by a deadline that will be determined annually.

### **Guidelines and Criteria:**

#### **Spring Convocation Medals:**

The students who receive this Medal must be from the graduating class, one each recommended by the Deans of the Faculties of Applied Health Sciences, Business, Education, Humanities, Mathematics and Science, and Social Sciences, and students graduating from the Faculty of Graduate Studies, recommended by the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies in consultation with the Faculty Deans, one each from Applied Health Sciences, Business, Education, Humanities, Mathematics and Science, and Social Sciences, for a total of 12 recipients.

#### **Fall Convocation Medals:**

The students who receive this Medal must be from the graduating class, one undergraduate recommended by the Deans of the Faculties of Applied Health Sciences, Business, Education, Humanities, Mathematics and Science, and Social Sciences, and one graduate student graduating from the Faculty of Graduate Studies, nominated by the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies in consultation with the Deans of Applied Health Sciences, Business, Education, Humanities, Mathematics and Science, and Social Sciences, for a total of 2 recipients.

Students must submit a signed and dated application form.

Additional documentation may be attached to your application.

Completed applications must be submitted by the specified deadlines.