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Shirin Abadi, B.Sc.(Pharm.), ACPR, Pharm.D.

CSHP Foundation's Pharmacy Leadership Academy Scholarship Recipient

The CSHP Foundation is committed to offering educational opportunities to develop Canada's hospital pharmacy leaders using innovative, evidence-based methods. As a 12-month distance-learning program, the ASHP Pharmacy Leadership Academy supports additional training for those aspiring to leadership positions. The Foundation's scholarship covers the program's tuition.

Dr. Shirin Abadi was the 2013 recipient of the CSHP Research and Education Foundation's Pharmacy Leadership Academy (PLA) Scholarship. By completing the ASHP PLA program, Shirin has gained insight into optimizing her leadership effectiveness and utilizing key leadership principles to implement important strategies.

Q: Why did you decide to enrol in the ASHP PLA program?

A: I have always been interested in maximizing my leadership effectiveness, because I have seen the tremendous impact of great leaders on patients, departments, organizations and professions. With limiting healthcare budgets and competing programs, it is often challenging to put new initiatives forward and to gain timely support to implement them. We need to be smarter and more strategic about how we approach many aspects of our work, including advocacy, clinical and research programs, financial analysis, delegation, communication, negotiation, and the list goes on. When I saw the opportunity to enrol in the ASHP PLA program through the generous support of the CSHP Foundation, I had to go for it, and I am so glad I did. It was definitely a very worthwhile decision!

Q: What did you gain from the ASHP PLA program?

A: I learned many important leadership pearls from the ASHP PLA program, including the importance of developing effective personal and departmental mission, vision and values, embracing the concept of ownership versus buy-in, optimizing crucial conversations, identifying various leadership styles and how they can help facilitate decision-making, understanding important financial management strategies, determining how best to lead change effectively, and planning for departmental and organizational success. It was also very beneficial to network with pharmacists and pharmacy leaders from other countries and to learn about their practices and how they approach similar challenges in their organizations.

Q: Why should pharmacists consider the ASHP PLA program and the CSHP Foundation PLA Scholarship?

A: The ASHP PLA program is a great opportunity to optimize your leadership effectiveness, and the generous CSHP Foundation PLA Scholarship is a fantastic CSHP member benefit. The application process is straight forward. I found the program to be manageable, despite a very busy schedule, and the PLA faculty was supportive and helpful. The program makes you think outside the box and opens your eyes to opportunities to maximize your leadership potential. It also gives you a sense of accomplishment and the confidence in your abilities to make a positive difference.

Apply for the PLA Scholarship before March 27, 2015. Information at www.cshpfoundation.ca.