Students enrolled in any of the 10 EPHE courses requiring labs have benefited from this year’s recipient of the Team Award for Innovation. The members of the Laboratory Coordination and Instructional Team (LCIT)—Melissa Clarke, Janine Drummond, Greg Mulligan, Holly Murray and Veronica Planella—not only assist 1,000 students annually in their own labs but also provide support when students’ studies take them into the labs of other departments.

Team members go beyond the traditional style of lab experience to engage students and encourage their input to provide an authentic research experience. Students also praise LCIT’s efforts to provide access to cutting-edge technologies, preparing students to meet the challenges of employment.

“The implementation of active participation in these laboratories has opened many opportunities for future success and allowed me to become involved in research projects within the faculty that coincide with my interests and experiences,” says kinesiology student Jaymie Elder.

The team members don’t just teach students—they mentor them as well, recruiting volunteer learning assistants (LAs) to assist in the labs.

“When I was approached to become an LA . . . I was deeply honoured,” says kinesiology student Marie-Claude Magnan. “Now I interact with the material in a different way and truly understand the efforts and passions the team puts into their work.”

The LA program was established in the early 1980s and this year’s team award recognizes not only the current LCIT members but the legacy of those who went before them.

“This team goes above and beyond the expectations for a laboratory-based course,” says Elder, “and ensures that each individual leaves with a unique and enriched experience that enhances overall knowledge and proves beneficial in pursuing future careers.”