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Pharmacy Leadership & Education Institute Announces Komal Kumar as 2026 Recipient of the John F. (“Jack”) Schlegel Leadership Development Award

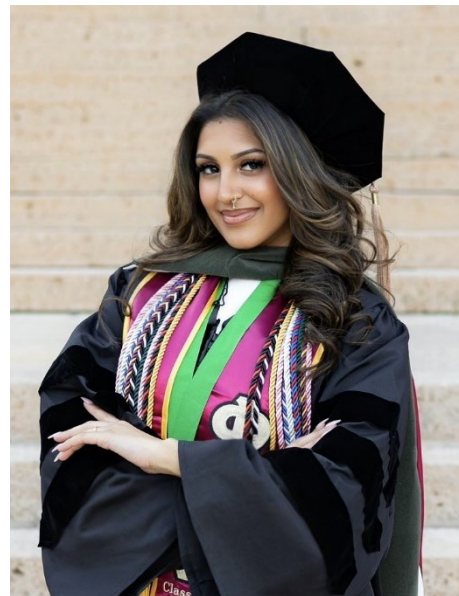
South Lyon, Michigan — The Pharmacy Leadership & Education Institute (PLEI) is pleased to announce that **Komal Kumar**, PharmD/MBA Class of 2026 at Temple University School of Pharmacy, has been selected as the recipient of the **2026 John F. (“Jack”) Schlegel Leadership Development Award**.

Established to honor the legacy of Dr. John F. (“Jack”) Schlegel, a visionary pharmacy leader and mentor, the award recognizes a graduating student pharmacist who demonstrates exceptional leadership, service, professionalism, and the potential to make significant contributions to the profession of pharmacy.

Throughout her pharmacy education, Kumar has distinguished herself as a servant leader, scholar, researcher, and advocate for patient safety. A member of the Alpha Omicron Chapter of Phi Delta Chi Professional Pharmacy Fraternity, she has served in numerous leadership roles, including Vice President and Acting President, guiding her chapter through significant organizational challenges while maintaining a strong focus on professional development, member engagement, and service.

In addition to her contributions within Phi Delta Chi, Kumar has served as President of the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy chapter at Temple University, Treasurer of the Student Government Association, a delegate for the Student National Pharmaceutical Association, and a mentor through multiple student leadership initiatives. Her commitment to advancing the profession is reflected in her research accomplishments, award-winning presentations, publications, and dedication to improving medication safety and patient outcomes.

“Komal exemplifies the qualities this award was created to recognize,” said the PLEI Awards Committee Chair, Kevin Anderson. “Her ability to lead through service, inspire those around her, and remain committed to improving healthcare for patients demonstrates the character, resilience, and vision that Dr. Schlegel championed throughout his career.”



Growing up in an immigrant family, Kumar witnessed firsthand the impact that medication errors, communication barriers, and gaps in healthcare systems can have on patients and families. These experiences inspired her passion for pharmacovigilance and drug safety. Following graduation, she will begin a two-year fellowship with Eli Lilly, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and Butler University focused on global pharmacovigilance, regulatory affairs, and pharmacy education.

Kumar's long-term goal is to help shape drug safety policy and strengthen systems that protect patients, particularly those in underserved communities. Her leadership journey has already demonstrated her commitment to that mission through research, advocacy, mentorship, and service.

The John F. ("Jack") Schlegel Leadership Development Award includes a \$1,000 honorarium and is presented annually by PLEI to a student pharmacist who embodies the leadership principles and professional values exemplified by Dr. Schlegel.

About PLEI

The Pharmacy Leadership & Education Institute (PLEI) is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to developing leaders who transform the profession of pharmacy. Through leadership development programs, scholarships, awards, and educational initiatives, PLEI helps pharmacists and student pharmacists build the skills needed to lead effectively and serve their communities.

For more information about PLEI and its leadership development programs, visit PLEI.org.

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