

Cathedral student awarded \$80K Schulich Leaders scholarship

In the past four years, Colin Daly has won Hackathons, taught himself programming through online courses, guest starred on the Bill Kelly Show, captained Cathedral's programming team, medalled at the board's annual Programmania competition, hosted 3D printing workshops for the board's gifted program, developed Android Applications for healthcare and poverty, and rebuilt and designed four 3D printers, all the while maintaining a 96.2% average.

If that isn't jaw-dropping enough, in the past month, Colin, a Grade 12 French Immersion student at Cathedral High School, was awarded an \$80,000 Schulich Leader scholarship at not one, but two of Canada's leading universities.

Colin, whose name was submitted for the Schulich Leaders program by teacher Leanne Marrazzo, is one of 1400 students across Canada to be nominated for the prestigious award. Only fifty students are selected each year (roughly 3.5% of the nominees), and out of those, only 25 scholarships are awarded for engineering – two per university.

"It was truly an easy choice to pick Colin as our nominee," says Marrazzo. "He is one of Cathedral's most promising young leaders with a passion for engineering, innovation, and creativity."

Describing him as a humble and intelligent young man, she says Colin has been influential at Cathedral High School, especially in the areas of science and technology.

"The University of Waterloo is extremely fortunate to have such a bright, outstanding mind who is destined for BIG things."

Big things, indeed. On May 2, Colin received a letter from the University of Toronto offering him a Schulich Leaders scholarship of \$80,000 over four years. With the long-term future in mind, Colin turned down the scholarship to study at the University of Waterloo. Just a few weeks later, he received another \$80,000 scholarship offer – this time from the University of Waterloo.

"This scholarship means the world to me," says Colin. "It opens up so many opportunities that I will not take for granted."

Established by Canadian philanthropist Seymour Schulich in 2012, Schulich Leaders is a \$100-million entrance scholarship program for students entering Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math undergraduate programs at participating universities in Canada and Israel. The program ensures that Canada's top minds entering STEM disciplines will become the next generation of technology innovators.

"What sets Colin apart from all other recipients is that he was offered the Schulich Scholarship not once, but twice," says Michele Vesprini-Jordan, Grade 12 Guidance Counsellor at Cathedral High School. "Two different universities selected Colin to be their potential recipient – the University of Toronto and the University of Waterloo."

Both are leading universities in Canada, according to the Academic Ranking of World Universities, which features both on its global top 200 universities' list.

"It is very rewarding for us to have one of our Cathedral graduates recognized by two of the top Canadian Universities for his outstanding academic achievements," says Principal Mark Daly. "It affirms the quality of Catholic education Cathedral provides, and the efforts our staff make on a daily basis for the sake of our students. "

Colin will be entering Waterloo's Software Engineering co-op program in September, a program the Wall Street Journal calls "a magnet for tech-company recruiters like Google and Amazon."

According to a 2015 report by Startup Compass Inc., which tracks small and midsize businesses, "the school's graduates are the second-most-frequently hired in Silicon Valley behind students from University of California, Berkeley," reports Lindsay Gellman (Wall Street Journal, May 4, 2016).

"The University of Waterloo has always been my dream school," says Colin. "The innovation, start-up culture, and entrepreneurial spirit make the university such a great fit for me."

More than a great fit, a perfect fit. In extra-curricular activities, Colin has 3D printed miniatures for a company building scale models of Ontario, participated and placed in system and regional science fairs, managed and maintained a series of websites which together generated more than \$10,000 in advertising revenue, was a member of the school's news crew, and dabbled at and developed Android applications in his free time. Recently, Colin built a robotic arm to win first place and an award for best hardware hack at MasseyHacks 2, Canada's first MLH High School Hackathon with over 250 participants.

"I'm always coming up with new ideas and creative ways to make things," says Colin. "I'll always be working on a project, whether it be

programming or building things. It's passion more than anything."

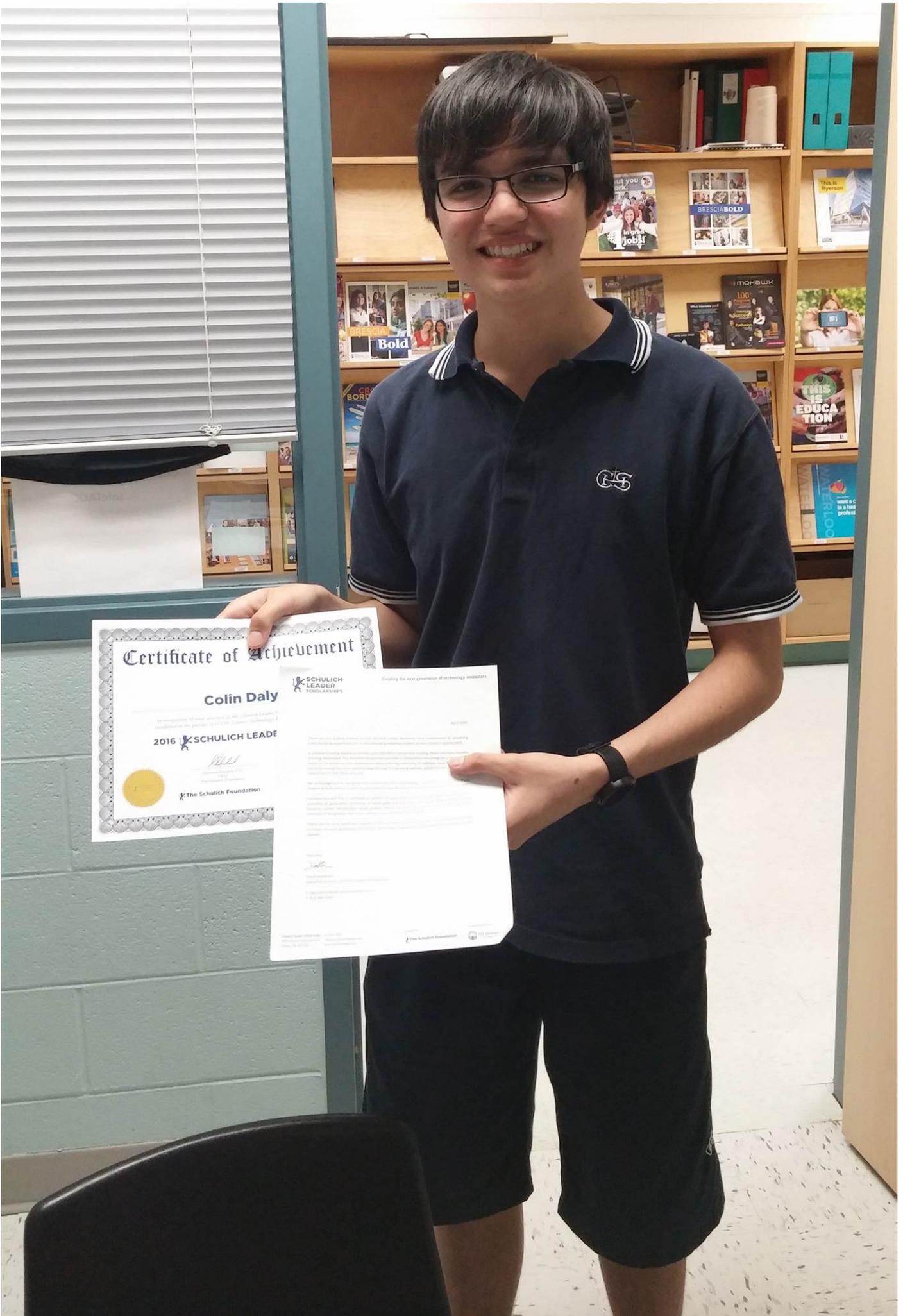
He's been supported in all of his ventures by his parents and siblings, and teachers John Pataracchia and Kristina Saliccioli who, he says, have shown him "incredible support, encouragement and kindness."

While Pataracchia, who coaches the CHS Hackers (CHackers), "is an incredibly talented teacher who shares my genuine passion for technology," Saliccioli "is the reason I took my projects from my basement and started involving them in my community," says Colin. "Without them, I would not have accomplished what I did at Cathedral."

Now it remains to be seen what Daly will accomplish post secondary.

"It's a software developer's dream to contribute at a top tech company like Google," says Colin. "On the other hand, I may want to explore the possibility of starting a company. Above all, I would like to do something that's so interesting it doesn't seem like a job. I won't let myself settle for anything less."

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Colin Daly

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The Schulich Foundation

SCHULICH LEADER
Creating the next generation of technology innovators

April 2016

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