

Nelson High School student receives \$80,000 Schulich scholarship

NEWS

Jun 21, 2018 by [Julie Slack](#)  Burlington Post

Daniel Hoogsteen was three years old and counting the number of holes in the step stool at the doctor's office.

Fast-forward to 18, and the soon-to-be graduate of Nelson High School still loves numbers. Especially the \$80,000 scholarship he was awarded so he can pursue his dream of pursuing a career that uses math or physics to explain the world we live in.

"Since I was young, I've had a love of numbers," he said. "I think my entire life I've been good with numbers because it's allowed me to explore the world around me."

He was awarded one of 50 Schulich Leader Scholarships, which are aimed at creating the next generation of technology innovators.

Launched in 2012, the \$100 million program funds 50 undergraduate scholarships each year, across top Canadian universities; 25 at \$100,000 for engineering and 25 at \$80,000 for science, technology or math.

Hoogsteen intends to study math and physics at the University of Toronto in the fall.

He said when he saw an email about scholarships in his inbox, he opened it, expecting a couple of thousand dollars.

"I opened it up and saw Schulich and I jumped out bed, went crazy and told my mom and brothers. It was surreal."

The winners must be nominated by the school and each school is only allowed to nominate one student.

Hoogsteen has been active in many things at Nelson: Jazz and concert band, senior helper, choir, reach for the top trivia team, model UN, co-president of Young Blood for Life (program for donating blood) science club and the science Olympics at McMaster University.

In the community, he served as a page at Queen's Park, and he was a member of Eleanor McMahon's youth advisory committee.

He was a member of the Burlington Teen Tour Band for many years, until last weekend.

"All good things must come to an end," he said, adding he had to quit because he won't have time when he's living in Toronto at school.

He sings with his mom in his church choir at Brant Hills Presbyterian Church; he formerly was a member of Knox Presbyterian, where his father served as minister until he died seven years ago.

I've been very fortunate to have had some incredible teachers who really care about what they teach, Hoogsteen said. "My chemistry teacher, for instance, is amazing at engaging the entire class."

As for a future career, he's not entirely certain.

"There's a place in my heart for both science and math and looking at society and how it works together."

Sidrah Rana, a White Oaks Secondary School student, who resides in Mississauga, is also a Schulich Leader.