



## \$100,000 for university? Two Durham students score big scholarships

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DURHAM — Daniyal Kashif was five years old when his family arrived in Canada from Pakistan, and he remembers feeling different when he was in elementary school.

“There wasn’t anyone else at my school who was Pakistani ... there weren’t many South Asian people at all,” he recalls. “I didn’t really have a chance to share my culture.”

It’s what inspired him to create a multicultural committee at R.S. McLaughlin CVI in Oshawa, when he was in Grade 10.

Now in Grade 12, Kashif says the committee has taken off, hosting everything from a multicultural food buffet, to Chinese New Year celebrations.

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His efforts recently landed Kashif a TD Scholarship for Community Leadership worth \$70,000.

He was one of only 20 students across Canada to receive the award, which provides money for tuition and living expenses.

“This money is going to be so helpful,” says Kashif, who is headed to the University of Toronto in the fall to study life sciences on his way to his goal of becoming a doctor.

In addition to founding the multicultural committee, he also created a committee at McLaughlin for aspiring medical professionals, and has been involved with his school’s athletic council and Reach for the Top team as well as Ultimate Frisbee, track and field, and basketball.

It’s a packed schedule for a teenager, but Kashif says knowing that many people in his former home country — and around the world — don’t have the same opportunities, keeps him focused

“So many people across the world who would die to be a part of these things, and to have these opportunities,” he says.

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He’s not the only Durham student to score a big scholarship this spring.

Nikola Petrevski, a Grade 12 student at J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate in Ajax, received a \$100,000 Schulich Leader Scholarship, the largest science, technology, engineering and math scholarship in Canada.

He is heading to the engineering program at McMaster University in the fall and hopes to eventually work in electrical engineering.

“Since I was young, I’ve always wanted to know how things work, and why they work,” Petrevski says. “My dad has always had a fascination with electronics and that sort of stuff, so he got me into it.”

Guidance counsellor Abigail Pearson nominated Petrevski for the scholarship, in recognition of his leadership work on student council since Grade 9 — he is now co-prime minister at J. Clarke Richardson.

“He is a student who has vision and a student who follows through and takes action to get where he needs to be,” she says.

by [Jillian Follert](#)

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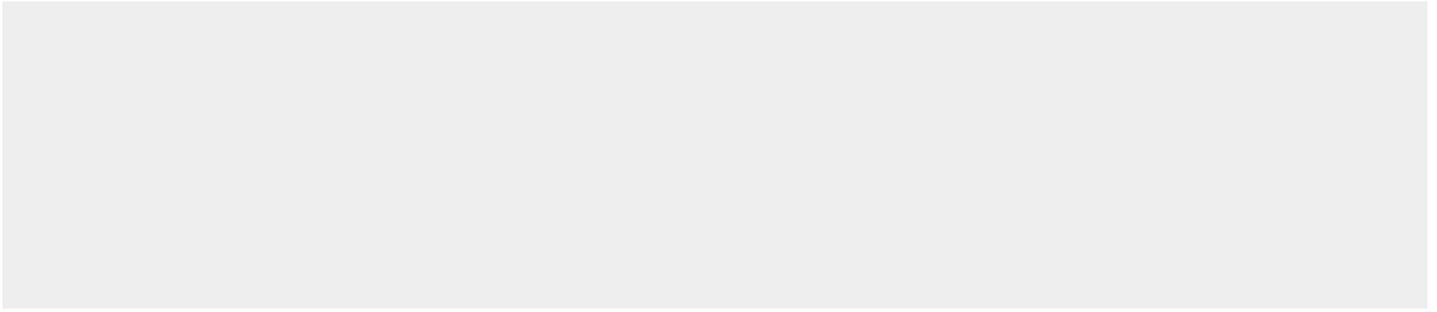
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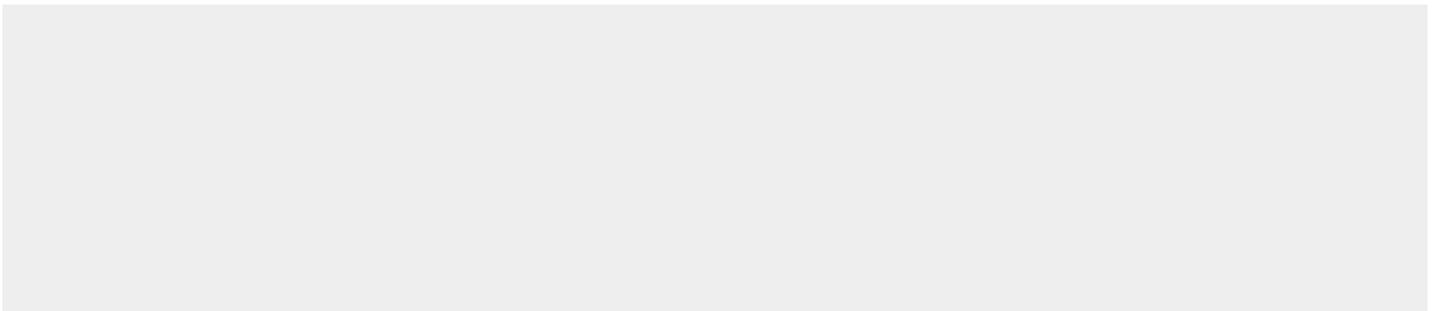
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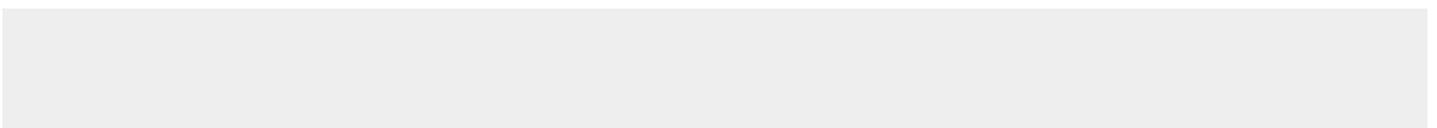
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