



News Release: Westwood student awarded largest Canadian scholarship



For Immediate Release

(Edmonton, AB, May 31, 2016) Fort McMurray Public School District (FMPD) proudly congratulates Linda Guo, Westwood Community High School graduate, who won the \$60,000 prestigious Schulich Leader scholarship. Only 50 out of 1500 high school nominees were selected to receive the coveted honour.

A future doctor, Guo will be entering the Bachelor of Medical Sciences program at Western University, offered jointly through the Faculty of Science and the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry.

“Schulich Leader Scholarships are prestigious entrance scholarships awarded to high school graduates enrolling in a Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM) undergraduate program at participating universities in Canada and Israel...This program awards 100 scholarships annually, valued at more than \$5M,” according to the official news release.

“We continue to invest in Canada’s most promising high school graduates. Ensuring our nation’s competitiveness in the knowledge-based economy is an imperative. We take great pride knowing the Schulich Foundation is ensuring Canada’s top minds entering STEM disciplines will become the next generation of technology innovators,” said Seymour Schulich, CEO, Schulich Foundation.

Christine Tulk, Westwood Community High School Counselor, nominated Guo, highlighting her versatile portfolio.

“Linda has volunteered over 1000 hours to a variety of organizations at the school, within the community, and summer programs. Fluent in Mandarin, she loves the violin, and is also very active with the Royal Conservatory of Music. She is well-respected by her peers, and the staff, and is a role model for others,” shared Tulk.

A recent bronze winner at the Canada-Wide Science Fair, Linda continues to be an outstanding Westwood and FMPD ambassador.

“It’s an honour to represent our school board and Fort McMurray to the rest of Canada. Winning the Schulich Leader scholarship allows me to understand how I compare to other students on a national basis,” enthused Guo.

“My goal is to develop vaccines for different types of cancers and incorporate robotic technologies into the diagnosis and treatment of patients. Great advancements in society are paid in the currency of humanity, in units of love, of dedication, of determination through tears and sorrow and sweat. I am willing to dedicate my life to this cause, because to me, there is no greater reward than making a difference,” she added.

Jessica Roy, Principal, Westwood Community High School, notes Guo fits the criteria for the Schulich scholarship perfectly.

“The high academic standards at Westwood have been maintained and surpassed by Linda and she is a shining example of someone who believes in our school motto, “be the change you wish to see in the world.” Not only does Linda excel academically but her empathy for others, creative vision and genuine excitement about the future are inspiring to us all. It has been a tremendous pleasure having Linda as a Westwood student and we wish her the very best in her future.”

Linda joins the ranks of recent STEM award winners at FMPSD. Johnny Dulku, Westwood Community High School science teacher was recently awarded a fourth BP A+ for Energy Grant for his project entitled "Plastic's Journey: Transforming Waste into Useful Objects." Dulku and Kitty Cochrane, École Dickinsfield teacher – both are finalists for the Alberta Emerald Award for environmental stewardship.

École McTavish Junior High School student MacKenzie Guy secured a Silver, and Dhrumil Patel, Westwood student received Bronze at the Canada-Wide Science Fair on May 19. In addition, three École McTavish students, Kisa Fatima, Raiha Hussain, and Sharar Zaman made it to the top 10 for the Caring for our Watersheds contest finals earlier this month.

For additional information, please contact:

Kiran Malik-Khan

Communications Coordinator

Fort McMurray Public School District #2833

(C) 780-880-7666

kiran.malikkhan@fm-psd.ab.ca



Phone: 780-799-7900

Fax: 780-743-2655

Fort McMurray Public School District
231 Hardin Street
Fort McMurray, Alberta, T9H 2G2

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