

# Simonds High grad lands huge scholarship

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SAINT JOHN \* Simonds High School staff are beaming with pride as Grade 12 student Min Ji Kim recently got news she was awarded a \$60,000 award for post-secondary science and engineering related studies.

The 19-year-old student, who was born in South Korea, has been living in Saint John with her family since the summer of 2013. She said she was surprised when she heard in early March that she was one of 50 students across the country to get the Schulich Leadership Award. The \$100-million scholarship was founded by Canadian businessman Seymour Schulich in 2011.

"At first, I just froze there and neither I nor my parents could believe it," she said. "I had to email back and confirm that this was real. The next day they sent me an email and said it was true."

Kim is using the money to study for a bachelor of science degree beginning next year at the University of New Brunswick Saint John. She hopes to eventually study medicine at Dalhousie. In many ways her passion for science and medicine is personally fulfilling.

After spending the last two years with a heavy course load of sciences, she sees the challenge in science and mathematics as being a challenge that offers a rewarding feeling when completed.

"For me it is like a mystery," she said. "I feel very happy when doing a math question or a science question because you don't know what the answer is, and it can be so difficult. When you are done it, you have the answer, and that is when I feel very happy. It is so exciting when you solve it."

In other ways, studying medicine is an emotional goal that she has long dreamt about.

"When I was seven years old, my grandmother was often sick or getting the cold," she recalled of her early life in South Korea. "I was thinking then that if I was a doctor, I could treat her. This was my dream while I was young. I tried to read books about medicine or science as I grew up and I found it so exciting and interesting. So I thought being a doctor might be the right choice for me."

As she looks ahead, Kim says she owes much to her parents, who have encouraged her to work toward embracing the local lifestyle, as well as staff and friends at the school, who have treated her as "an equal."

Her guidance counsellor, Lori Hayes, was the main person to nominate Kim for the award. She said Kim's achievements have been remarkable over the last few years given some of the language barriers she has experienced since coming to New Brunswick.

"To watch her excel over the last couple of years, especially with English as her second language, has been a privilege," she said. "But she is also a very compassionate student and is very caring and helpful and definitely deserving of it."

Kim is heavily involved in the school beyond her science studies. For example, music plays a very active role in her life. She plays up to eight different instruments, including piano, flute and clarinet. Perhaps most interesting is her ability to play both the Asian-inspired ocarina, gudi and the hulusi woodwind instruments. She has also been involved in the school's Teens Against Drunk Driving club, the craft club, choir, swim team, student council and Helping Hands. She has also volunteered with the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets, the Horizon Health Network and participated in Shad Valley, a summer enrichment program for top high school students in Canada. She has also won numerous awards in entrepreneurship and science.