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Scholarship.

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PEOPLE

Students' community engagement nets major scholarship

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First-year undergraduates Deven Azevedo, 18 and Andy Zeng, 17, have each received a \$60,000 [Schulich Leader Scholarship](#).

Azevedo, who is studying environmental science, and Zeng, who is studying biomedical physiology, are among 40 new undergrads at 20 selected universities across Canada to receive a scholarship.

Recipients must meet two of three criteria: academic excellence, social and/or business leadership, and financial need. They must also study one of the STEM subjects: Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics.

Azevedo and Zeng were science stars in high school, but it was their commitment to community engagement that netted them their Schulich scholarships.

In Grade 11, Azevedo founded a composting system at Langley Fine Arts School, which the Langley School District adopted last year. He also established a 40-bed community garden in Fort Langley, his hometown.

Zeng, who teaches martial arts, is also passionate about tutoring fellow students in science and fostering community awareness about social and environmental issues. The co-founder of the new SFU Red Cross Club, Zeng coordinated fundraisers and did volunteer work on behalf of the homeless as co-president of Centennial High School's Red Cross Club.

He also co-founded the School District 43 Water Well Initiative, a network of humanitarian clubs that taught more than a thousand elementary and middle school children about water security. It also raised more than \$5,000 to construct a well in Kenya.

Azevedo and Zeng say the scholarships are helping them to maintain their community engagement at university, which they say is crucial to their evolution as global agents of positive change.

"In order for me to fulfill my goal of helping as best I can to solve the world's environmental crisis, I believe I must gain a wide

range of experiences,” says Azevedo, who plays guitar in a local Indie-rock band.

“The Schulich Leader scholarship is what allows me to fully immerse myself in my studies and extracurricular activities that are making a community difference, without any financial concerns,” says Zeng.

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