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Memorial Composite High School student wins prestigious scholarship

By [April Hudson](#), Spruce Grove Examiner/Stony Plain Reporter
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Taylor Rocque, left, and Stony Plain Rotary Club president Michael Thomas at the Farmers' Day Parade. - Photo Submitted

The future is bright for Memorial Composite High School student Taylor Rocque, who recently received the Schulich Leader scholarship for the University of Alberta. With a 98 per cent average and numerous community accomplishments under her belt, Rocque, 17, will be pursuing a bachelor of science degree, with a major in biological sciences.

"I eventually want to go into medicine and specialize in pediatrics," she said. "Last summer, I worked in a research lab at the university under a pediatric cardiologist, and it just piqued my interest."

That job was due to the Heritage Youth Researcher Summer Program.

Rocque's guidance counsellor, Marie Porter, was the one who nominated her for the scholarship, worth \$60,000 and awarded to only 40 students yearly out of thousands of nominees. All high schools in Canada are eligible to select one candidate as a nominee.

"As soon as I read the criteria I knew that Rocque was a perfect candidate for this prestigious scholarship," Porter said.

"She has been the top academic student for her Grade 10 and 11 school years. She is currently the top academic student in the Grade 12 class, ranked number one in a class of 350 students ... (She) also exemplifies the ideals of service to both her local and global community."

Rocque has worked with the LIFE for Child Soldiers group at her school, as well as being part of the student-led group to host Lt. Gen. Romeo Dallaire, a Canadian senator, humanitarian and author, for both a student assembly and a community-wide event.

She has also been the president of the MCHS Rotary Interact Club for her Grade 12 year, which is one of the school's largest extra-curricular groups.

"The foundation that Rocque has started will have a positive impact on our student body for years to come," Porter said.

"She sets high but realistic goals for herself, and works diligently to attain her goals."

Porter has been Rocque's guidance counsellor since she started at MCHS, and says all the teaching staff were excited to hear about Rocque winning the scholarship. She added that the teachers at Seba Beach School, where Rocque attended junior high, were also happy to hear of it.

"I think that Rocque can achieve anything that she sets her mind to. Due to her ambitious attitude and strong work ethic, I am confident that she will flourish at post-secondary studies and serving her community in the future," Porter said.

"I am looking forward to hearing about the future endeavours of Taylor Rocque."

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