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Strathmore High student Jonah Zankl receives scholarship



By **Dan Marcinkowski**, Strathmore Standard
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From Left to Right: Registrar and Associate Vice-Provost David Johnston, Jonah Zankl, Vice-Provost Dr. Susan Barker. Zankl received one of 40 four-year Schulich Leader Scholarships to study at the University of Calgary totalling \$60,000.

Strathmore's Jonah Zankl continues to impress as he gears up to head off to University.

Zankl, who recently graduated from Strathmore High School received a \$60,000 four-year Schulich Leadership Scholarship to study at the University of Calgary.

"I wasn't really expecting it all. It was definitely a surprise. I mean stuff like that doesn't happen to kids in small towns, it usually goes to kids in big city schools," said Zankl.

It's considered one of the elite scholarships in the country, as every high school in Canada is able to nominate a student, but only 40 students from across the country are chosen. "That in itself is an enormous accomplishment, to be nominated by your school among all the other students in the graduating class," said vice-provost of the University of Calgary, Susan Barker.

The student who is nominated by their high school can then select which universities they wish to be considered at, but it has to be in the S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) program.

"The University of Calgary had 75 nominees and then we have a big committee that reads every single application," said Barker.

"From that pool, we select two individuals. There are only 20 universities in Canada that take the Schulich scholars. Not every post-secondary has the opportunity to have Schulich scholars."

"It's a pretty amazing, pretty prestigious scholarship."

Selecting students for this scholarship requires a mix of everything. "The culture of the scholarship is around academic excellence, it's about community involvement, which is pretty critical and it's about entrepreneurship too," said Barker.

"They are the three criteria's."

"We look at what was he doing in the community? What sort of entrepreneurial activities he had been involved with and of course what his performance is at school in terms of his marks?"

The other student who received the award is from New Found Land. Jonah was competing with students from across Canada. "It could have been a student from Toronto or Montreal," said Barker.

"The Schulich scholarship is really competitive and it's amazing Jonah's got it and it's great for Strathmore."

He applied for two other scholarships, which he didn't get, but he won student of the year at Strathmore High School and received the Rutherford scholarship for high school achievement.

He had to write a one-page essay and get two reference letters for the Schulich scholarship. "Compared to some of the other ones that I went through, it was pretty simple," said Zankl.

He will be doing a combined degree at the UofC; a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and a Bachelor of Science in Applied Math.

Zankl wants to get into the finance field. "That's why I combined math and economics, because it's a really great mix to get into that field," said Zankl. He will be starting his first year of university in the fall and is excited and already wants his post-secondary life to begin. Zankl is probably going to live in Calgary while attending university, but will stay involved with things in Strathmore.

"Part of the scholarship is that I have to stay involved in community activities. The scholarship is designed not only to foster scientific research in Canada, but to ensure that people are enabled to be able to continue with community work," said Zankl.

When Zankl's family found out about the scholarship they were overwhelmed. "It changes everything," said Zankl.

"It's such a huge relief to not have to worry about where money is coming from.

Not only did Zankl receive high marks in school, he was involved in many extra-curricular activities and groups. He was President of Student Leadership at Strathmore High School. "This year our big events were the Halloween food drive, where we brought in 1000's of pounds of food for the food bank," said Zankl.

"At Christmas we brought in over 3,000 items for the Christmas Hamper, which was our most successful run at that ever."

Zankl was also the chair of Strathmore Assembly of Youth and also involved with the LEO club and with the tour of Alberta organizing committee. This will also be his second year doing the ride to conquer cancer.


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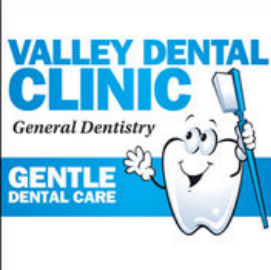
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