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Education

Sorgini named a Schulich scholar



By [Harold Carmichael](#), Postmedia
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PM



Alana Sorgini

A Lockerby Composite Secondary School student has won a prestigious Canadian scholarship to pursue her goal of working in the health-care field.

"I just found out the first week of March," said Alana Sorgini, on her winning a \$60,000 Schulich Leader Scholarship to study bio-medical science at the University of Ottawa. "I was 'oh my God!' I was so excited I was receiving it!"

A Grade 12 student in the Science Technology Education Program (STEP), Sorgini, 17, will also be receiving an entrance scholarship to the Ottawa university.

"It is so exciting as everything is covered," she said. "I don't have to pay for residence, meals and things."

Sorgini said she is considering a career in medicine.

"I had been looking to go into medicine," she said. "I'm not sure yet. You take anatomy and physiology (in bio-medical sciences), calculus, bio and chemistry, which I

really like ... I know I'm going into health care, but I'm not sure (what area) yet."

Sorgini was one of only 50 Canadian students out of 1,250 nominees to receive the scholarship in 2015. Twenty participating Canadian universities will each select two Schulich Leaders, typically one in science and in engineering (the engineering scholarship is worth \$80,000). Five participating Israeli universities will also each select two students.

The scholarship program was set up in 2012 by philanthropist Seymour Schulich to recognize outstanding young Canadian leaders seeking an undergraduate degree in a science, technology, engineering or mathematics field of study.

Sorgini is the first Rainbow District School Board student to ever win a Schulich Leader Scholarship.

In addition to maintaining high grades at Lockerby, Sorgini also writes for the Viking Voice, provides tutoring in math, is involved in a mental-health awareness committee to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness and provide resources to students in need, and spearheaded the G-Force Committee to improve the self-esteem of girls and raise funds for Geneva House.

At the 2011 Sudbury Regional Science Fair, Sorgini captured top honours in the physical sciences category and advanced to the Canada-Wide Science Fair.

Following a Math, Science and Technology Olympics event at Science North, Sorgini was invited to volunteer in the science centre's Space Place, where she dealt with the public and delivered workshops. Sorgini has also served on a committee with a mandate to get students interested in mathematics and science.

The student has also been heavily involved in Lockerby Composite's annual Laura Cotesta Kids Caring for Kids Cancer Drive.

Sorgini has won several gold medals for cross-country running and track and field at the local and Northern Ontario levels. She is also a certified lifeguard.

The 17-year-old is additionally an accomplished pianist and dancer, having completed Level 8 of the Royal Conservatory of Music series and earned several gold medals at the Kiwanis music festival.

Sorgini learned to play the classical guitar at Lockerby Composite and has performed for the public. After seven years of dance training, Sorgini has also achieved her Level 5 in the Society of Russian ballet.

At her church, New Sudbury Pentecostal, Sorgini has supported numerous community-minded activities that assist the homeless and the elderly.

"Alana Sorgini is most deserving of this honour and we are very proud of her," said Lockerby Composite School principal Heather Gaffney, in a news release. "We wish her continued success, knowing that she will be an exemplary ambassador for her school and her community as a Schulich Leader."

Although financially set for the start of university in the fall, Sorgini has no intention of taking the summer off.

"My dad (Curtis) is an eye doctor," said Alana. "I'll probably work in his office. I did that last summer."

harold.carmichael@sunmedia.ca

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