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Standout first-years bring a passion for medicine and engineering

Schulich Leaders show promise as the next pioneers of global scientific research



By Casey Blais

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Among the hundreds of students who will arrive on campus this September are 40 talented new high school graduates selected as Schulich Leaders.

Lauren Hebert and Janica Echavez were selected to receive the prestigious **Schulich Leader Scholarship**, and will each receive a four-year scholarship valued at \$60,000 and \$80,000 to study at the University of Calgary.

Hebert, a graduate of West Island College in Calgary, was admitted into the Bachelor of Health Sciences program in the Cumming School of Medicine. Her passion has always been medicine, and it has helped shape her current course. "I have always believed in the idea that following your passion will lead you to your purpose," she says.

Hebert volunteers at the Alberta Children's Hospital as a member of the Child and Youth Advisory Council. She is also a part of the Citizen Advisory Team at the South Health Campus. Additionally, she has been an active member of the Health Sciences Institute at her high school, which encourages students to pursue careers in the medical field.

Her eventual goal is to pursue a career in medicine, although for the time being, she is happy to explore options before determining exactly what path she will take.

Echavez, a graduate of Father Lacombe High School in Calgary, has been admitted to the Schulich School of Engineering. Deeply passionate about design, functionality and motion, her goal is to major in mechanical engineering. Her career interests include developing sustainable technologies, addressing the growing demand for energy, and learning more about quantum physics and robotics.



Bachelor of Health Sciences student and Schulich Leader Lauren Hebert's passion has always been medicine and she is following her passion to pursue a career in the medical field. *Photo courtesy Lauren Hebert*

Originally from the Philippines, the talented student has always been heavily involved in her community. In the Philippines, she was the editor-in-chief of the school's paper and an officer in the school's robotics/programming club. Through the Citizen's Advancement Training program, she also took part in community projects such as coastal clean-ups and tree planting projects.

She shows that same spirit of community here in Canada. She is a mentor for the Calgary Bridge Foundation and the Calgary Immigrant Women's Association, and she volunteers her time for numerous causes, fundraisers and initiatives.

"The Schulich Leader Scholarships represent an incredible opportunity for Lauren and Janica", said Susan Barker, vice-provost (student experience). "The energy, drive and commitment they show to their communities is an inspiration and I wish them the greatest success."

"The University of Calgary will be an excellent fit for them as they pursue their academic goals and interests."

The Schulich Leader Scholarship program is the brainchild of Canadian business leader and philanthropist Seymour Schulich. Schulich's dream is to ensure that future Canadian leaders are among the next pioneers of global scientific research and innovation.

"Fostering leadership in science, technology, engineering or mathematics fields is vital to Canada's economic prosperity," said Seymour Schulich. "A scholarship of this size will motivate high school students from across the country to pursue their dream and in the process help to ensure our country's competitive position. This scholarship, now in its third year, has positively impacted 120 students from across the country in 10 provinces distributing more than \$7.6 million to Canadian Schulich Leaders since 2012."

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Engineering student and Schulich Leader, Janica Echavez, is passionate about design, functionality and motion, her goal is to major in mechanical engineering. *Photo courtesy Janica Echavez*

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