



MEDIA RELEASE

TCDSB Students Receive \$16,500 Towards Post-Secondary Studies from the Angel Foundation for Learning Bursaries Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 19, 2020

Seven students who have excelled in their studies and made positive contributions to their schools and communities have been awarded various bursaries from the Angel Foundation for Learning.

“The current COVID-19 emergency is presenting significant challenges for students to find summer jobs, so the Angel Foundation is especially pleased to be able to provide these bursaries to help these extraordinary young people continue their academic dreams,” says Executive Director, John Yan.

Taylor Dallin (Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts) and Randesh Wijesundera (Francis Libermann CSS) are the winners of the **2020 Tom Leon Bursaries**. Each will be presented with their certificate and a \$5,000 bursary during a special, year-end TCDSB Webcast and YouTube livestream on Thursday, June 25 at 4 pm.

Since 2004, the **Tom Leon Charitable Foundation** has been awarding student bursaries to deserving students who require financial assistance in order to pursue studies at a post- secondary institution. The selection of the recipients is based on a variety of criteria including (but not limited to): contributions to the school and/or community that reflect Catholic values, financial need, volunteer work within the school or community, and personal challenges and obstacles.

Other Award and Bursary winners include:

Murdocca Family Literacy Bursary – Robyn Mireille Thibeault (Senator O’Connor)

Bacchelli Family Bursary – Amanda D’Souza (Francis Libermann)

AFL Music Bursary – Dulce Martinez (Madonna CSS)

Exceptional Student Bursary – Miftahul Jannat Isha (Notre Dame CSS)

TANDIA Bursary – Priscillia Luong (St. Joseph’s College)

Please see attached Recipients Profile sheet for bios of each student.

About The Angel Foundation for Learning

Founded in 1987, the Angel Foundation for Learning is the official charity of the Toronto Catholic District School Board. Through the contributions of donors, sponsors and volunteers, the AFL delivers programs through its Four Wings of Support that empower over 92,000 TCDSB students to focus on their education and overcome challenges affecting their ability to achieve their best. This includes the management of the Student Nutrition Program which delivers over 10 million meals annually in TCDSB schools.

Media contact:

Jennifer Tocci

The Angel Foundation for Learning

416-222-8282 x2844

Jennifer.tocci@tcdsb.org

www.angelfoundationforlearning.org or follow us on Twitter: @AFLToronto

Recipient's Profiles

Tom Leon 2020 Bursary Winners

Taylor Dallin (Cardinal Carter Academy)

Taylor Dallin describes herself as “an activist who creates a positive impact by being a voice for the voiceless and empowering others.”

With well over 2000 volunteer hours logged in and a 1560 SAT score placing her in the top 1% worldwide, this young leader who aspires to become a lawyer and has been accepted into Yale University, has a very bright future ahead. Taylor's other achievements and involvement include:

- Two years as the elected Student Trustee for the TCDSB representing 92,000 students where she introduced motions that resulted in the banning of plastic water bottles, paperless school board, helped get free menstrual hygiene products in every secondary school and championed inclusion of the LGBTQ + community in the TCDSB Code of Conduct debate.
- Spearheaded a collaborative inquiry with Schools in identified Priority Neighbourhoods and produced a full report with recommendations to the board.
- Two years as the Operations Coordinator for the Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA-AECO), meeting with the Minister of Education and collaborating with the province's top stakeholders.
- Since grade 9 she has been a member of the Toronto Public Library NYCL Youth Advisory Group.
- Co-Chair of the Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team
- Co-Chair of Model City Hall (MCH), a federally registered youth-led nonprofit making municipal politics more accessible to youth.
- Other awards include receiving the 1st place medal in Ontario for French public speaking (2018), the Ontario Junior Citizen Award (2019), the Rotary Club of Toronto Platinum Youth Civic Leadership Award (2018), 1st place in the Skills Canada TCDSB Job Interview Competition (2020), 1st place York University "Your Vision for Canada" essay contest (2019), and 1st place in category for the OECTA Young Authors Award (2018).

Randesh Wijesundera (Francis Libermann Catholic High School)

Randesh Wijesundera sees himself as an “innovative problem solver and a student that is passionate to witness change for the better.”

Randesh is an accomplished student and has been on the Honour Roll since 2016. His recommendation letters describe him as a committed leader which is evident in his following accomplishments:

- As Vice - President of the Safe Schools Committee his administrative skills were key in co-hosting a variety of awareness events including Bully Awareness Week, Kindness Week, Pink Shirt Day, M.A.D.D. safe driving, Crime Stoppers and overall overseeing the safety and wellbeing of his fellow peers. Through these efforts, his school received the designation of the Premier's award as one of The Top 10 Accepting Schools in Ontario.
- Volunteer at the Toronto Public Library's Leading to Reading program
- A daily volunteer with the Breakfast Club.

Murdocca Family Literacy Bursary Winner

Robyn Mireille Thibeault (Senator O'Connor)

Robyn Mireille Thibeault's commitment to her studies, athletic excellence and community involvement will be great assets as she pursues her degree in psychology at the University of Guelph and her passion for writing.

Bacchelli Family Bursary

Amanda D'Souza (Francis Libermann)

Having arrived in Canada on April 2018, Amanda D'Souza has achieved Honour Role excellence for both years she attended high school. Her volunteer work at her school and community has set her apart as a distinguished student and leader. The Management (BBA) at the University of Toronto Scarborough has an excellent addition of a scholar who shares her passion for learning and a commitment to making a difference.

AFL Music Bursary

Dulce Martinez (Madonna CSS)

Throughout her high school years, Dulce Martinez has consistently achieved honour roll standing and has enriched the lives of those in her school and community. She will be studying music education at the School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design at York University and hopes to inspire her future students to work hard and never allow financial barriers to prevent them from achieving their goals.

Exceptional Student Bursary

Miftahul Jannat Isha (Notre Dame CSS)

Besides countless hours of volunteering at the AGO, Ontario Science Centre, Toronto Public Library and her school community, Miftahul Jannat Isha has a long list of achievements in both her academic and artistic pursuits and is hoping to apply both of these passions in her studies of Engineering at McMaster University.

TANDIA Bursary

Priscillia Luong (St. Joseph's College)

Not only has Priscillia Luong maintained Honour Roll status throughout her four years at St. Joseph's College, she has also started her own business, worked part-time, volunteered in the community and has played a large part in her school's Leadership initiatives. She believes that the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management program will help her to acquire the business acumen that she needs to enter the workforce and enable her to make an impactful contribution to society.