



Saskatoon Public Schools
Inspiring Learning

News Release

January 18, 2023

2022 Award of Excellence Recipient Announced

This year's recipient of the Saskatoon Board of Education's 2022 Award of Excellence is Lauren Wright. The annual award is given to the student who best exemplifies the vision and goals of Saskatoon Public Schools.

"Lauren is the epitome of an academic, a leader in her school and community, and is blessed with exceptional personal qualities," wrote Dave Fisher, principal of Tommy Douglas Collegiate, in his nomination letter. "Lauren's goal is to change the world, and I truly believe she may."

In Grade 9, Lauren helped organize Tommy Douglas Collegiate's first climate rally. In Grade 10, she organized the city's largest climate strike and delivered a powerful speech in front of thousands of spectators, calling for the creation of Saskatoon's first youth climate committee. She was also one of 15 plaintiffs from across Canada – alongside David Suzuki and Greta Thunberg – who took the government to court over climate change.

In addition, as a secondary school student, Lauren organized Fridays for the Future climate rallies in Saskatoon, stage managed musical and skit night performances, ran cross country and played ringette, was an active leader in the band program, helped create Grade 9 orientation videos, volunteered in her school's library and with Alzheimer's patients at Oliver Lodge Care Home, and was a guest lecturer at multiple universities to speak about her work in climate change. Lauren graduated from Tommy Douglas with a 99 per cent average in Grade 12 level courses and was awarded a full scholarship to the University of Saskatchewan.

"When I see Lauren, I see a confident young woman who has already made more of an impact on our world than most adults I know... and she is just getting started," wrote teacher Michael Prebble in his letter of support.

Lauren is the recipient of the Governor General's Bronze Medal, the Bob Bevan Award of Excellence, the Heritage Fair Citizenship and Governance Award and the Saskatoon Public Schools' General Proficiency Award, as well as numerous awards at Tommy Douglas Collegiate in English, history, science and academic top 10.

Established in 1990, the Award of Excellence is presented annually to the most outstanding graduate based on academic excellence, personal qualities, leadership and participation. Staff members from each public collegiate nominate a graduate to the selection committee. The winner receives a \$5,000 cash award and a medal. Nominated students are honoured and receive a \$500 cash award.

Saskatoon Public Schools is the largest school division in the province. We operate 47 elementary schools, 10 collegiates, one k-12 school, one associate school and one alliance school. We serve more than 27,000 students and employ upwards of 2,600 professional and support staff. Learn more at www.saskatoonpublicschools.ca.

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