

The Canadian Council for Exceptional Children is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2007 Scholarship Award Program. This year the CCEC Scholarship Selection Committee named two individuals to receive awards in support of their education goals.

The **Academic Award** is given to an individual who will be pursuing a career directly related to working with youth with exceptionalities. The **Transition Award** supports an individual who has overcome challenges and who is entering an education or training program, a work experience program or beginning a new job. The Transition Award is sponsored by Microcomputer Science Centre Inc.

Academic Award - Jennifer Myles

Jennifer graduated from the International Baccalaureate Program at Miles Macdonell Collegiate in Winnipeg, Manitoba and is currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Sciences degree program at University of Manitoba.

In the International Baccalaureate Program, students are expected to volunteer 150 hours over a two year time period. Jennifer volunteered in many school and community activities completing more than the required service hours. Within the school, she was a member of the Vietnam Orphanage Committee, the Key Club International, the Environmental, Social and Awareness Committee, and the Youth in Philanthropy Committee. Within the community, Jennifer volunteers as a teacher assistant for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, is a member of the Youth Parliament of Manitoba and the Winnipeg Harvest, as well as a camp counsellor and a foster sister. Her volunteer activities have brought her in contact with many children from a variety of economic environments. Her experience at an inner city church camp afforded her an opportunity to work with children from low income families, many affected by Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Attention Deficit Disorder. These experiences have provided a focus for her future education and career goals.

Jennifer's long term goal is to obtain a degree in medicine at the University of Ottawa. She aims to become a doctor and to open a walk-in clinic in inner city Winnipeg to provide medical care for low income families and their children.

Transition Award - Maureen Pytlik

Maureen experienced a very rocky finish to elementary school and start to high school due to challenges which affected her ability to function in a regular classroom. After several years of therapy, misdiagnoses, many assessments and medications, Maureen enrolled in a specialized school where she was able to obtain a correct diagnosis and appropriate support in order to return to the regular school and classroom with support for Grade 11. By this time, she was academically a year behind her peers despite psychological testing that indicated a cognitive ability in the superior range. With the correct diagnosis of Asperger's Syndrome and Attention Deficit Disorder, as well as being highly gifted, Maureen was able to face the challenges presented in the regular classroom with the support of the school's high needs coordinator and an EA to help her stay organized and reinforce the requirements of assignments. She also had a reduced workload, extra time for assignments, tests and exams, and a quiet place to work when

necessary. Maureen was successful in participating in many academic contests, such as the High School Business Competition.

Maureen joined the school's literary society and became co-editor of ECHO, the school's literary anthology. She also became a member of the Immaculata Community Effort Reps. Maureen joined the Debating Club during Grade 12 and overcame the challenges associated with socialization with her classmates.

During her Grade 11 and 12 years Maureen auditioned and was successful in earning a place in the Ottawa Junior Youth Orchestra. She maintains a strong interest in mathematics and music and has applied for this double major at Carleton University. Maureen knows the challenges of transition and realizes that this transition from high school to university is not going to be easy but she has become a strong advocate for herself and has ensured that the appropriate supports are in place to help her to remain on track and experience success.

The Canadian Council for Exceptional Children wishes Jennifer and Maureen continued success in their endeavours to reach their goals.