



News Release

High school student wins a Schulich Leader Scholarship worth \$80,000

For immediate release – May 12, 2021

Red Deer, AB Denaisha Kraft, a Grade 12 student from St. Joseph High School has been granted a [Schulich Leader Scholarship](#), Creating the Next Generation of Technology Innovators, from the University of Victoria. The scholarship is in the amount of \$80,000.

This is Canada's most coveted undergraduate STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) scholarship. Kraft won in the science and math category.

“I never would have imagined that I would win this scholarship. It is truly life-changing. I honestly can’t thank my teachers enough for everything they have done. They have always been so supportive, and they are always willing to provide assistance. They have undeniably inspired me to work towards my goals. St. Joseph High School has given me so many opportunities to grow as an individual, and the school does an amazing job of creating an inclusive environment to grow in both athletics and academics. My parents have motivated me throughout my entire life; none of this would be possible without their constant support. They have allowed me to pursue my interests and work towards my goals, and I can’t thank them enough. I have also been fortunate to grow up alongside my twin sister, Jessica, and she has always been there to provide constant encouragement. Winning this scholarship gives me the ability to focus on my interests without having to worry about any financial limitations. I’m excited to connect with other like-minded individuals at the University of Victoria who share similar interests and passions, and I can’t wait to get involved with the learning opportunities that the University of Victoria has to offer. I couldn’t be more excited to start the next part of my journey,” said Denaisha Kraft, Grade 12 student at St. Joseph High School.

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“Denaisha is a remarkable member of our school community. Not only is she a strong academic student, Denaisha is also a gifted athlete who is part of our varsity volleyball and badminton teams. As a Schulich Leader Scholarship recipient, Denaisha is humble and passionate for learning, which is an element essential for mentorship to be effective. Denaisha has a bright future ahead of her and we couldn't be more pleased for her and her family,” said Principal Graeme Daniel at St. Joseph High School.

“Denaisha is one of the top female students I have ever taught. She is modest and genuine but always seeks to understand more. Denaisha is a great ambassador academically and athletically,” said Sherry Schulzke, a retired teacher from St. Joseph High School.

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools serves over 10,360 students in 20 schools in Red Deer, Blackfalds, Sylvan Lake, Rocky Mountain House, Innisfail, and Olds, as well as an at-home learning program. It also supports the learning of over 1095 students in a Traditional Home Education Program. The Division is committed to serving children and parents with a complete offering of learning opportunities delivered within the context of Catholic teachings.

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