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We are a  
**CHRIST-CENTERED**  
**CATHOLIC FAITH community**  
that celebrates diversity  
and fosters SPIRITUAL GROWTH,  
inspiring ALL to REACH  
their FULL potential in  
MIND, BODY, & SPIRIT

ENCOUNTERING SOULS  
AND OPENING MINDS  
SO that all students  
**SUCCEED**

## Niagara Catholic Student Trustee Receives \$100,000 Schulich Leaders Award

When graduating student trustee Steffen Zylstra heads off to the University of Ottawa this fall, one thing he won't have to worry about is how he'll pay for his undergraduate education.

The 18-year-old student at Saint Michael Catholic High School, who plans to study Science at the University of Ottawa, recently got the good news that he is officially a [Schulich Leader](#) – an honour that comes with a \$100,000 scholarship through the school.

As a Schulich Leader, Zylstra is among an elite group.

Each year, more than 300,000 graduating students apply for Schulich Leadership Awards. The list is then short-listed to 1,500 candidates, with 100 students selected. Students studying science, technology, or mathematics at one of 20 Canadian partner universities receive \$100,000 towards their education, while those entering engineering programs receive \$120,000.

He is more than deserving, says teacher Krista Connor, who nominated him for the award.

"We were overjoyed to learn that Steffen was selected to receive a Schulich Leader scholarship," she said. "He is truly deserving of this honour; he is a role model whose achievements stand above the rest. This award is the culmination of Steffen's four years of academic excellence and student commitment. As a part of the esteemed network of Schulich scholars, we are excited to see all the great things Steffen will accomplish."

Saint Michael Catholic High School Principal Glenn Gifford also had high praise for Steffen.

"We were thrilled to hear that Steffen won the Schulich Leaders Award," said Mr. Gifford. This is an incredible achievement, and he is the first Saint Michael student to ever receive this prestigious award. This is the result of four years of incredible work that Steffen has dedicated to his school, his community and to the Niagara Catholic District School Board. We are so very proud of him!"

Director of Education Camillo Cipriano congratulated Steffen on receiving the Schulich Leaders Award.

"Steffen is an outstanding young man and student leader," said Mr. Cipriano. "He is incredibly well-rounded, taking part in student leadership and government as Co-Chair of Student Senate and a Student Trustee, participating in various science programs through his school and in this year's school musical. Steffen is incredibly deserving of this honour, and we are very proud of him. On behalf of all of Niagara Catholic, I wish him all God's blessings as he moves on to university."

Steffen said the "life-altering" opportunity has left him "filled with excitement and gratitude."

“Receiving the Schulich Leader Scholarship has been an absolute rush of emotions,” said Steffen. “This is a life-altering and amazingly future-enriching honour, and I am just filled with excitement and gratitude. I am so thankful for Seymour Schulich and the Schulich Foundation, for UOttawa selecting me as one of their award winners, for my nomination from Saint Michael, and for my family, mentors, and friends, who have all supported me throughout my high school journey.”

Steffen is Niagara Catholic’s fourth Schulich Leader since the program was started in 2012. Notre Dame College School graduate Conory Coyne received one in 2015, Anthony Galassi (Saint Paul CHS) received one in 2019, and Katja (Kat) Murray (Holy Cross CSS) received one in 2020.

**A photo opportunity has been planned with Steffen, Principal Glenn Gifford, and Director of Education Camillo Cipriano on May 17 at 10:30 a.m. at Saint Michael Catholic High School. Steffen will also be available for an interview at that time.**

**Issued May 11, 2023**