



SIGA

Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2009 SIGA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SUPPORTS STUDENTS

Saskatoon, SK – The Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA) is pleased to announce the 2009 winners of the SIGA First Nation Scholarship Awards. \$25,000 is available to annually to First Nations students in Saskatchewan to assist them in their educational pursuits.

“The SIGA First Nations Scholarships Awards program provides opportunities to encourage education and continued learning. It also helps students successfully achieve career goals within SIGA and the broader community,” says Zane Hansen, President and CEO, SIGA. “SIGA developed the scholarship program to address fields where recruiting has traditionally been a challenge”.

Two \$5000 scholarships are awarded to students in Information Technology, Commerce or Hospitality and Tourism Management. In addition, two \$2500 scholarships are awarded to students studying Communication or Electronics and ten \$1000 scholarships are awarded to eligible students in any other field.

“It’s truly and honour to win this scholarship, it will enable me to pursue additional educational opportunities”, said Sharidy Desnomie.

The SIGA scholarship selection committee focused on the students’ commitment to their chosen field, level of community participation within cultural events through volunteerism and the individual’s financial needs.

“I am so thankful for winning a SIGA Scholarship. I think there should be more scholarships to encourage education and happy this avenue has been made available especially with the cost of living being so high”, said Vanessa Peigan.

Application forms for the 2010 year will be available on the SIGA website in April 2010.

SIGA operates six First Nations casinos in Saskatchewan, employing approximately 2,200 people. As a non-profit organization, 100% of the profits are returned to the company's beneficiaries.

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For more information, contact:

Stephen Shaheen

Director of Communications & Media Relations

Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority

Tel: (306) 477-7573

BACKGROUND

14 First Nations students received SIGA scholarships in Saskatchewan this year, recognizing excellence in academics and community involvement. All of the recipients are continuing their studies this fall.

The winners of SIGA's 2008 Scholarship Program are as follows:

\$5,000.00 RECIPIENTS

Sharidy Desnomie	Fort Qu'Appelle	U of R/Business Admin Accounting
Vanessa Peigan	Regina	SIIT/Business Management

\$2500.00 RECIPIENTS

Belinda Nelson	Canwood	SIAST/New Media Communications
Ntawnis Piapot	Regina	FNUC/ INCA & ILP

\$1000.00 RECIPIENTS

Jalal Alawes	Saskatoon	University of Sask/ Biology
Janice Apeis	Saskatoon	University of Sask/ ITEP
Stevie Bird	Wadena	U of R/Bachelor of Applied Science
Claire Denton	Warman	SIAST/Continuing Care Assistant
Jenica Felix	Spruce Home	FNUC/ITEP
Shane Keepness	Fort Qu'Appelle	FNUC/Pre-Dentistry ENHS
Amy Lafreniere-Wasacase	Ile-a-la-Crosse	SIAST/Food & Nutrition Mgmt
Cara Merasty	Saskatoon	U of S/College of Law
Cassandra Smallchild	Duck Lake	SIAST/Correctional Studies
Jessica Wesaquate	Regina	University Regina/SUNTEP