3M National Student Fellowship 2017 Award

Presented by: Cynthia Korpan and Brad Buie
Overview of the 3M National Student Fellowship

• 3M National Student Fellowship honours up to ten full-time undergraduate and graduate students each year
• Prior to this year only open to undergrads
• Now, undergrads, grads, and college students
• Fellows demonstrate “outstanding leadership in their lives and at their university... embrace a vision of quality education that enhances their academic experience and beyond”
Overview of the 3M National Student Fellowship

- Fellows receive $5000, plus an invitation to the STLHE annual conference in June (plus, contribution to the cost of travel and accommodation)

- Opportunity to develop a cross-Canadian collaborative project the goal of enhancing teaching and learning at the post-secondary level
Eligibility of the 3M National Student Fellowship

• Undergraduate and graduate students who are enrolled full time in a post-secondary Canadian institution.
• Have completed at least one full semester of study at the time of nomination.
• Have not previously received a 3M student fellowship.
Application for the 3M National Student Fellowship

• Greatest challenge is defining and demonstrating educational leadership

• Nominee is “brought to life” through concrete evidence

• The nomination should be a unified, narrative of yourself as learner, thought-provoker, visionary, and active community member

• Demonstrate creativity, distinctiveness and leadership

• Nominator “makes a case” for the applicant’s leadership profile by connecting the material within the package
Previous winners from uvic

2014 – Tye Landels

2015 – Navarana Smith
Navi’s application tips

• Schedule meetings with your nominator to dig deep into the material
• Set mini-internal deadlines to send completed drafts for revision
• Talk to friends, mentors, professors, teaching-assistants about the challenges & solutions for higher education — let your essays come to life!
• Invest time in asking for reference letters (e.g. http://www.uvic.ca/graduatestudies/finances/financialaid/scholarshipapps/)

University of Victoria
Also... Time flies!
Here was my 2014 timeline:

- **Nov 4th**: UVic information session & met with nominator
- **Nov 7th**: Sent completed first draft to nominator
- **Nov 17th**: Sent second draft to family & friends to help review
- **Nov 20th**: Second meeting with nominator
- **Nov 24th**: UVic internal deadline!
- **Oct 22**: Contacted by nominator
- **Oct 29**: Contacted potential referees
- **Nov 6th**: Sent drafts of sections to friends & family for feedback
3M National Student Fellowship

Paul Kim

3MNSF 2016

University of Victoria
What is it?

- An educational award for students who truly value their educational experience on campus and abroad
- 3M Canada and the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education seeks to identify students who actively work to better their education for themselves and their peers
Tips

• Adjudication focuses on two things
  – Leadership
  – Educational insight, experiences and achievements

• What makes an excellent and cohesive application?
  – Focus on these areas
  – Speak to YOUR experiences
    • I spoke to my experiences and why I love what I do
    • Emphasized how my experiences related to my passions
    • Don’t forget to answer the questions in your experiential context
Most Importantly

• Be yourself
  – Be honest about who you are, what you’ve done, and how you made it to where you are today
  – Tell the judges what makes you tick: is it science? Is it music? Is it art? Whatever it is, make it shine!
I was fortunate to fly out to London, Ontario for the annual STLHE conference this summer. This year, we had approximately 800 participants consisting of professors, teachers, and students who attended. Met some truly amazing people along with nine other student fellows! Student fellows are given time at the end of the conference to create a closing plenary session. Our session was entitled: Redefining Success in Higher Education
3M National Student Fellowship Plenary

Empowering Learners,
Effecting Change
Good Luck!

**RESOURCE**
Three “C” Framework of Leadership
(Gandz et al., 2010, cited in Mazutis et al., 2011)

– Character, Competencies, and Commitment – these three domains define leadership

– Leaders today must be **Competent**, be **Committed** to a leadership role and the hard work that comes with it, and finally exhibit **strong leadership Characteristics**, such as integrity, courage, and knowledge.
List of attributes of past award winners

- Breadth of impact
- Proactive
- Leads by example
- Transformative
- Volunteer
- Active involvement
- Passionate
- Generous
- Change agent
- Role model
- Inspirational
- Community builder
- Students who take full advantage of learning opportunities in and outside the classroom
Attributes of leaders today

• Are:
  – Confident
  – Hopeful
  – Optimistic
  – Resilient
  – Transparent
  – Ethical
  – Future-oriented
  – Strong
  – Virtuous
  – Trustworthy
  – Supportive
  – Nurturing
  – Honest
  – Caring

• Value:
  – Equality
  – Honesty
  – Loyalty
  – Responsibility
  – Trustworthiness
  – Integrity
  – Accountability
  – Credibility
  – Respect
  – Fairness
  – Kindness
  – Empathy
  – Patience
  – Courage
  – Humility
Articulating your leadership

How to connect to you!
What is important in academia today?

- Collaboration
- Interdisciplinarity
- Transformation
- Diversity
- Inclusiveness
- Transparency
Demonstrate the following

Your:
– Willingness to take chances
– Ethical behaviour
– Integrity and accountability
– Mentorship
– Dedication to excellence
Tips

• Focus in your examples of leadership on the *effects on others* - who benefits from that leadership - and less so on what you did. **Focus on others**, not self.

• Ensure that the letter of nomination and any additional letters of support do not simply repeat what the student writes in their package