3M National Student Fellowship 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
- First few years, 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
Some previous winners from uvic

2014 – Tye Landels

2015 – Navarana Smith

2016 – Paul Kim

2017 – Sarah Kahn
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/)
Also... Time flies!
Here was my 2014 timeline:

- **Oct 22**: Contacted by nominator
- **Oct 29**: Contacted potential referees
- **Nov 4th**: UVic information session & met with nominator
- **Nov 6th**: Sent drafts of sections to friends & family for feedback
- **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!
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!
STLHE Conference 2016

• I was fortunate to fly out to London, Ontario for the annual STLHE conference.
• 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
Empowering Learners,
Effecting Change
HOW TO DEVELOP YOUR APPLICATION

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.