

BC Technology Industry Announces 2009 Scholarship Winners

Vancouver, BC, June 18, 2009 – Technology pays! Especially for four students who received a combined \$8,000 in scholarship grants from the BC Technology Industry Association (BCTIA). The scholarship awards were presented by the Honourable Iain Black, Minister of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development, at the BCTIA's annual Technology Industry Awards (TIAs). The event was held last night at the new state-of-the-art Vancouver Convention Centre.

“British Columbia is recognized internationally as a technology centre with a highly sophisticated and talented labour pool. Students today represent tomorrow’s innovations – supporting that higher learning is critical to a successful knowledge economy,” says Pascal Spothelfer, President and CEO of the BC Technology Industry Association. “The scholarship program supports hard-working and accomplished young people in their pursuit of technology-related education. This year’s winners show considerable promise and will no doubt have an impact on the future of BC’s technology sector.”

Over 400 public high schools and post-secondary institutions across British Columbia were advised about the technology scholarship program, with all applicants showing impressive potential.

Three grants valued at \$2,500 each go to post-secondary students studying either business or science in a technology-related field. The recipients are:

Adam Gray of Victoria is currently enrolled in the Mechanical Engineering program at the University of Victoria. Adam is specifically interested in renewable energies and the study of advanced materials.

Keith Martin of Vancouver is specializing in Mechatronics in the Engineering Physics co-op program at UBC. Rewarded for his efforts during a previous work term with fuel cell leader Ballard Power Corporation, Keith had his name included on one of their US patent applications.

Tyler Poole of Quesnel is pursuing a Bachelor’s of Science Degree at UNBC. Filling his spare time programming games and modeling real world physics, Tyler intends to later continue with graduate studies in the field of computer science, nanotechnology or quantum computing.

One \$500 grant goes to a high school graduate who is pursuing technology education at a BC post-secondary institution. The recipient is:

Hui Bin (Irene) Peng of Vancouver is a dedicated artist and a recipient of several national art awards. Irene is enrolling in SFU’s BA Program at the School of Interactive Arts and Technology where she intends to explore technological advances within the creative domain.

“Scholarships like these help students to continue developing their abilities, and prepare them for successful and creative careers in B.C.’s growing technology industry,” says Minister Black. “I congratulate Adam, Keith, Tyler and Irene for their accomplishments – and the BCTIA for its foresight in establishing and funding these scholarships.”

The BCTIA launched the Technology Scholarship Fund at its 2005 Technology Impact Awards dinner, seeding the fund with a donation of \$10,000. Since then the fund has grown to over \$250,000 with all contributions coming from industry.

About the BCTIA

The BC Technology Industry Association is British Columbia's leading member-based industry association that represents start-ups to established technology companies across the province. As the voice of the technology industry, the BCTIA is committed to the ongoing growth, sustainability and prosperity of the technology industry and the transformation of British Columbia to a knowledge-based economy. The BCTIA delivers a broad range of programs and services that provide members with opportunities to connect, learn, and promote their businesses in BC. For more information, please visit www.bctia.org.

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