
Sharing SBLA Success Stories

Newsask Community Futures Development Corporation

4TH ANNUAL YOUTH BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS - 2005

Newsask Community Futures Development Corporation hosted their 4th Annual Youth Business Excellence Awards (YBEX) in Northeast Saskatchewan. There were over 150 people in attendance for the YBEX Awards Dinner, which was held May 14, 2005 at the Tisdale Civic Centre. This event has grown significantly over the past four years. Since inception over one hundred and four youth in grades six to twelve and youth out of school, under the age of 30 within the Northeast region have participated.

YOUTH BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS (YBEX) is to recognize and encourage the outstanding achievements of young people in Northeast Saskatchewan and encourage Entrepreneurship as a Career Option. The vision is that even though some students will not start a business in rural Saskatchewan immediately, some may consider the option after attending post secondary education and return to the northeast. A theoretical, academic perspective, combined with local grass-roots insight is a powerful mechanism for creating new businesses and knowledge!

Awards were provided and cash prizes were presented to both categories, individual and/or group and the school or association linked to the winner for the creation of a business idea and development of a **BUSINESS PLAN** category: submissions clearly described and developed a business idea and demonstrated ingenuity and effort; **BUSINESS VENTURE** category: clearly evaluated the operations of their business including problem solving, target setting and goal accomplishment. The two categories of both the business plan and business venture were offered to out of school youth - ages 18-29 separately.

A new award was introduced this year sponsored by the Canada Saskatchewan Business Service Centre. An award in the amount of \$100.00 was provided to the YBEX entrant that demonstrated an exceptional use of secondary research using online resources.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT: awards were presented to submissions, which demonstrated exceptional effort and outstanding achievement in one or more areas. **BUSINESS PLAN AWARD:** to compete in this category, applicants created and developed an imaginary business that they would like to own and operate. The business may sell a product or provide a service that already exists, change an existing product or service or invent a new product or service. Applicants described their imaginary business, what motivated them to choose their product or service, why their product or service was needed in the community, and described the customers that will support their business. All business plans must include monthly and yearly sales and expense estimates, a marketing plan to sell the product or service, and plan to address any problems that may occur in operating the business.

The applicants of the Business Plan Category were judged on the description of their business and customers, their operation/advertising strategy, creativity, business viability, organization, and problem solving skills.

Cash prizes were awarded to both categories, individual and group and the school or association linked to the winner.

- **Business Plan Individual Category Winners**
 - 1st place winner – Leejay Schmidt - Cider Time, Melfort
 - 2nd place winner – Gillisa Crone - C & M's Ranch Retreat, Naicam
 - 3rd place winner – Tamika Wallin - Wallin Holdings Inc., Porcupine Plain
- **Business Plan Group Category Winners**
 - 1st place winner – Kyle Cross, Jeremy Hilash, Clay Lanning - Perfect Pellet Inc., Porcupine Plain
 - 2nd place winner – Joe Bohachewski, Aaron Watt - A.J. Milling Inc., Porcupine Plain
- **Business Venture Individual Category Winners**
 - 1st place winner – Steven Ofukany - Steven's Farm Fresh Eggs, Tisdale
 - 2nd place winner – Marshall Wilson - ABCComputers, Porcupine Plain
 - 3rd place winner – Tyler Douglas - Woody's Wood Workshop, Porcupine Plain
- **Business Venture Group Category Winners**
 - 1st place winner – Kristin Bloski, Koral Tukiewich – K & K Tutorial Services, Porcupine Plain
- **Business Plan– Out-Of-School (Individual) Youth Awards**
 - 1st place winner – Natasha Cochran, Epiphany Enterprises, Codette

SPECIAL ACHEIVEMENT AWARDS

Special achievement awards were presented to those submissions that demonstrated exceptional effort and outstanding achievement in one or more areas. Students qualifying for the special achievement awards received a \$50.00 cash award.

- 1st Special Achievement** – Leejay Schmidt for his persistence in entering the competition in grades six, grade and grade. He obtained 2nd place in grade six for his business plan Leejay D'J's. In grade seven he obtained 2nd place for his business venture Leejay D'J's, and this year he placed 1st place for a new idea for a business plan. Leejay is definitely an up and coming entrepreneur
- 2nd Special Achievement** – Kristen Anderson for her unique artistic ability.
- 3rd Special Achievement** – Tyler Douglas for his unique business name Woody's Wood Workshop – now that's creativity.

Newsask Community Futures Development Corporation is committed to fostering job growth through business creation and expansion in Northeast Saskatchewan. The Department of Western Economic Diversification funds the non-profit organization.