

THE HERALD

## Chance at big scholarship for student

By: Sheldon Birnie

Posted: 01/10/2017 3:17 PM

A local student is up for a national scholarship worth up to \$100,000.

Marianna Pozdirca, a Grade 12 student at Miles Macdonell Collegiate, is one of the top applicants from across Canada for Loran Scholars Foundation awards.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Marianna Pozdirca, a Grade 12 student at Miles Macdonell Collegiate, is up for a \$100,000 Loran Scholars Award.

"Honestly, it was just a pleasure to be interviewed for the regional interviews," Pozdirca, 17, told *The Herald*. "Afterwards, I wasn't even thinking about a national interview."

Pozdirca said she was "shocked" when she received a call inviting her to be one of 84 students attending Loran's national interviews, which take place in Toronto on Feb. 3 and 4.

Of those 84 students, the top 32 will receive awards valued at \$100,000 towards their post-secondary education, along with unique mentorship and internship opportunities. The Loran Scholars Foundation selects the winning students not only on academic achievement — applicants must hold a minimum cumulative average of 85 per cent to qualify — but also on "evidence of character, commitment to service in the community and leadership potential."

Giving back to the community is important to Pozdirca, and she has proven to be something of a natural leader.

"I work on things that I would like to do to better contribute to my community," she said. "I think it's important to try to bloom where you're planted."

At Miles Mac, she co-chairs the student philanthropy committee, which she said "really built up character." She is also involved with the school's sustainable development committee, working to encourage teachers to

reduce their paper use. Not only have these extracurricular activities allowed her to give back, but they offer plenty of opportunity for self-reflection.

"Whenever there's a low moment, whenever I'm frustrated or disappointed, it's helpful to find a time to reflect on why I'm disappointed," she said.

"It's difficult to be involved in a lot of things," Pozdirca admitted, "And there will come points when you'll wonder if it's worth it or not. But I welcome those points. I believe in the things that I'm doing."

Whether she is chosen as one of this year's 32 Loran Scholars, by making it to the national interviews, the organization will provide Pozdirca with at least a few thousand dollars towards her first year's tuition.

"I really am in need of financial help," she said. "I've applied to University of Manitoba, to the faculty of science."

Pozdirca said she'd like to pursue a degree in pharmacy, "but I'm flexible."

The Loran Scholars Awards national interviews take place on Feb. 3 and 4. Pozdirca said she expects to hear if she will receive a full scholarship within a day or two of the interviews.

Since 1988, Loran Awards — formerly the Canadian Merit Scholarship Foundation National Awards — have supported 572 Loran Scholars in their studies, including 40 students from Manitoba.

*Facebook.com/TheHeraldWPG*

*Twitter: @heraldWPG*

1/25/2017

Chance at big scholarship for student - Winnipeg Free Press

*Read more by Sheldon Birnie.*