

Most and Biggest Merit Awards Ever!

Congratulations to the 173 Merit Award recipients of 2018! This year, the Program set many new records. 173 bursaries were granted, chosen from among 625 applications. The amount granted was a record \$140,750. We launched our biggest individual grants ever, the Leaders of Tomorrow Merit Award. Two amazing students were granted this Award, each worth \$5,000 over 4 years. Read more about one of them, on page two.

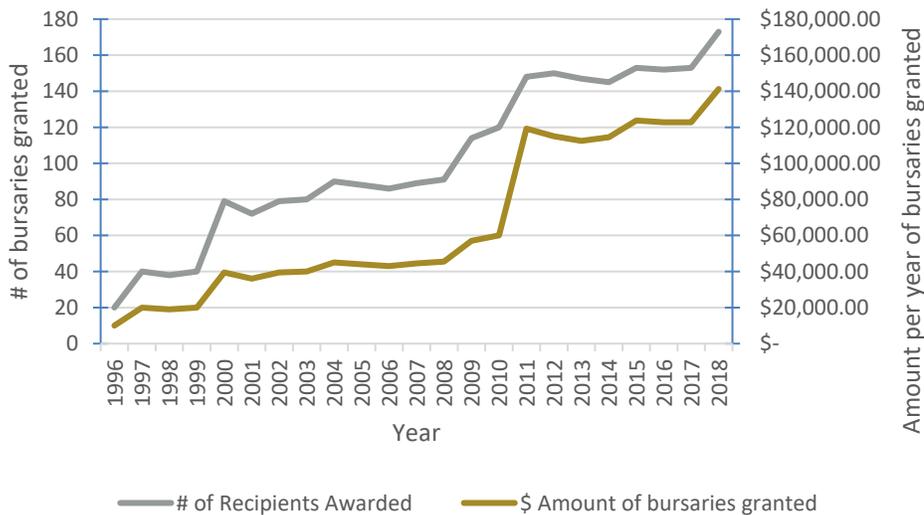


Largest Selection Committee Ever

Thank you to all the amazing selection committee members. With 625 applications to review, we put together a record 14 selection committees, involving 115 people! That's a lot of talented human resources, including former recipients, working to help choose the most deserving applicants. With so many strong applications, it's always a really tough job.

Award Track Record

Merit Awards Granted Yearly, since inception



Bowling for Bursaries

Three strikes and you are not out! On April 26th Merit hosted the 6th annual Bowling for Bursaries Fundraiser at The Ballroom. With generous support, we were able to raise over \$60,000! The money raised will assist students in continuing their education. Thank you to Fasken for its support as the Presenting Sponsor, and to the Merit volunteers for their hard work and dedication, making this event a huge success. Yet again, this year's Best Team Score went to the SGGG King Pins. The Best Individual Score was taken by Rod Akins from the ITG Incredible Turkey Gutterballers, and Capco took home Best Dressed, coming as Strikes & Roses.



Mentorship Pilot Program



In May, Merit launched a mentorship pilot program, which wrapped-up August 1st. The program provided the 11 participating recipients with an industry specific mentor to guide them toward development of skills necessary to achieve their goals, as well as to discuss and work through their future plans. The pilot program's goal was to collect feedback to see if we can develop a larger Mentorship Program, which will provide non-financial support to recent Merit Award recipients.

If you are interested in participating in the program, reach out to mentorship@meritaward.ca

Student Profile – Leader of Tomorrow

Award recipient Esmat finds helping others to be therapeutic; he does so extensively. His goal is to become a robotics engineer to develop technology to help people around the world – particularly in remote areas and war zones where drones might provide medical and other supplies that are badly needed. Coming as refugees from Afghanistan, his family knows first-hand the struggles in a war zone.

Esmat has volunteered in numerous and diverse areas. At school, he co-founded a Doctors Without Borders club. He also initiated a tutoring program for newcomer kids, spending countless hours teaching them not only language skills but also life skills. In the community, he organized Valley Park's first intramural basketball league, which allowed all kids to participate and didn't require try-outs to get in. He organized community performances and events like Neighbours Night Out and supporting the revitalization of his community garden. He even taught technology and social media skills to seniors!

Esmat has worked as a youth mural artist and at the Royal Conservatory in YouthBeat. While doing all of this, Esmat has earned a cumulative high school average of 97%. We're proud to honour Esmat with one of the inaugural Leaders of Tomorrow awards.



Alumni Networking

The Merit Award Bursary Program hosted the 3rd Annual Alumni Networking Event on Wednesday, August 1st at the offices of Deloitte. Combining a discussion panel with a networking opportunity, the event was entitled "Mapping Out Your Career Path - Multiple Paths to Success."

The panel consisted of Dr. Dan Dao, Chiropractor & Acupuncture Provider and a past Merit recipient; Peggy Hornell, Chief Operating Officer, Children's Aid Foundation of Canada; Amina Juma, Legal Counsel, Listings, NEO Exchange; Myles Millard, Associate, Hines, Real Estate Investment, Development and Management; and John Mullin, Vice-President, Accounting & Finance Recruitment, Robert Walters. The panel discussion was followed by some great conversation with the panelists and among the 40 Merit Award recipients who attended.

#KeepTorontoKidsInSchool

AGM: Save the date! Our Annual General Meeting for all stakeholders is **Monday, October 15, 2018**. If you are a past recipient, volunteer, donor or just an interested party, please join us at Fasken, 333 Bay Street, 24th floor, 5:30pm start!