

Sharon Feng: EducationMatters' Future Leader Scholarship Recipient



“Everyone should have the freedom to enjoy their human rights, regardless of health, race, economic status, gender and beliefs.” These are the very wise words of Sharon Feng, a first year student at the University of Calgary, and the recipient of EducationMatters' Future Leaders Scholarship. As Sharon will be one of three Future Leader Scholarship recipients honoured at this year's Calgary Board of Education's Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner; EducationMatters jumped on the opportunity to discover more about Sharon and her future goals and career aspirations.

EM: *Where are you attending university or college, and what studies are you pursuing?*

Feng: I attend the University of Calgary, pursuing a Bachelor of Health Sciences, Majoring in Biomedical Sciences. I hope to attend Medical school upon graduation.

EM: *What are your future career aspirations? What influenced you to decide on this career path in life?*

Feng: I aspire to be a doctor. Some factors that influenced me to choose this career are the demand for good doctors and the desire to help others. Due to factors, like availability and cost, some patients who need help are unable to seek treatment.

EM: *How has winning the EducationMatters Future Leader Scholarship enhanced your educational experience?*

Feng: It has helped me to open certain doors. With less time spent worrying over tuition, I can devote more of my time to volunteering and studying.

EM: *In your opinion, why is it important for scholarships to exist?*

Feng: I think it is very important because scholarships provide so many benefits, both directly and indirectly. They allow students the funds needed to pursue their educational and career goals. They also encourage active participation in the community and self-reflection on what you have accomplished. As I was writing the [scholarship] essay, I realized that there was so much more I could do to “give back” to my community and school. I am very grateful for the chance to apply for scholarships.

EM: *What words of gratitude would you extend to those that made the EducationMatters' Future Leaders scholarship possible?*

Feng: First and foremost, thank you! Especially in this modern

and changing society, leadership is an important trait. By encouraging students to pursue their dreams, you are demonstrating what it means to be a true leader.

EM: *How do you plan to lead future generations?*

Feng: To continue volunteering around the community is one of my main goals. However, it is also very important to facilitate the process of volunteering for youth and students by raising awareness about the opportunities and by encouraging activism. One of my favourite quotes: “It is better to light a candle, than to curse the darkness.”- Peter Benenson

Sharon will be honoured at this year's Calgary Board of Education's Distinguished Alumni event on October 26, 2011 at Hotel Arts. All funds raised from the event support EducationMatters' Future leaders Fund and students like Sharon.