

Program key to boost in girl's confidence: Mother

Monday, Mar. 13, 2017



Rebecca Cheasley holds up her awards following Saturday's Career Trek graduation ceremony at the Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium, during which she received a \$1,000 scholarship. She's joined by mother Tanis, brother Noah and father Kevin.

Rebecca Cheasley, 11, wants to become an architect.

The Foxwarren youth made this decision while attending Career Trek's 12-week program this winter, during which she explored 46 different career options.

On Saturday, she joined about 160 of her peers in graduating from the program during ceremonies at the Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium.

During one of these ceremonies, she received a \$1,000 scholarship toward her post-secondary efforts, which she hopes will take place in Brandon.

Cheasley has ADHD and dyslexia, which she said has made her narrowing in on a career that her skills best align with all the more important a discovery.

Her brain, she said, is "wired to art," which she has found out lends itself well to architecture. "It really was a learning experience," she said.

Mother Tanis Cheasley said that she's proud of her daughter's achievement, and for sticking with the 12-week program, during which she has spent every Saturday at Assiniboine Community College and Brandon University investigating different career paths she might take.

"It definitely taught her a lot more independence," Tanis said. "She's more sure of herself."

Prior to Rebecca entering this program, Tanis said that she couldn't have pictured her daughter standing in front of a school board to defend Career Trek in the midst of budget cuts, but that's exactly what she did about three weeks ago when she stood before the Park West School Board.

It's an important program, Rebecca said on Saturday, noting that she would have never known what she wanted to be when she grows up if not for Career Trek.

Along the way, she said that she has also learned what she does not want to be, and her experience speaking in front of the school board informed her that she does not want to be a politician.

Career Trek's Westman-wide program found 180 10- and 11-year-olds enrolled this winter, of whom about 89 per cent followed the 12-week program to the end, founder and CEO Darrell Cole said.

It's always best to set youths on the right path, for them, as early as possible, Cole said.

"The average high school student is picking their courses based on what?" he asked, throwing his hands up. "That's a major life event."

Career Trek helps students understand why school subjects are important, Cole said, "so kids can step into their future and see that they have talents and gifts and see how each subject in school is a portal to different career paths."

» tclarke@brandonsun.com

Republished from the Brandon Sun print edition March 13, 2017