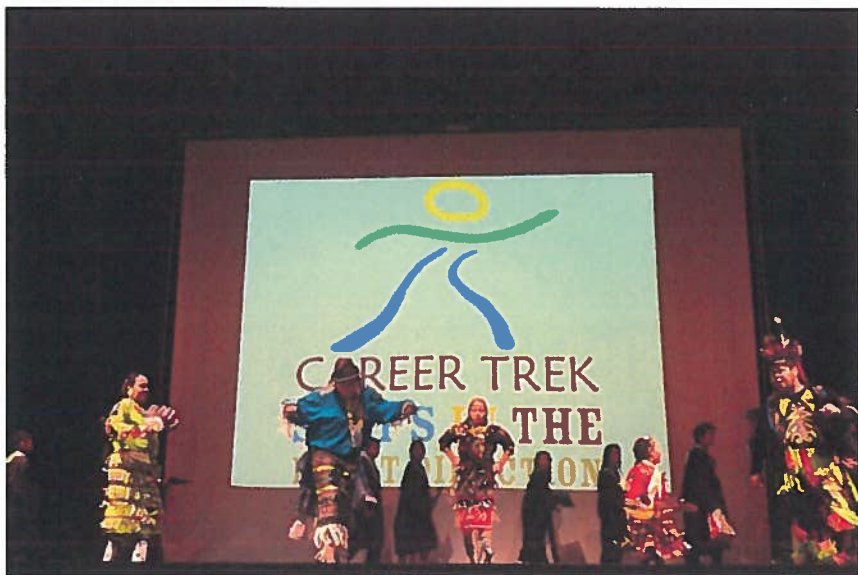


Career Trek ceremony a culmination of hard work

Lanny Stewart / Westman Journal

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The TNT Family Dancers perform at the Career Trek “Wonder of Work” convocation ceremony in Brandon on March 11.

It was a day to celebrate and recognize students from a variety of schools from the Westman area, including Brandon at the Career Trek “Wonder of Work” convocation ceremony.

A large contingent of Grade 5 and 6 students who graduated from the Wonder of Work program – which consists of 10 and 11 year olds who completed a 12-week course, experiencing upwards of 45 different occupations at Brandon University and Assiniboine Community College – were on hand at the Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium on Saturday, March 11 for the ceremony.

The program, which has been in existence for approximately 20 years – nine years in Westman – helps young people achieve their educational career and citizenship potential, says Darrell Cole, founder and CEO of Career Trek.

“The idea was to create a program that really helped young people discover the value that getting an education, a formal education, can have on their lives and helping them find out about who they are and what are their likes and dislikes, what are their talents and where do they fit?” he told the Journal. “So as kids get older, they have a process that they can be a part of that really helps them streamline their life and make really good decisions.”

The 12 week course runs each Saturday from November to March and it involved hands-on education and career-focused experience, Cole says.

“In order to be a chef, here’s what you have to do. You have to finish school and these are the subjects that are important.

The program allows kids to sort of step into their future,” Cole explained.

There were three ceremonies that took place – the third involving Brandon-area schools associated with the program. The program had a 90.5 per cent completion ration. Participants from the Brandon School Division came from Betty Gibson, Earl Oxford, École New Era, George Fitton, King George, Kirkaldy Heights, Riverview, Meadows, O’Kelly School (Shilo). Students from Christian Heritage School, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation and Southwest School Division were also involved.

Career Trek Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that helps approximately 800 children and youth in Manitoba. For more information on the program, go online to career.trek.ca. For those interested in having their children sign up for the program, you can contact Jami Turtesky, program manager for Parkland and Westman, at 204-648-4612. You can also email her at jturetsky@careertrek.ca.

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