

Building a Better Future Bursary

Syilx Siya Awards For High School Graduates of 2022/2023

The Syilx Siya Bursary is awarded to 3 Syilx Okanagan high school graduates who have demonstrated a willingness to dream big for themselves, their Nation, their community, and/or their family. Award recipients will have educational goals and the drive to make them happen!



Chantae Kruger

"Throughout my upbringing I have been taught the importance of community and have grown to love syilx as a people, because we are all connected. It's a bond that cannot be broken because one cannot just change who their ancestors are, where they come from, who they are. In turn, I try my best to show up for my community in any way I can, especially when it comes to cultural revitalization."

Chantae, from Penticton, is 16 years old and graduated in January 2023. She will be attending Okanagan College in September in the Associate of Arts program then transfer to UBCO to complete a Bachelor of Education degree. Her goal is to become an elementary school teacher.



Peter Waardenburg Jr. Sk'ik'aycin

"My biggest challenge so far in life was my mental health, losing people to suicide. Although in my head it didn't feel like it affected me it definitely had a big impact on my life. It made me realize how important mental health is and how coping mechanisms can help relieve some of the heavy hearted moments you may be having. This realization helped me get to know myself better and to know I have a strong support system with friends and family there for me, but also to create ones with myself with healthy mechanisms and habits that will benefit me and help me persevere through the toughest moments in life."

Peter, from Lower Similkameen, graduated from Mount Boucherie Secondary School and will be attending Okanagan College this September in the Business Program. "Peter is a strong Indigenous Athlete who showcases the important connection between sports and resilience." - Ms. Nerbus



Tiyanetkw Manuel

"My current goals are to get my bachelors of art, become an Indigenous studies teacher, and become fluent in nsyilxcen. All of these goals relate to my dream job, someday becoming a knowledge keeper. I see the importance in dreaming big, and always staying motivated to earn new achievements. That way you will always be gaining more experience, and knowledge."

Tiyanetkw, from Upper Nicola, graduated from Mount Boucherie Secondary School. She was selected as her class's Indigenous Valedictorian. She will be attending the University of British Columbia Okanagan pursuing a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Indigenous studies. In the future, she plans to become a teacher, specializing in Indigenous-focused studies, and nsyilxcen.

Thank you to EMB who sponsored two of the awards and Hi Traxx Contracting and Lance McLean who together sponsored the third award.



Hi Traxx Contracting and Lance McLean

