

2018 CPAC Scholarship Recipient List

Awards	Name	School
CPAC Award	Jason Alae	Ancaster High School
CPAC Award	Jehwan(Dennis) Bae	Bayview Secondary School
CPAC Award	Ying-Chia (Christina) He	John Polanyi Collegiate Institute
CPAC Award	Alvin Li	Pierre Elliott Trudeau High School
CPAC - CPA Ontario Award	Hshmat Sahak	Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute

Scholarships	Name	School
CPAC - TD Insurance Meloche Monnex Scholarship	Jing Xuan(Jessica) Miao	Western University - Ivey Business School
CPAC Trailblazer Scholarship	Carmen Bezner Kerr	University of Toronto, Trinity College
CPAC-Queen Financial Group Education Scholarship	Pardis Balari	McMaster University

CPAC Awards

Jason Alae is a Grade 12 student at Ancaster High School in Ancaster, Ontario. He is known as a natural leader and a mature, cooperative student who is always willing to lend a hand. In addition to his outstanding academic achievements, Jason is extremely active in his Ancaster community. He founded and leads several Science and Technology related clubs in his school, such as the Coding Club and Math Club. He also serves on the Student Council as a Positive School Climate Leader. Jason has stage-managed school productions and founded an economic debate club. He developed and manages his school newspaper's website and curates their digital media publications. Jason leads his school's DECA chapter and competes in Business and Finance case study competitions.

Outside of school, Jason runs a weekly Junior Youth Empowerment Group to mentor and aid local youth in making positive change. He helps turn their motivation for change into real actions. Jason serves on the City of Hamilton's Youth Steering Committee and develops policies and strategies for City Council which better addresses the needs of youth in Hamilton. He also serves as a Student Senator, sharing the voice of students in a school board setting. Jason represented Canada at the United Nations Youth Assembly last year. He also competes in math and computing contests and maintains a near perfect academic average.

Jehwan (Dennis) Bae is a Grade 12 IB student at Bayview Secondary School. Throughout his years, Dennis has participated in numerous math and science competitions and earned local, provincial, and national distinctions. Now he contributes to the school community by helping students to prepare for these contests in clubs such as the Bayview Chemistry Club.

Dennis is passionate about community service and humanitarian aid, which led him to join York Region Youth Action Group as the Director of Finance. In this organization, he enjoys working with his finance committee to manage budgets and to actively seek sponsorships to contribute to the success of the organization's events. He has also been involved in charities such as World in Focus, A Mile A Miracle, and travelled to Ecuador as part of the Me to We organization where he worked to raise youth awareness of and raise funds for various causes.

Dennis is a natural entrepreneur with a keen eye for the environment. He has established three startups which all focus on solving the problem of waste disposal. He has also led two nonprofit organizations, Bayview Entrepreneurs and FUSE Society (Ontario Division), which both promote youth environmental businesses. He has demonstrated leadership, responsibility and a passion to assist other students to develop their business knowledge and skills.

Ying-Chia (Christina) He is a grade 12 student in the Science, Mathematics, and Robotics (SMR) Program at John Polanyi Collegiate Institute. She has won more than 10 subject awards in her program and a gold medal at her school's Science Fair. Her academic performance and strong interest in science have helped her earn an internship position at Professor Ebrahim Ghafar-Zadeh's Biologically Inspired Sensors and Actuators (BioSA) Laboratory at York University, where she worked on a team that develops Smart Clothing gadgets dedicated to athletes and the elderly.

Christina has been highly involved in extracurricular activities. As the President of the student organization Change Impacting Toronto's Youth (C.I.T.Y.), she has helped launch many projects supporting both local and global causes, such as donating winter survival kits for the homeless in Toronto and fundraising for malaria prevention in developing countries. Her team's latest major project is raising over \$32,000 for a trip to Ecuador to help work on providing a clean water supply to a community in the Amazon.

Alvin Li is an outstanding Grade 12 student at Pierre Elliott Trudeau High School. He came to Canada as a Grade 9 student from Hong Kong. Within a year, he started Project Backpacks for Kids to help refugee children with stationery supplies. Alvin organized 15 events over two summers, reached out to more than 150 local companies, and eventually reached the fundraising goal of buying 100 stationery filled backpacks for refugee children. This project helped him gain essential soft skills to continue his volunteer journey. Alvin has since volunteered at senior homes and hospitals, where he facilitated conversations between health care professionals and Chinese patients. He later went on to lead school clubs to raise money for the Breast Cancer Foundation and Hospital for Sick Children, breaking fundraising records. He was fundamental in creating his school's first Health Conference and Sustainable Development Goals Conference for English

Language Learners, inspiring other students to pursue humanitarian services. He spent the past summer building houses in the Dominican Republic for the local people who lived in huts.

CPAC - CPA Ontario Award

Hshmat Sahak is a hardworking and motivated student at Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute where he excels throughout high school. He is strongly committed to his academics but more importantly, to his community. He is a founder of the Best Buddies program at his school and President of a number of clubs including his school's Reach for The Top Trivia team, Chess Club, Debate Club, Mentoring Club, Eco team, and Wind Band. He also helped coordinate the Breakfast Club which provides nutritious breakfast for underprivileged kids. He has been a very dedicated program facilitator with his school's Beyond 3:30 program, where he helped plan and facilitate numerous activities including sports and physical fitness, healthy eating, homework support, development of life skills and building self-esteem. Outside school, he regularly volunteers at his community center as a camp counselor, tutor, and technology instructor for seniors. He is also a member of the Youth Advisory Group with the Thorncliffe Public Library branch and a recreational volunteer with the Revera Retirement Centre.

Hshmat has had a positive impact on his community while at the same time excelling in academics and maintaining a near perfect average. He has made a difference to the lives of many students, inspired many kids along the journey, and served as a role model to the school. He finds value in volunteerism and great joy in knowing that he is leaving a lasting impact.

CPAC - TD Insurance Meloche Monnex Scholarship

Jing Xuan (Jessica) Miao is a third-year student at Ivey Business School of Western University. As a first-generation Chinese-Canadian, she feels extremely fortunate for her educational opportunities, and is constantly driven to become a leader in her immediate communities to create learning opportunities for others.

Jessica discovered the importance of creating inclusive communities in her senior year of high school and founded Red Cross: Syria Relief Committee. As president, she received a \$1,000 SpeakUp grant from the Ministry of Education of Ontario to take Syrian Refugee families on a tour of Toronto to help them adapt to the city. She taught 150 students how to help local refugees and fundraised \$2,000 towards the Syrian refugee crisis. As President of the W5 Entrepreneurship Association, Jessica designed a student-run startup accelerator to make entrepreneurship more accessible on campus. She and her organization provided mentorship, co-working space, and \$12,000 in startup funding to student entrepreneurs.

As VP Academic of her class at Ivey, Jessica organizes tutoring sessions and ensures that her classmates are on track to reach their academic goals by being the liaison between the student body and professors. She hopes to use her creative problem-solving skills in her future career by becoming an entrepreneur and developing a business that focuses on social impact.

CPAC Trailblazer Scholarship

Carmen Bezner Kerr is a first year University of Toronto student with a double major in Environmental Science and Diaspora and Transnational Studies, with a minor in Arabic.

After spending her high school years involved in local human rights advocacy, Carmen volunteered full-time for two months for Samos Volunteers, an organization providing psychosocial support to the residents of Samos Refugee Camp on the island of Samos, Greece. She then spent six months helping manage a safe house for refugees seeking shelter in the Balkans. She began as a general volunteer and translator, but soon took over higher responsibilities, helping to establish new systems of coordination between her fledgling NGO and agencies such as the UN High Commission on Refugees and the International Organization for Migration. Carmen is an incredibly hardworking, determined and skilled leader. In a situation with frequent social, medical and legal emergencies, Carmen always shows calm and leadership, resolving an endless list of unexpected challenges without hesitation or complaint. After seeing the young organization through its turbulent first half year, she chose to leave and pursue her education back in Canada.

Carmen intends to remain active with migrant rights back in Toronto as she works on her degree. In her first semester Carmen returned to her second passion of advocacy in fighting climate change, which she understands is deeply linked to the struggles facing refugees across the globe. Carmen hopes that her studies will help her better understand the links between climate change and migration, in order to work towards change on a global scale. She hopes to be able to return to the humanitarian field, in order to develop lasting solutions that will effectively address the problems that humanity faces.

CPAC-Queen Financial Group Education Scholarship

Pardis Balari is currently a 4th year honours biochemistry student at McMaster University. Her goal is to attend medical school after her undergraduate studies. Through her specialization, she has been able to get involved with fundamental research in the infectious disease and antibiotic resistance field at the Institute for Infectious Diseases Research (IIDR) at McMaster.

Throughout the past four years, Pardis has had many opportunities to be involved in the McMaster and the Greater Hamilton community. She has been an executive member and president of the McMaster Iranian Student Association (MISA), which has enabled her to maintain a strong connection to her Iranian roots while creating a welcoming atmosphere for other Iranian-Canadian students on campus. She has been involved with Frontier College, through which she has had the opportunity to tutor children and youth at various community centres and libraries around Hamilton. She has also been involved in the Dr. Jay Children's Grief Centre as a Leader-In-Training and then camp counsellor, supporting children who have experienced the death of a close family member.