

The Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission (SATCC), with its partners in industry, has initiated a Youth Apprenticeship Industry Scholarship Program. The Program profiles skilled trades as first choice careers to high school students. It will encourage students to participate in the Saskatchewan Youth Apprenticeship (SYA) Program and to pursue apprenticeship or other post-secondary training in a designated apprenticeship trade after graduation.

It is intended that the scholarship endowment will be primarily funded by the private sector, with support from other partners. The SATCC will serve as the trustee and administrator for the endowment fund. The endowment will be used to fund \$1,000 awards to deserving high school graduates who complete the SYA Program. The number of annual scholarships will vary based on the contributions received. Forty scholarships were granted in 2010.

Only eligible contributions (\$10,000 or more) received by April 1 will be included in the award of 'named' scholarships in the same school year ending June 30.

Background

Skilled trades offer rewarding careers with good wages, high levels of job satisfaction and employment security. Skilled trades shortages are increasing in Saskatchewan and the average age of entry-level apprentices remains in the mid to upper twenties. In 2004, SATCC initiated the SYA Program in high schools by introducing curriculum materials related to the skilled trades for students in Grades 10, 11 and 12.

The SYA Program raises awareness of skilled trades careers for students, parents, teachers and guidance counsellors. It also prepares young people with an interest in skilled trades for a direct and smooth transition into apprenticeship or other post-secondary training related to the skilled trades. At June 30, 2010, 242 high schools were registered in the program and 4,483 students were registered as youth apprentices.

The Saskatchewan Construction Association (SCA) and SATCC initiated this scholarship program to have a positive impact on youth during their formative years as they complete high school and make career decisions.

The scholarship program is aimed at attracting capable young people to skilled trades careers and rewarding those who have demonstrated a high level of commitment and achievement in the SYA Program. The SYA Program and scholarship initiative are investments in the future of Saskatchewan youth and the skilled trades workforce upon which our economy and future prosperity depends.

Benefits to Sponsors

How do sponsors benefit by contributing to the endowment?

- For every \$10,000 donated, a \$1,000 scholarship in the name of the sponsor's choice will be issued to a high school graduate for a minimum of 15 years.
- SATCC will issue the sponsor a receipt for tax purposes.
- Every attempt will be made to match the 'named' scholarship to an individual interested in entering the trade or sector of the sponsor's choice.
- There will be heightened profile for the named scholarship as it will be awarded at a graduation ceremony or similar event. Schools will be encouraged to offer the sponsor the opportunity to present the scholarship.
- The sponsor or sponsor's company will be listed as the sponsor of the scholarship in the advertisements made in conjunction with SATCC's "Outstanding Journeyperson Awards" event held each fall.
- The sponsor will be promoting skilled trades as first choice careers to Saskatchewan youth, guidance counsellors and administrators.
- This is an opportunity to give back to the community.
- It is an opportunity for the sponsor to recruit outstanding apprentices.
- It is an opportunity for the sponsor to be promoted as an employer of choice.