

MARITIME PROVINCES HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION – MPHEC launches second annual student photo and video contest

September 25, 2014

Due to the enthusiastic response to its 2013-2014 inaugural Student Photo and Video Contest, the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) invites students again this year to participate in a competition to highlight the benefits of their experience at regional universities. Students enrolled in Maritime universities may submit entries to this year's Contest for a chance to win one of four cash prizes.

"The Contest was conceived as a way to celebrate MPHEC's 40th anniversary last year," said Mireille Duguay, Commission CEO. "We wanted to raise awareness of our mandate to improve the post-secondary learning environment, which is well understood among government stakeholders and colleagues at the universities themselves, but not so well-known among the student population. The Contest was planned as a one-off, but with entries from eight universities across all three Maritime Provinces last year, the response was so positive that we decided to offer it to students again in 2014-15."

Winning entries of last year's contest can be viewed on the Commission's web site <http://www.mphec.ca/general/photocontestwinners.aspx>. "As an organization that puts students at the heart, we are excited at the prospect of receiving more photos and videos directly from Maritime students that we can incorporate into our website, publications and other forms of communication," Duguay continues. "We exist because of students, so it makes sense to incorporate their fresh vision into our ongoing work in some tangible way."

Another practical way in which students can engage with MPHEC, Duguay notes, is to become an actual committee member of the Commission. "Two spots are currently open, and we would love to hear from students interested in making a difference. We accept applications online at <http://www.mphec.ca/about/studentrepresentatives.aspx#academicadvisory>."

The 2014-2015 Contest's theme is again "The Student Experience." Students may submit a photo or 30-second video that illustrates their life as a university student and, in particular, that demonstrates: what a university education means to them; what quality of education means to them; or what best represents their pathway to learning.

Recognizing the extra time and effort it can take to create a video, MPHEC has altered the prize structure this year to allow for a \$1,000 prize for the best video. The best photo entry will receive \$500 and there will be two runner-up prizes of \$250 for photos.

The winning photo entry last year came from Christiane Whitehouse of Acadia University, whose stunning image "Doors" was captioned: "An education opens doors, and a quality education will open the right ones." "We couldn't agree more," concludes Duguay.

The Contest is open until December 12, 2014. Winners will be announced in early spring 2015.

Additional details on the contest, including rules and entry forms, are available at: www.mphec.ca.

The MPHEC was established in 1974. The MPHEC is an arm's length organization accountable to the ministers responsible for postsecondary education in the Maritimes. The Commission comprises 20 members representing universities, the public-at-large (including students), and the three Maritime governments. The Commission's primary orientation in carrying out its duties is to give first consideration to improving and maintaining the best possible service to students as lifelong learners.

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