

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT – Feb 2010

Hi I would like to talk to you a little bit about the Scholarship process and give you a little background about how much money we have given to the students from August of 2008 to November 2009....\$31,800!!! Isn't this awesome.....this is the busiest that it has ever been which is absolutely what the program is about.

I would also like to tell you a little about how the process works.

What we do traditionally is have a grad student meeting and the packages are given out to the students at the Williams Lake Rodeo and at this time we answer any questions that the grads may have regarding what they need to put into their packages. In those packages they will have the deadline dates that they must have the packages submitted by. Most students already have packages completed from any applications that they have made either on line or at their schools. They will find that a lot of the information that they already have will need to be included in their rodeo package and the best part is that they will only have a one page application form. The bonus to our application is that they only send in one package and this application applies to all of our scholarships. Any students not at that meeting I then will either email/fax/mail their packages to them.

Some of these students will not be coming to the finals and we will have to figure out how we want to ensure that they are included in our scholarship program. What we have done in the past is set up phone conferences with the students that were at their grad ceremony or grads that didn't make finals. We found that it was a long way to travel for interviews, so we consider doing interviews with them before the finals or sometimes during the finals. This is something that depends on the students themselves and the interviewers so it is a work in progress.

In this package a letter is given to the grads with instructions on what they need to do and also the time frame deadlines. I am also at the rodeos so any grad may come and talk to me about this. I will include in my letter that it is very important that they get their package to me on time or they will not be eligible to be interviewed for scholarships. This will be enforced as we have to be able to accommodate all the grads from all over the province and this is because we need to work out schedules for the interviews (and work around what is going on in the grads world) this has always been an ongoing problem. If we need and are able to interview a grad by phone, this will be arranged with the grad and the interviewers.

Once all of the packages are received by me I will copy all of the packages and send each of them out to the interviewers along with the questions etc for them to look over. When the grads are interviewed they are all asked the same questions. We have been doing this for the past 20+ years and have found that this way is fair to all of them. I would like to add that the committee really enjoys this aspect of their job because they get to meet the students and have an interesting conversation with them.

What we do is usually on the Friday night of finals the grads are interviewed by the committee. I want to add that some of the members of the scholarship committee have been together for over 7 years and we have been very successful in making sure that all of the grads feel good about what they are doing and ensure that they are receiving some form of recognition. Over the years the committee has been formed with teachers,

principals, business people, former BC High School Rodeo members and Scholarship donors. All of these people are dedicated to BC High School Rodeo and the students. Once all of the students have been interviewed the committee sits together and looks at the scholarships and makes the difficult decisions on how each of the scholarships best fits the students. The committee makes every effort to ensure that every grad is recognized. A note to everyone these decisions are not made lightly and you should know they have taken the committee many hours of discussion and reflection.

We are always looking for sponsors and we need sponsors for all of the event (\$250) winners at the finals (\$250) and I am always asking businesses and people if they would sponsor a grad scholarship. This scholarship can be for \$100 for a Cowboy/Cowgirl Up, or \$250/\$300/\$500 or what ever someone wants to give for whatever reason. If you have someone that you think would be willing to be a donor please let me know and I will contact them.

I also wanted to let you know that because I have a grad this year I will not be involved in interviews for the scholarships. I will be organizing and involved with other aspects of the scholarship committee.

Thank you for your time and good luck to all of the students in the spring season and I look forward to talking to the graduating students of BC High School Rodeo 2010!