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INTERNATIONAL STUDENT WINS NATIONAL HONOURS

Minister McGifford Extends Congratulations

Advanced Education and Literacy Minister Diane McGifford today extended congratulations to University of Manitoba student Leytisha Jack for winning Canada's 2008 International Student of the Year award.

"We are proud of Leytisha, who is an example of the world-class students our universities are attracting," said McGifford. "By sharing their fresh ideas, talent and culture, international students enrich campus life and in return our universities offer students the opportunity to study and gain valuable work experience in Manitoba."

The first-place honour by Jack, who is from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, follows on the achievements of last year's winner, University of Manitoba student Alex Anton of Brazil.

The Liz Paterson International Student of the Year competition offers international students the opportunity to reflect on and write about the impact of their experience in Canada on their personal development and worldview. It also gives international education professionals the chance to recognize the valuable contributions these visitors make to universities and colleges and to the Canadian community in general.

Organized by the Canadian Bureau for International Education, the International Student of the Year Award program invites international students to write a letter home, giving family or friends insights about their study experiences in Canada. This year marks the fourth annual competition.

Jack's award-winning letter is available at www.cbie.ca/english/media_releases_e.htm.

Manitoba's universities have Canada's lowest average tuition rate for international students, which have seen enrolment increase 257 per cent since to 1,870 students in 2007-08 from 726 students in 1999.