

Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Leaders

By Wilco Tymensen

Once a week, the Lethbridge Herald publishes a column written by a superintendent of one of five school jurisdictions in the Lethbridge area. This week's column is authored by Wilco Tymensen, Superintendent for Horizon School Division No. 67 and was published on March 22, 2017. CASS thanks the Lethbridge Herald for permission to post this article on our website.

Each year around this time, there is a formal banquet in Taber, AB that celebrates the accomplishments of today's youth. What is different about the APEX Youth Awards from other awards banquets is that it is a multi-jurisdictional celebration, organized by the APEX youth committee. A committee comprised of community members who believe that we should celebrate the positive actions and contributions of today's youth, for they will be tomorrow's community leaders. Youth who contribute positively, give back to their community, serve others, and better the lives of those around them.

The annual banquet attended by politicians and other dignitaries attracts over 300 guests and has four major sponsors (South Country Coop, Avail CPA, Growers Supply, and Legacy Dodge) who provide a substantial bursary to four recipients selected by a group of judges. All recipients receive congratulatory letters from the School Authority Board Chair, the Governor General of Canada, the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Premier Notley, and Prime Minister Trudeau.

Over 300 youth have been honored over the past 15 years, and we are not only proud of their accomplishment but believe that investing in our youth today results in youth who grow up healthy and achieve success. The committee's investment into our community and our youth is their way of supporting our young people with making a successful transition into the workforce or post-secondary school and fostering contributing global citizens and leadership.

Together we can, and do, make a difference and I would like to say thank you to all who have influenced and shaped the lives of our youth. While you may never know the difference you have made in the life of our youth, your influence and guidance will shape tomorrow's leaders.