



NEWS RELEASE

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International Student Program wins prestigious industry award



SASKATOON, October 23, 2007 – The Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools International Student Program has been voted the top high school program by education consultants and student recruiters from around the world for the second year in a row. The LTM Star Awards are presented annually by Language Travel Magazine, based in London, England.

“This speaks volumes about how well our program is regarded around the world,” says Kim Hoffart, supervisor of the International Student Program (ISP). “Students and their families know that we work hard to ensure they feel truly welcome here and have a great educational experience.”

The Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools International Student Program was selected over other finalists from the United Kingdom and New Zealand. In 2006 it was shortlisted with programs from the United States, Vancouver and Cape Town, South Africa before becoming the eventual winner.

Winning is a testament to the excellent reputation the program enjoys among students, educators and the agents who help students select from the dozens of programs available. The ISP, which is 12 years old, consistently receives strong evaluations from students who travel to Saskatoon to attend the division’s Catholic schools.

In the program, students from a variety of countries, including Brazil, Columbia, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico and Spain enrol to attend Saskatoon Catholic high schools for a semester or a full school year. In the past four years enrolment has increased from 45 to 104. Students are attracted to study in Canada by the opportunity to improve their English, study in a new educational setting and have a rewarding cultural experience. They find Saskatoon a clean, safe, mid-sized city that they can easily adjust to.

Students pay \$9,500 tuition to Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools for a full school year and are paired with a homestay family in the city. The homestay families create a home away from home for their international student, helping them experience Saskatoon’s activities and culture to the fullest. Homestay families are compensated \$600 per month by their international student.

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Hoffart, the ISP supervisor, says the program's homestay component sets it apart. "The visiting students appreciate that they are carefully matched with a Saskatoon family they will be comfortable with and who will receive them warmly," he says.

Connie and Myles Manderscheid's family has hosted international students for five years. Connie Manderscheid says it's been a fulfilling experience for all family members.

"The students come with an eagerness to learn the language, learn the culture and we are gaining part of their culture, learning about their lives," she says. The Manderscheids have two daughters; one is currently finishing an education degree, the other is a registered nurse.

Connie says her family treats the students the way she hopes her daughters would be received if they chose to study and live in another country. "You welcome these young people into your home and they're part of your family. My students refer to us as their Canadian parents."

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Language Travel magazine is a monthly industry publication for education consultants/agents. It has a readership of 36,000 agents in 110 countries. The agents act as student recruiters, helping families determine where the students would like to travel to attend school.

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools is Saskatchewan's largest Catholic school division with 45 schools in Saskatoon, Humboldt, Biggar and Viscount. We help all students strive for academic excellence and we also teach them about themselves. Our distinctive faith-based education shows young people they are capable of reaching out to make a difference in the world.

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