

2016 MCoS Multicultural Honours

2016 Multicultural Youth Leadership Award

Presented in Partnership with SGEU

Jellyn Ayudan

Jellyn (Jell-in), while still in high school, already is active in all five streams of multicultural work. As an immigrant herself, arriving in Canada in October of 2009 from the Philippines, she dedicates her life to empowering other new immigrants and refugees to achieve their fullest potential.

A strong contributor to the stream of cultural continuity, Jellyn has been the President of Dr. Martin LeBoldus High School's Multicultural Club for four years. This has enabled her to showcase her Filipino culture at the school and in the community. Recently, the club was asked to prepare an event to showcase the Filipino culture to Loblaw's employees. Jellyn demonstrates a commitment to preserve and share her cultural traditions by learning and performing new Filipino dances, practicing her cultural traditions such as valuing her elders, and sharing her cultural foods. She encourages her peers, in particular Japanese and Chinese International students, to share and teach their cultural dances with the club and school.

Extremely active in fulfilling the stream of celebration of diversity, Jellyn has been organizing the school's Multicultural Week for four years. She aims to include as many cultures as possible while celebrating their differences and similarities. She both performs her own traditional Filipino dances and participates in dances from other cultures in the school. She has also invited cultural guest speakers such as Cadmus Delorme, Chief of Cowessess First Nation. Jellyn helps organize a Multicultural Lunch Day, featuring traditional dishes from all over the world, a tradition that LeBoldus students enjoy and look forward to yearly.

To achieve the anti-racism stream of work, Jellyn has worked closely with "CluedINclude", a project supported by the Regina Multicultural Council, Regina Police Service, Regina Open Door Society, and Saskatchewan Polytechnic with the goal to eliminate racial discrimination in the world. She attended a workshop to learn about discrimination and privilege and how they impact individuals. Afterwards,

Jellyn and her peers took what they had learned and organized a week-long event dedicated to eliminating racial discrimination. She prepared and presented facts about discrimination and anti-racism over the school's intercom. Other anti-racism initiatives by Jellyn include making posters to raise awareness against racism, placing a map of the world at school so students could pinpoint their countries of origin to show the diversity of their roots, and placing a board in the school's hall where students could write down negative stereotypes they have experienced and then write a rebuttal to disprove them.

Jellyn has become active as a Regina Open Door Society Peer Leader. She attends an annual two-day orientation, where she learns how to build bridges, work around language barriers, and provide personal and academic support for newcomers. She serves as a facilitator to introduce newcomers and their parents to the program, Canadian culture and the school system. She also leads meetings to educate and give advice to newcomers about their new lives in Canada. Jellyn continues these relationships throughout the year by becoming a supportive friend. She also helps newcomers create connections through creative projects, such as a lantern contest, and cooperative work by guiding newcomers to teach and share their cultures with the club and school community. Jellyn also shares her own experience as a new immigrant and student, providing her experience, strength and advice on overcoming obstacles. Outside of school, her work with the Regina Open Door Society inspires many newcomers to work hard and take advantage of all the opportunities that exist in Canada. This work is an example of both intercultural connections and integration.

Jellyn always seeks to improve herself and advance her positive influence in the community through the five streams of multicultural work. Overtime, Jellyn's contributions to multiculturalism slowly transcended outwards to her community and will continue to grow as she gets older and wiser.

The 2016 Multicultural Youth Leadership Award is presented in partnership with the Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union (SGEU) who also generously donated a \$500 reward. MCoS thanks SGEU for their commitment to the development of youth leading significant contributions to multiculturalism in Saskatchewan.