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Team from local school wins national stock market competition

A team of two students from Vanier College in Montreal has earned top national ranking in Wilfrid Laurier University's spring and fall Stock Market Competitions.

Team members Joanna Markowicz and Michael Lee Hing turned their original stake of \$100,000 into \$175,581.12 over a 12-week trading period that began in September to win the fall competition.

This spring, they amassed the greatest portfolio, valued at \$236,492.17, but were ineligible to receive the spring national award only because they won the fall competition.

Instead, they will receive the Huntly McKay award, presented to the team which best embodies the ideals and spirit of the competition.

The money they traded with was only imaginary but the competition wasn't as 850 teams from 180 schools across the country participated in the fall competition and 1,266 teams from 230 schools took part in the spring competition.

The competition began in 1968 as part of a first-year business program at the campus in Waterloo, Ont., was later

played by high school students across Ontario, and then went national six years ago.

Now the largest annual competition involving Canadian high school students, its purpose is to give the contestants a realistic understanding of how the stock market operates in Canada.

Pearce Bunting, president of The Exchange, said the competition provides an opportunity for students and teachers alike.

"Students learn that Canada's financial system is not intimidating or boring and teachers can use the competition to introduce a wide range of business-related topics that are sometimes difficult to teach," he said.

Teams watch stock market quotations in daily newspapers and use electronic mail to send their buy and sell orders to the university daily. In return, they receive a transaction report that shows their status.

Sandra Kuehl, manager of the competition, said students gain a lot -- whether or not their portfolio does. "The competition has provided students with an enjoyable incentive to learn the rudiments of investing in the Canadian stock market."

The national winners will receive a cash award of \$500 courtesy of the TSE, individual plaques and a trophy for the school. One member of the winning team, judged by the teacher to have contributed most to the team, will receive a \$1,000 scholarship from Laurier. The Huntly McKay award, worth \$500, will be shared by the two students.

The awards will be presented at the annual awards luncheon at the TSE on May 26.

Other sponsors include Bell Canada and investment firms across Canada. RBC Dominion Securities Inc. sponsors Ontario and Richardson Greenshields of Canada sponsors Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta. Laurier is the sponsor in the Atlantic and British Columbia regions.

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Kuehl can be reached at (519) 884-1970 ext. 2581.
For more information about the banquet itself, please contact Steve Kee, media services officer for the TSE, at (416) 947-4682.