

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Alberta students take top regional spots in stock market competition

Grande Prairie students place first in western Canada as they learn about investing

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WATERLOO — Students from Grande Prairie, Bow Island and Vancouver rank among the top novice stock market traders in western Canada, capturing the top three regional spots in the Wilfrid Laurier University National Secondary School Stock Market Competition.

Nathan Coulson, Graham Vance, Anastasia Ostrom and Devon McKenna of Grande Prairie Composite High School in Alberta navigated a volatile market in which the TSE 300 Index rose over 10,000 and sank below 8,500, beating roughly 125 teams in western Canada. Starting with an imaginary investment of \$135,000, they built a portfolio worth \$191,934 in just 72 days. Team members focused on companies such as Kasten Chase Applied Research, Ballard Power Systems, Research in Motion and Norte' Networks, and used a margin account to increase their portfolio's leverage.

"These students spent a lot of time on the computers researching stocks. It was a difficult market to trade in, but they were very persistent," says advising teacher David Boone (who can be reached at (780) 532-7721). "There was some luck at the end of the competition, but these students seem to be excellent day traders and it really paid off"

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Kathleen Wilson, Randi Lynn, Lynette Degenstein, Ashley Michalezki and Jeff Coutts of Senator Gershaw School in Bow Island, Alberta, placed second with a portfolio of \$157,910. Third place went to James Fong, Bruce Nguyen, Benson Lo, Raymond Chow and Robert Low of Templeton Secondary School. The Vancouver, British Columbia, team had a final portfolio of \$148,875.

For their efforts, the first-place team will receive \$250 cash and a trophy for their school. The second-place team receives \$100 cash and the third-place team shares \$50.

Nearly 650 teams from 90 schools across Canada competed in the latest stock market competition. A five-person team from Regina, Saskatchewan, took the top spot nationally with a portfolio value of \$201,364 and Kyle Brack of Upper Canada College in Toronto will receive the Huntly McKay Award for best exemplifying the spirit of the competition. Brack finished the fall competition with a portfolio value of \$302,618. The national and first-place Ontario regional winners will be honored at an awards dinner at the Toronto Stock Exchange on June 7.

Operating since 1972, Laurier's high school stock competition is held twice each year and teaches high-school students about investing as they monitor stock market quotations, submit daily buy-or-sell orders and view their portfolios on-line. Competition sponsors include the Toronto Stock Exchange, Star Data Systems, RBC Dominion Securities and Bell Canada.

THE TORONTO STOCK EXCHANGE CENTRE OF KNOWLEDGE EXCELLENCE

As an industry leader in the field of capital markets and investment, The Toronto Stock Exchange is pursuing a strategy as a centre of knowledge excellence, and continually seeks out new forums to communicate information to investors and students of investment. The TSE supports and sponsors a variety of programs geared towards investor education and market policy analysis. They include the Wilfrid Laurier Stock Market Competition, the University of Toronto Capital Markets Institute and the J.F. Kimber Fellowship. As well, the Exchange's interactive visitor centre, Stock Market Place provides investors of every level with information and education on the securities industry. Through its Education Program, the TSE provides teachers across Canada with free resources for teaching capital markets. The Teacher's Kit has been approved and recommended by the Ontario Curriculum Clearinghouse.

The TSE is a pivotal enabler of economic growth in Canada. Economic growth depends on the availability of capital and its effective use. Our role is to bring those with capital together with those who need it to build businesses, create jobs, make investments and accumulate savings in Canada for Canadians. We are in a unique position to make a difference and we do.

The TSE is committed to helping teachers because:

- The Exchange believes "educated" investors will actively and confidently participate in the capital markets.
- Increased investors will build liquidity and trading activity and will provide for a healthy capital market system.
- The TSE has always been committed to educating investors and the public about the capital markets system.

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Education Program

Through its Education Program, the TSE regularly offers workshops and resources to teachers in Ontario and has participated in conferences for the Ontario Business Educators Association and the Ontario Association of Math Educators conference.

The TSE is taking its knowledge of the industry, putting a framework together and then offering this as a resource to teachers. The TSE continues to be involved in discussions with a number of different players to identify the best strategic relationships to complement our business. We are working with the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education and are planning a 3-day institute for teachers across Canada, which will assist them in using our national teaching resource for teaching capital markets.

The TSE's Education Department recently participated at the Ontario Business Educators Association Conference in April and will be at the Ontario Association of Math Educators Conference in May.

The Wilfrid Laurier University Stock Market Competition

The Toronto Stock Exchange has been the primary sponsor of the Wilfrid Laurier University National Secondary School Stock Market Competition since its inauguration in 1983. The competition, which runs in two 12 week national sessions, provides secondary students with the opportunity to participate in a realistic stock market simulation through a computer supported and administered program. Students are evaluated on their portfolio performance, their stock selection ability and trading techniques used in the mock investment of \$100,000 on The Toronto Stock Exchange.

Capital Markets Institute of U of T

The Toronto Stock Exchange donated \$2.75 million to establish a Capital Markets Institute at the University of Toronto. The Institute, which entails two fully endowed academic chairs at the Faculty of Law and the Rotman School of Business, brings together academics and leaders in law, industry and government to conduct research in the area of Canadian capital markets and related public policy.

J.F. Kimber Fellowship

The Kimber Fellowship is a program that brings distinguished speakers from the legal, academic and business communities, domestic and international, to meet and conduct lectures with members of the investment community and at the Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto and Osgoode Hall Law School at York University.

Studies and Conferences

The Toronto Stock Exchange sponsors major studies on market issues and often hosts related conferences. Recent examples are the recently formed committee to examine standards governing securities research analysts, the Mining Standards Task Force, the Dey Report on Corporate Governance, the Allen Report on Corporate Disclosure and the Kirzner Report on Equity Market Fragmentation. These initiatives contribute significantly to public policy debate on various industry issues.

TSE, April 2000