June 18, 2013

Extraordinary volunteer awarded the President's Medal

Edmonton—MacEwan University is proud to announce that Samantha Sperber has been awarded the President’s Medal for Academic Excellence and Student Leadership. “Samantha’s academic credentials speak for themselves. What makes her stand out is her dedication as a community volunteer,” said MacEwan University president, David Atkinson. “Her unassuming manner and quiet presence belies her contributions and involvement as a true leader.”

An aspiring optometrist, Samantha started the Students Taking a Role in Eyecare (STARE) program in 2011 to collect eyeglasses for those less fortunate around the world. After doing some research she contacted the LensCrafters OneSight program that sends optometrists around the world with used glasses to provide vision care. Since setting up the STARE program Samantha has collected over 1000 pair of eyeglasses. Samantha then sorts them into child, adult, bifocal, trifocal and single vision eyeglasses then they are distributed around the world.

Samantha is also an active volunteer with the Canadian Cattleman’s Association, the Alberta Charolais Youth Association, and Santa’s Anonymous.

The President’s Medal for Academic Excellence and Student Leadership recognizes both academic achievement and contributions to enhancing the student experience at MacEwan University.

Samantha will receive the President’s Medal during the Spring Convocation.

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University is a comprehensive university offering more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training. Its philosophy of inspiring minds, academic excellence, and providing career opportunities continues to be its guide as it serves the educational needs of students across Alberta, Canada and the world.