



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Local student benefits from learning grant and mentorship opportunity

Ryker Olafson has a path to reach his goals mapped out.

About to start his post-secondary education journey at the University of Alberta with an eye on becoming an optometrist, the 18-year-old took the time for some guidance after winning a \$1,000 learning grant through Valeyo. An additional perk of the grant is a mentorship chat with the CEO of Synergy Credit Union.

“We had a chance to talk about my plans and he gave some advice too,” said Ryker. “He said to always be a life-long learner – always put in the time to learn new things. It’s good advice because you never want to be stagnant.”

“And along with that, some of the key skills you need to be a success going forward: continuous learning, critical thinking, controlling your biases and problem solving,” said Synergy CEO Glenn Stang.

Growth is something Ryker is familiar with and plans to continue. An active student, he was part of the Kindersley Composite School Student Leadership Council, coordinator for Meals on Wheels, and coached and played a variety of sports. He also represented his fellow grads as the class valedictorian. His community work in these areas and his student leadership were key subjects in his essay that helped him earn the Valeyo Learning Grant.

In the fall, he will begin classes in General Sciences at the University of Alberta. Once he has completed that degree, he plans to pursue his Doctorate of Optometry at the University of Waterloo.

“I wanted to do something in the medical field but with a career that has a work-life balance. Optometry seems to have better hours, so you’re not missing your kids’ hockey games or other activities,” said Ryker.

Happiness with work was another piece of advice Synergy CEO Glenn Stang offered.

“I shared that if you like your work and the people you work with, you will be happy,” he said. “Never chase the money because you will find the pastures are not always greener on the other side of the fence.”

While the mentorship piece has been completed, Stang shared that the door is always open for a chat and hopes to stay updated on Ryker’s progress.



The Valeyo Learning Grant program provides a grant in the amount of \$1,000 to eligible students for full-time study at a qualifying Canadian college or university in 2020. Any student who is a member of Synergy Credit Union is eligible to apply.

About Synergy Credit Union

Synergy Credit Union is a member-owned financial institution serving more than 28,000 voting and non-voting members from 11 communities within west-central Saskatchewan. Synergy Credit Union is the fourth largest credit union in the province of Saskatchewan and is one of the leading credit unions in Canada, with more than \$1.7 billion in assets under administration. Synergy Credit Union provides core banking services through the traditional branch network, the Canada-wide AccuLink ATM network, online banking, mobile web banking, as well as through the Member Contact Centre and by SMS texting. More complex and advanced services, such as financial advice and analysis, are delivered by specialists who may be located in select branches or available to meet in a location of the member's choice, by request.