

## Alberta 4-H Member Earns International Recognition

It is a well-known fact that there are many benefits that are associated with being part of such a dynamic organization: advanced communication skills, enhanced confidence, increased social networks, strong work ethic, opportunity for travel, an advantageous scholarship program, personal growth and development.

While it is comforting to be reminded of what a positive future investment 4-H is, it is also affirming when a huge success is realized by a member of the 4-H family. Or, as the saying goes, “The proof is in the pudding”.

Danny Hertz, nine-year 4-H veteran, 4-H Ambassador, Provincial Judging Champion and USA National 4-H Conference award trip delegate, has been awarded a summer internship with the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Danny had just completed his first year at Queen’s University, which is located in Kingston, ON., where he studies Commerce, when he learned of his internship, a goal that he had been working towards since his above-mentioned award trip to Washington.

*“While we were at the Conference, our Canadian delegation went and visited the Canadian Embassy and met with officials in the Ag department. I loved Washington, and the Embassy seemed like it would be an interesting place to work. I told myself after I got home that I would apply for the internship and see where things went from there. This internship started with a big dream that had relatively miniscule chances of coming to pass. But, in the end, it was a dream that ended up working itself out over time.”*

Rarely are first-year students even considered for an interview, with these prestigious internships often being won by third and fourth-year candidates who have already obtained an undergrad degree, and are looking to gain some experience before applying for graduate studies.

*“I had a very strong supporter out in Kingston, who has helped to open doors for me and who made suggestions along the way. Working on this application showed me how willing teachers and community leaders are to help you achieve your goal – it’s just a matter of not being afraid to reach out and seek their advice.”*



# Alberta 4-H Press Release



In addition to tapping into the expertise of his mentors, Danny cites his time in 4-H as having played in large role in his past and current success. *“The communication and leadership skills that 4-H helped me develop have been extremely valuable in both business school, and in securing internships and jobs across North America.”*

And so, what do the next four months hold for Danny, as an intern in the Economic/ Commercial section of the Embassy?

*“The three main tasks that have been described to me include research, event planning and business relationship facilitation. The interns that are there right now are analyzing the US federal budget and are looking for areas of stimulus spending that Canadian businesses can benefit from. I will be helping to plan events that aim to bring together small Canadian companies that are looking for start-up capital with American venture capital and private equity firms. I’ll also be working on projects that promote Canadian exports to the US and American investment in Canada.”*

In closing, when asked what he has learned thus far from the internship process, his answer comes quickly: *“Aim big and refuse to accept the idea that any of your goals are impossible to achieve.”*

Look for an update on Danny’s experience with the Canadian Embassy in the Fall 2009 issue of the 4-H Magazine.