

District receives ITA Youth Works Award

Spencer Trueman developed a love of carpentry as a student at the Jackson Campus of Salmon Arm Secondary. In addition to a few woodwork classes, Spencer enrolled in the Explore a Trade course during his Grade 10 year. During that class, he learned how to do framing, siding, wiring and some plumbing.

A field trip took the students on a tour of some new houses being built by Hindbo Construction. Spencer was hooked! He applied for a job and to be part of the Youth Works in Trades program, where he can earn trades certification while still in high school!

Spencer, and Hindbo Construction, are two of the reasons why School District No. 83 was recently honoured with an Industry Training Authority (ITA) Youth Works Performance Award, which recognizes district's with the highest Youth Work in Trades registration over the past year.



District Principal Reid Findlay, the supervisor of the SD83 Career Program, comments students, local employers and the SD83 career staff team are the reason why this program is so successful. He adds the Youth Works in Trades program changes lives for many students as it allows them to get credit in high school for apprenticeship programs with SD83 paying the tuition!

Last year SD83 had 48 students in the Youth Works in Trades program. Over the past years, students have done apprenticeships in many areas including plumbing, electrician, dairy technician, hair styling, heavy duty equipment mechanic, masonry, aircraft maintenance, boiler maker, machinist, welding, auto service technician, commercial truck and transport, and more.

Findlay adds the \$5,000 grant which comes with the award will go directly to help students access the resources and tools they need for their trades training. He added that in early 2019, the ITA will be hosting a celebratory dinner event where the award will be officially presented, followed by recognizing a number of local employers who sponsor youth apprentices through the Work in Trades program.

Back to Spencer's story . . . during the tour, Spencer asked Hindbo Construction for a job. He was told to bring in a resume and they'd talk.

Spencer applied and started working for Hindbo during Spring Break and continued through the summer holidays. Now as a Grade 11 student, Spencer has his sights set on taking the Okanagan College Carpentry Foundation program, starting in February 2020, when he will be in Grade 12. SD83 can pay the tuition for students taking trade programs and some certificates, in high school, and during the first year after graduation.

Spencer is currently being registered as an apprentice carpenter through the ITA. Spencer hopes to finish his Red Seal Carpentry program within a few years of graduation.

Thanks to a great supportive local employer, Spencer is well on his way!