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News Release

AMM Awards Youth Leadership

March 20, 2015 - The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) is pleased to announce the recipient of the 2015 George Harbottle Memorial Young Community Leader Award is Joyce Ayo. The AMM presented the award at the Manitoba School Boards Association Celebration of Success evening on March 19.

“Children and youth play a vital role in our communities, and the contribution made by today’s winner is impressive,” said President Doug Dobrowolski before presenting the award.

Joyce, a student at St. James Collegiate in the St. James–Assiniboia School Division, moved to Canada in 2011 and quickly became involved in her community and her school. She is involved in her Student Council, TADD (Teens Against Drunk Drivers), Peer Tutoring, the Best Buddies program and UNESCO/Social Justice. She has participated in the 30 Hour Famine and attended 2014 WE Day, and outside of school volunteered at the CIBC Run for the Cure and as a tutor for immigrants and refugees.

Linda Connor, Provincial Coordinator for the Manitoba UNESCO Associated Schools Network, nominated Joyce because she exemplifies good citizenship and has taken action to educate and transform not only her school but the wider community. “In all her endeavors, Joyce Ayo ‘thinks like a citizen of action, and acts like a citizen of thought,’” said Connor.

“For me, the only way to define citizenship is by looking at and being true to yourself,” says Joyce. “It’s not only about being born in a country or living there a long time, or even taking the citizenship test. To be a citizen means to be involved in your community.”

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The AMM established the Young Community Leader Award in 2009, in conjunction with the Manitoba School Board Association Citizenship Awards.

The Award was re-named in 2012 to honour the memory of AMM Honourary Life Member George Harbottle.