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News Release

AMM Awards Youth Leadership

March 18, 2016 - The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) is pleased to announce the recipient of the 2016 George Harbottle Memorial Young Community Leader Award is Rashawna Blair. The AMM presented the award at the Manitoba School Boards Association Celebration of Success evening on March 17. [See photo here.](#)

"Children and youth play a vital role in our communities, something that was underscored for me as I listened to the achievements of the student citizens we have honoured today," said AMM President Chris Goertzen before presenting the award. "Their accomplishments are impressive."

Rashawna, a student at River East Collegiate in the River East Transcona School Division, is a first-generation Canadian who volunteers with the Afro-Caribbean Association of Manitoba and Folklorama and has taken part in many initiatives promoting multiculturalism and acceptance. As a volunteer with her school's social justice group, Rashawna petitioned for the right of clean, running water for Aboriginal reserves in Manitoba that are lacking this necessity. In addition, she volunteers her time to St. Boniface Hospital and founded a Healthy Initiative Campaign at school.

Sponsor Emaline Jackson, President of the Afro-Caribbean Association of Manitoba, nominated Rashawna for her positive attitude and dedication to her community service work, academics and extra-curricular activities.

"Rashawna is a well-rounded individual who demonstrates an overwhelming passion for improving her community," said Jackson.

"I believe citizenship refers to a person's ability to inspire others, willingness to assist in times of need and positive contribution to society," says Rashawna. "My inspiration to make positive differences in the world springs from the joy I see when I help those in need. Together we can transform the world."

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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.

The Association of Manitoba Municipalities identifies and addresses the needs and concerns of its members in order to achieve strong and effective municipal government.