



2020 Winner Profiles

Name: Aksh Aggarwal

Organization: University Preparedness Workshop

Age: 21

Aksh is Co-Founder of the University Preparedness Workshop, established in 2018. Its main purpose is to enlighten high school seniors at various Surrey schools about balancing academics, mental health, physical health, extra-curricular activities and the general well-being in university. This shared information equips high school seniors with the skills they need to thrive in university and transition smoothly into a more independent lifestyle. Aksh has received several professional and academic recognitions. In 2016, he was the class valedictorian and a recipient of over \$5,000 in scholarships for his school and community involvement. He was awarded the BCSTA Scholarship for Student Citizenship by the Vancouver Foundation, and is a consistent Dean's Honour student at the University of British Columbia.

Name: Simryn Atwal

Organization: Surrey Kids Help Phone

Age: 24

Simryn is the current Chair of the Surrey Kids Help Phone, a counselling and support service for youth aged 20 years and under. As Chair, Simryn has helped raise over \$60,000 through the Surrey Kids Help Phone Events Committee, a unit that was started in 2017. These funds help keep free resources in circulation and allows for increase accessibility for Surrey youth. Simryn is an accomplished leader, speaker and fundraiser and has championed mental health support in Surrey. She completed her Bachelor of Science in Biology with distinction at the University of British Columbia and works as a Behavioural Interventionist for children with disabilities at the Ministry of Children and Youth. She also works as a journalist for The Source Newspaper, the largest bilingual newspaper in BC.

Name: Suchayte Bali
Organization: Emerging Routes Canada
Age: 24

Suchayte is Co-Founder and Co-President of Emerging Routes Canada, a student-led non-profit organization dedicated to providing support, guidance, and empowerment to secondary school students in need of social-emotional intervention. Established in 2017, Emerging Routes Canada has worked with dozens of at-risk youth and has run its workshops in an intimate environment with over 400 high school students. Suchayte has been involved in the community through multiple facets of volunteerism and research at various organizations including The Vancouver General Hospital, The Looking Glass Foundation and Vancouver Brain Injury Association. He completed his Bachelor of Science major in Biology from the University of British Columbia and is currently working alongside his cardiovascular research peers in performing a self-guided meta-analysis on leadless pacemakers and their implications to further the cardiovascular implant field of study.

Name: Fahad Bin Faruque
Organization: AXIS Consulting
Age: 25

Fahad is the Managing Director of Axis Consulting, a student-led pro bono consultancy at Simon Fraser University. Founded in 2013, Axis Consulting is one of the programs of Enactus SFU, an organization that utilizes business to create social, economic and environmental impact in the community. As Managing Director, Fahad leads a team of 14 consultants who work with over 20 not-for-profit organizations, empowered 9,000+ community members, and has produced responsible student leaders. Fahad has received several academic accolades including a President's Honour Roll and Dean's Honour Roll awards. Most recently, he was awarded the highly coveted CEOx1Day where he had the opportunity to shadow the CEO of Absolute Software, Christy Wyatt.

Name: Amandeep Boparai
Organization: SPARK Foundation
Age: 22

Amandeep is Co-Founder of SPARK Foundation and has been at its helm for 5 consecutive years, leading a team of 12 staff and board directors, and over 140 volunteers. SPARK Foundation's life education programs have helped empower over 5,000 individuals. With Amandeep's business and leadership acumen, SPARK Foundation was recognized with Canada 150 award in leadership and gained support from United Nations for its Climate Change Challenge program. Currently, Amandeep is working on her business degree at the University of Fraser Valley.

Name: Bremiella De Guzman
Organization: Spread the Word: Inclusion (Special Olympics BC)
Age: 24

Bremiella has been an active volunteer in her community since high school. As a social worker, she demonstrates strong leadership skills by supporting individuals and families going through changes in their lives, helping them solve problem and connecting them to their community. Bremiella is among the 14 youth leaders in BC chosen by Canada Service Corps and Special Olympics BC to lead community projects with a goal of building a more inclusive province. Presently, she leads the Spread the Word: Inclusion project, her brainchild with a goal of teaching children and youth to spread kindness, respect and acceptance for people with intellectual disabilities. Bremiella obtained her Bachelor's of Social Work from the University of British Columbia. She is also the reigning Ms. BC and Ms. Canada 2020.

Name: Jasdeep Gill
Organization: Simon Fraser Student Society
Age: 23

Jasdeep has been serving as Vice President for External Relations in Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) since 2018. Her role on the board is largely comprised of government relations and leading the advocacy priorities of the SFSS that take place through the Federal, Provincial, Municipal Advocacy and Lobbying Committee. In 2019, the SFSS federal delegation was recognized for their advocacy efforts by MP Terry Beech, MP Peter Julian, and the Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Canadian Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion. Jasdeep is in her final year of the Bachelor of Business Administration degree at the Beedie School of Business, with concentration in International Business.

Name: Sandip Gill
Organization: Youth Transforming Society
Age: 24

As Executive and Events Manager of Youth Transforming Society, a not-for-profit organization that aims to raise awareness of local and global issue, Sandip has played a vital role in helping organize large-scale events in Surrey. Among them are the annual Let's Talk Volunteering, a Ted-Talks style event where youth learn the value and positive impact of community service, an annual food drive for the Surrey Food Bank, the School Supplies Drive, and the annual Volunteering and Beyond event. Her leadership and passion in serving the community have earned her recognition and scholarships, such as the Langara College Faculty of Social Science & Management Dean's Honour Roll Student, Langara College Lieutenant Governor's Medal Award, Top Punjabi 12 Student Award, and the Dogwood District Authority Scholarship for Excellence in International Languages. Sandip is currently in her final semester of her Bachelor of Recreation Management Degree Program at Langara College.

Name: Fawzan Hussain
Organization: Youth for Care
Age: 18

As the President of Youth for Care, Fawzan leads over 400 youth volunteers supporting Surrey Memorial Hospital in various capacities. His most notable project is the creation and distribution of CARE Kits to children of patients in the palliative care units. In 2018, Fawzan partnered with the Neil Squire Society, a non-profit organization supporting people with disabilities. With a grant from TakingITGlobal and a donation from Tinkerine, a local 3D-printing company, his team was able to print and distribute over 140 units of assistive 3D devices for people with disabilities. Fawzan's leadership skills and innovative thinking have earned him scholarship grants and paved the way for recognition and awards such as the honourable mention for the Surrey NOW Community Leaders Award for Youth Volunteer of the Year, Best Junior Innovator Award at SFU Beedie School of Business Opportunity Festival, and Gold Medal and Students Choice Award at the South Fraser Regional Science Fair. Fawzan currently attends Fraser Heights Secondary School's Science Academy.

Name: Pavneet Kalsi
Organization: Equity, Inclusion and Wellness
Age: 22

Pavneet is an avid supporter of Equality, Inclusion and Wellness. As a long-time soccer player, she capitalized on her love for this sport in supporting three soccer fundraising tournaments in collaboration with the City of Surrey and BC Tiger Sports Club, with two purposes in mind: to raise awareness for female youth in sports in the South Asian community, and to raise money and food for the Surrey Food Bank. Pavneet also works as an Events Executive for Best Buddies, a UBC club that supports people with physical and intellectual disabilities and recognize them for their capabilities. She has been recognized for her leadership and has received scholarship grants for academic excellence. Currently, Pavneet is pursuing an undergraduate degree in Microbiology and Immunology at the University of British Columbia.

Name: Gurleen Kaur Brar
Organization: Youth Transforming Society
Age: 24

Gurleen is Chairperson of Youth Transforming Society, a not-for-profit organization based in Surrey that aims to raise awareness for local and global issues and encourage volunteerism among young people. As Chair, she leads a team of 20 executives and spearheads annual events such as Flowers for Happiness, Sustainability Month, School Supply Drive, Annual Food Drive for the Surrey Food Bank and the Holiday Breakfast. Apart from these regular activities, she also facilitates the English conversation program for adult learners and students that are new in Canada. Gurleen completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Langara College where she received the President's Medal for Excellence and Community Service. Currently, she works as a Registered Nurse at Surrey Memorial Hospital.

Name: Priya Kaur Lehal
Organization: PKL Enterprises Ltd.
Age: 22

Priya is the Founder and Owner of PKL Enterprises Ltd., which launched a social media app for women's safety called MissMap. It allows users to rate and review the places they visit to forewarn women of incidents and be able to take necessary safety actions. Aside from giving women a voice in the age of #MeToo, this app is also intended to hold establishments accountable for women's safety. After its launch in November 2018, MissMap has been endorsed by some prominent anti-violence organizations in BC, such as NEVR (Network to Eliminate Violence in Relationships), EVA BC (the Ending Violence Association of BC), and the SFU FREDa Centre (Feminist Research Centre). It was no small feat for Priya to set up her own company and launch an app while pursuing a law degree in London. At present, Priya is completing a Master's Degree in Public International Law at New York University.

Name: Christie Lo
Organization: Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Age: 24

Christie has been working at the RCMP E-Division Headquarters stationed in Surrey for the past three years and has grown from a co-op student at Simon Fraser University into a leader who supports a team of Information Management Specialists in her unit at the RCMP. Utilizing her skillsets and database knowledge, she developed reports and delivered training sessions to both internal and external key stakeholders all around BC. During her time at Simon Fraser University, Christie was a Dean's Honour Roll student and a recipient of the Linda Brideau Memorial Scholarship in Criminology, Undergraduate Open Scholarship and the Dean's Excellence Major Entrance Scholarship. Today, she represents the Pacific Region as a member of the Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC) Youth Council whose aim is to modernize campaigns, raise awareness, and to increase engagement and participation from new and young public servants.

Name: Eric Mann

Organization: Emerging Routes Canada and UBC Bhangra Council

Age: 23

Eric is Co-Founder and Co-President of Emerging Routes Canada, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing support, guidance, and empowerment to secondary school students, including mentorship opportunities with students in need of social-emotional intervention. ERC has trained volunteers to work with dozens of at-risk youth in a one-on-one setting, as well as impacting hundreds of high school students through lectures, seminars, or workshops, where they learn essential life skills. Aside from ERC, Eric has served as the Co-President of the UBC Bhangra Club, a philanthropic club which aims to fundraise money for charity and spread Punjabi culture. Over the past five years, the UBC Bhangra Club has donated over \$100,000 to a variety of noble causes both abroad and in the local community. Eric has recently earned a Bachelor's degree from UBC, where he studied Arts and Sciences. Besides avidly volunteering, Eric works as a Research Assistant at the BC Children's Hospital Research Institute and looks to pursue further education at the intersection of research and healthcare.

Name: Shannon Permal

Organization: Canadian Federation of Fiji Organizations

Age: 21

Shannon is Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Fiji Organizations (CFOFO), a non-profit, charitable and non-governmental umbrella body of Fiji-Canadian organizations which aims to encourage and involve young people of all backgrounds and communities through a variety of community projects. As its Chair, Shannon is in the forefront of the organization's operations in supporting, recognizing and creating opportunities for Fiji-Canadian youth. She has been recognized and awarded the District Authority Dogwood for Community Leadership and Excellence in Leadership Gold for her volunteer efforts towards her school community. Most recently on International Women's Day, she was honoured to be the only youth recipient of a Shakti Award for Volunteering. Today, Shannon is working on her Bachelor of Arts, with a major in Psychology and Criminology, at Simon Fraser University.

Name: Samad Raza

Organization: Emerge SFU

Age: 23

Samad is Founder and Director of Emerge SFU, a workshop series program that teaches students marketable skills for employment opportunities. He conceptualized this program to fill the void of tangible technical skills that are in high demand by employers but are rarely offered in schools in an accessible manner. The curriculum taught through Emerge SFU workshops is completely free for the 26,000 undergraduate students attending Simon Fraser University. In addition to leading this program, Samad is in the process of completing a Bachelor's Degree in Communication and Media Studies at Simon Fraser University. Currently, he is an elected Student Senator representing the Faculty of Communication, Arts and Technology. As a Senator, Samad works alongside peers and SFU administration to take part in the academic governance of the University.

Name: Prableen Sandhu

Organization: South Asian Cancer Association

Age: 21

Prableen is President and Founder of the South Asian Cancer Association, a registered non-profit organization, whose mission is to raise cancer awareness in Surrey's South Asian community. She has led a number of fundraising events to support cancer research and advocacy programs of the Canadian Cancer Society. In December 2019, Prableen was awarded a Regional (BC & Yukon) Outstanding Youth Leadership Award by the Canadian Cancer Society for her efforts as its volunteer and founder of SACA. In January 2020, she launched an ambassador program within SACA, giving individuals the opportunity to demonstrate leadership and advocate for cancer health. Prableen is a fourth year Biology student at the University of British Columbia and hopes to pursue her interest in medicine and public health.

Name: Sia Sidhu
Organization: Sia's Burger Shack
Age: 11

Sia is a vibrant, generous and loving 11-year-old student at Colebrook Elementary School. Since the young age of 6, Sia has been running an annual fundraiser from her home. She uses her savings for marketing collaterals and event supplies. She also reaches out to various organizations for donations and prizes. In 2015, she started Sia's Lemonade Stand and was able to raise \$300 for Delta View Centre. Since then, Sia has been organizing annual summer fundraising events, and the latest of which is Sia's Burger Shack. Her tireless efforts over the years have raised over \$17,000 for the Children's Hospital. Sia plans to follow a career path in broadcasting or politics in the future.

Name: Nimrit Sidhu
Organization: Hearts of BC
Age: 20

Nimrit started as an ambassador at the Hearts of BC in June 2019, going on to become its Head of Public Relations today. The Hearts of BC is a youth-led, registered non-profit organization aiming to improve outcomes of sudden cardiac arrest in British Columbia. Her team addresses the knowledge gap of the importance of Automated External Defibrillators (AED's) and CPR, to work towards the ultimate goal of eliminating sudden cardiac death across the province. Their action plan involves hosting educational seminars at various institutions across the Lower Mainland, increasing both availability and accessibility of AED's, and also taking a legal stance to mandate AED implementation in BC. Nimrit is currently in her third year of her Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in Biology at the University of British Columbia. Her goal is to pursue a career as an Interventional Cardiologist.

Name: Gurkirat Singh Nijjar
Organization: One Voice Canada
Age: 24

Gurkirat is a dedicated and influential individual. He serves as a Community Outreach Director of One Voice Canada, an organization that helps international students by providing advocacy, support and creating awareness on local and global issues that may affect international students. As a Director, he helps build relations and network with the government and other organizations. Additionally, he is a lead volunteer for South Asian Mental Health Alliance and the South Asian Health Institute. Gurkirat completed his Associate Degree in Biology at Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

Name: Peter Tivy
Organization: Teifi Digital Inc.
Age: 22

Peter has developed a passion for innovation and started his first technology company at the age of 15. His first system implementation in 2017 helped the client increase revenues by nearly \$1M through process automation and opening new direct sales channels. This led him to establish TeifiX, where he now serves as Managing Partner. TeifiX is a startup digital agency that empowers small and medium businesses with digital solutions to increase their reach, improve efficiency and better serve their customers. Their clients come from various sectors such as retail, land development, and technology. Through Teifi Digital, he was able to provide work experience opportunities to his peers and has allowed him to expand his leadership experience through mentorship. Peter is now in his final semester at the Beedie School of Business for a degree in Business Technology Management with concentration in Management Information Systems and Marketing.

Name: Jonathan To

Organization: Health Change Lab – Made with Care, and Enactus SFU

Age: 20

Jonathan began volunteering with Enactus SFU in 2018 for a project called Count on Me, whose purpose is to educate youth with barriers on financial literacy, employability skills, and health and wellness. In 2019, he was part of the Health Change Lab that developed an intervention to tackle health-related challenges in the City of Surrey. During the same year, he and his team managed the events logistics in the TEDxSFU Conference at the Vancouver Playhouse that was attended by over 400 guests. He has also helped secure his team's first grant for Health Change Lab programs used towards developing workshops for youth care in Surrey. Jonathan is currently in his third year at Simon Fraser University in the Beedie School of Business majoring in Finance.

Name: Lavleen Walia

Organization: Youth Rising Foundation

Age: 18

Lavleen serves as President and Director of the Youth Rising Foundation, which aims to empower youth and to create a peaceful and violence free society through a plethora of humanitarian mediums such as education initiatives, providing resources and outlets for students who have experienced violence and bullying, and early-prevention strategies for gang violence. She has also served as President of National S.A.V.E Canada where she established partnerships with large organizations such as YoBro, a mentorship platform that aims to keep youth off the streets to collaborate and further the foundation's mission. Lavleen has been the recipient of a number of awards and accolades for academics, arts, and community work in her secondary education such as Academic Excellence in Mathematics and Top Leadership Award. She is currently in her first year at the University of British Columbia studying Biology.

Name: Brandon Yau

Organization: Surrey Canadian Cancer Society

Age: 24

Brandon is an active volunteer for the Surrey Canadian Cancer Society since 2018. He transitioned to becoming the Site Coordinator for Surrey's CIBC Run for the Cure, a fundraising marathon event for cancer research. His involvement in the community has led him to co-found 52volunteers, an initiative that recognizes volunteers in Vancouver and Surrey communities to promote philanthropy and give a spotlight to volunteers who go above and beyond. Brandon obtained his Bachelor of Commerce Degree with honours from Queen's Smith School of Business in 2017. Currently, he works as a Senior Accountant at KPMG LLP and actively pursuing his Chartered Financial Analyst designation.