

Dear Sponsor of the Corus Entertainment Renewable Indigenous Scholarships award,

My name is Desmand King, and I am writing today as a recipient of your award. First, I want to convey an absolutely heartfelt thank you to Corus Entertainment for awarding me with this generous scholarship. Let me tell you a little bit about myself and how this award has enhanced my academic experience.

Firstly, this award has helped me thrive in my program at the British Columbia Institute of Technology. This year will be my second and final in the Digital Design & Development program at BCIT. It has been a challenging but rewarding program where I studied design, computer programming, and business leadership disciplines. My studies' outcomes have always focused on building better user interfaces and experiences, emphasizing better accessibility for all. I maintained steady grades throughout each term and tackled every project with enthusiasm and empathy.

Being granted this award has made a dramatic impact in helping with my living expenses. Not having to stress about how to pay rent or bills has allowed me to laser-focus on my studies and succeed. It has also allowed me to give back positively to the BCIT community as a peer mentor through BCIT's Indigenous Initiatives office, and I am honoured to be one of their Indigenous Peer Champions. Every day in this role, I am inspired to reach out to all faculty and students at BCIT to inform them about the services available and promote student engagement. In giving back, my personal mission as Indigenous Peer Champion is to actively seek out those peers who may be slipping through the cracks and help guide them to helpful outlets. My approach to this peer mentor role is to make BCIT an even more inclusive institution with a definite sense of community. My inspiration comes from uplifting everyone to their full potential. All of this could not have been possible without the advantages I gained from winning the Corus Entertainment Renewable Indigenous Scholarships award.

After graduating, I intend to pursue and work at a local video game production company in a producer role. Working in the game industry has always been my goal, and I've been making strides toward that goal. But if you allow me to run wild with my dreams for a moment, then it would be to start my own game design studio. This design studio is where I would work to indigenize the medium, sharing my ancestors' stories and history and giving a voice to indigenous game developers. It is also where I could provide opportunities to other aspiring indigenous developers and artists. I can picture a welcoming office where indigenous ideas can come to life and thrive in the digital space, where youth can participate in tech camps to discover a world of possibilities in the tech field. This lofty aspiration doesn't seem so far-fetched, and winning the Corus Entertainment Renewable Indigenous Scholarships award has given me the confidence to dream big.

In closing, I would like to give you a very sincere and heartfelt thank you for your generous support. I honestly do not know how I would have survived the Digital Design and Development program at BCIT without it. If you would like to follow me in my future endeavors, please feel free to add me on LinkedIn:
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/desmandking/>

In the Anishinaabe language of my indigenous ancestors, I say miigwech (thank you)!

With eternal gratitude,

Desmand King.