

News

StFX graduate vying for top honours in national competition hosted by Government of Canada

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Andrew Bucci

Andrew Bucci, a 2013 StFX Bachelor of Arts history and political science graduate from Newmarket, ON, is in the running for top spot in a national competition hosted by the Government of Canada.

Mr. Bucci, now pursuing his Master of Public Administration degree at Dalhousie University, has made the top 15 for a paper he wrote and submitted to the Blueprint 2020 National Paper Competition, which invited graduate level students to share their ideas and recommendations for what the Canadian public service should focus on moving forward.

The competition received 90 submissions from across Canada, which have been evaluated down to the top 15. Mr. Bucci is the only one from Atlantic Canada to make it this far.

For the next round, finalists have produced a short three minute video talking about their submission. The videos, along with student papers, are posted online. Voting for a winning submission is open to the public until March 31st at <http://www.ipac.ca/blueprint2020-Videos>. Everyone can vote once daily, and the student with most votes will receive the Blueprint 2020 Public Choice Award.

The papers and video are also being evaluated again separately by a panel of judges to choose the best overall. This individual will be invited to Ottawa to present their paper to Wayne Wouters, the Clerk of the Privy Council Office.

Mr. Bucci says he decided to enter the competition as he enjoys taking on new challenges and

experiencing new things. “This seemed like a unique opportunity to take advantage of, so I decided to enter and make a submission.”

His paper focuses on using Performance Management Systems as a tool to make ongoing adjustments to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government programs.

Mr. Bucci, inducted into the President’s Circle of Young Alumni at StFX last May, credits his time at StFX for shaping him and giving him the skills to be successful.

“All of the skills which have allowed me to be successful in graduate school were first developed during my time at StFX,” he says.

“During my undergraduate degree, I was challenged by my professors to put forth my best efforts and sharpen my writing, analytical reasoning, reading comprehension, and communication skills. Four professors in particular really went above and beyond to support me throughout my time at StFX: Mikael Haller, Doug Brown, Donna Trembinski, and Jim Bickerton. In their classes I received great feedback and recommendations for how I could improve upon my work, and they were always available to help me outside of the classroom. They encouraged and supported me when I first began considering options for after I graduated.”

He says it is difficult to describe all the ways that StFX has shaped him as a student and young professional. “But I think anyone who has passed through the doors at X and who wears their X-Ring proudly can appreciate just how seminal their time here has been. When I first left Ontario to come to StFX, I had no friends or family here. Within days, I made friendships which I am sure will last a lifetime. I owe these friendships to the welcoming community that StFX provided to me over my four years.”