

PRESS RELEASE DATED 22ND JULY 2008:

THE Invercargill Licensing Trust's reputation for being an innovative education backer has been further enhanced by a \$120,000 funding continuation of its much-lauded tertiary scholarship programme.

The \$120,000 investment means the ILT scheme will continue in its third year from 2009, with up to 60 tertiary scholarships available to Invercargill students and second-chance educationalists, who have left secondary school but now want to study at tertiary level.

Each scholarship is worth \$2000 annually for three years and that means 170 Invercargill students in 2009 _ and then up to 180 from 2010 _ will hold ILT tertiary scholarships worth a combined maximum value of \$360,000 annually.

ILT staff, and immediate family members, will also be able to further their study with five \$2000 tertiary scholarships available from next year.

ILT president Alan Dennis, a former school principal, said it meant much to him and his organisation to be able to help local students realise their dreams and potential by attending a tertiary institution.

“This is the ultimate investment for their future and our community's future,” Mr Dennis said. “We want to recognise and reward as many students as we can with these tertiary scholarships and consideration will be given to not only academic ability, but their all-round quality. And we know these tertiary scholarships, worth \$6000 each over three years, will be money very well spent.”

Southland Girls' High School principal Yvonne Browning said the ILT tertiary scholarships were highly sought after. Last year 14 SGHS students received a scholarship but 33 had applied from her school alone.

“And there's a tremendous kudos to receive an ILT scholarship,” she added. “So winning an ILT scholarship really does mean a lot to the students and their families.”

Mrs Browning applauded the ILT for continuing to fund the tertiary scholarship programme, which she said was making educationalists nation-wide jealous.

“They're totally envious at this tertiary scholarship programme. They can't really believe it,” she said.

“We also have students that come to us from Wellington and Auckland to do teacher training and they cannot believe the quality of the technology that we have got in the schools in Invercargill and that someone locally is providing it.

“They just talk about that all the time. So we really are leading the way in terms of the interactive whiteboard use in Southland and we've got this wonderful tertiary scholarship programme. We're incredibly lucky.”

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