

NEWS RELEASE

PEARSON COLLEGE UWC

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Pearson College UWC alumnae named Rhodes Scholar

B.C.-raised Linda Worden is 14th Rhodes Scholar from Victoria-area College

Metchosin – [Pearson College UWC](#) graduate and Penticton-raised Linda Worden was this week named one of 11 Canadians to be awarded a [Rhodes Scholarship](#) for 2019.

[Worden](#), the 14th student from Pearson to receive a Rhodes Scholarship, attended the two-year, pre-university college in Metchosin from 2013 to 2015. She is currently a Political Economy major at [Williams College](#) in Williamstown, Massachusetts.

The Rhodes Scholarship is a highly-competitive postgraduate award given to exceptional students from around the world to study at the University of Oxford in the U.K. with the aim of nurturing public-spirited leaders of the future.

“I know the worldwide Pearson community wishes Linda all the best in her continuing education at Oxford and beyond,” said President and Head of College Désirée McGraw. “Her commitment to social justice issues such as citizen participation, social exclusion, urban housing and sexual health education typifies the ‘big-thinking’ mindset and practical, problem-solving approach we nurture in young people at Pearson.”

McGraw added that it was just a year ago when another Pearson student – Nik Carverhill – was also selected as a Rhodes Scholar and that to see 14 alumni receive this honour over the school’s history is a recognition of the experiential education program at Canada’s only United World College. The scholarship-driven College is part of a [UWC worldwide network](#) of 17 schools and draws up to 200 16-to-19-year-old students from across Canada and from as many as 160 nations around the world.

“Pearson was a transformational two years of my life where I grew to value all of the unique life experiences of my classmates,” said Worden. Asked who made a particular impression on her at the College, Worden said, “I would say Samuel (Perez de Leon), the economics teacher, was a huge influence on me during my time at Pearson. He helped me believe that economics could be a tool to build a better world.”



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Worden indicated she plans to use her Rhodes Scholarship to pursue an M.Phil. in comparative social policy, examining citizen participation in policy formation, particularly in countries such as Canada, New Zealand and Australia.

Worden's early years in Penticton saw her first engagement in community activism and leadership on issues like and the construction of a local prison. More recently, her focus on housing issues saw her researching and working at the intersections of marginal identities, tenant empowerment and housing insecurity in Vancouver and other centres.

The Rhodes Scholarship was awarded to 100 outstanding young women and men from more than 60 countries this year. Other Canadian Rhodes Scholars include neuroscientist Wilder Penfield, historian Desmond Morton, Canadian flag designer George F.G. Stanley and Minister of Foreign Affairs (and UWC Adriatic alumnae) Chrystia Freeland.

About [Pearson College UWC](#)

Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific ([Pearson College UWC](#)) is Canada's most globally-minded school and one of 17 United World Colleges around the globe. With an enrolment of up to 200 students, the College draws accomplished young leaders and change makers, ages 16-19, from nearly 160 countries and every province and territory of Canada. Pearson's two-year, pre-university curriculum is based on the International Baccalaureate (IB) program with a strong emphasis on experiential education at the residential campus on Pedder Bay near the southern tip of Vancouver Island. The College opened in 1974 and was created as a living legacy for former prime minister and Nobel Peace Prize recipient Lester B. Pearson. The College, located on the unceded territory of the Scia'new (Beecher Bay) First Nation, purposely recruits a deliberately diverse student body, including young people from regions of conflict and challenging socioeconomic circumstances, to encourage young people to learn and live together and to bring about meaningful changes in their communities and across the globe.

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