

# Driver's Seat

*Vietnamese student from CCH to do electric vehicle research at UWindsor*



*Catholic Central graduate Khanh Hoa Huynh stands outside the University of Windsor's Ed Lumley Centre for Engineering Innovation where he will be conducting research on electric vehicles.*

(Windsor, Ontario, Monday, Sept. 18, 2017) – Khanh Hoa Huynh may have only spent one year at Catholic Central High School, but it was a transformative one that has led to a rewarding new opportunity in electric vehicle research that will take him down new roads he most likely hasn't even considered yet.

"I was a little nervous at first, but I found that Catholic Central was very welcoming and there was a lot of support for people like me," said Huynh, who came to CCH from Vietnam as an international student in 2015. "It's very multicultural there, so everyone felt very equal. There were lots of people from very different places, so it felt very comfortable for me."

Huynh – who just entered his second year in computer and electrical engineering at the University of Windsor – studied English three nights a week when he was still living with his parents and going to school back home in Ho Chi Minh City, so he went straight into Grade 12 without requiring any additional English as a Second Language support. He joined several clubs, including the homework club, which he said was tremendous.

“That club really helped me a lot with understanding questions and how to write essays,” he said. “I made friends and I got more confidence, so my language improved.”

Huynh also credited his CCH math teacher Maria Martinez for being especially helpful.

“She explained things very well, and she helped me understand the questions, which can be the hardest thing as an international student,” he said.

The guidance counselors at CCH were also excellent, Huynh said.

“I was going to go into business, but they helped guide me into engineering,” he said.

It turns out that was a great decision. After finishing his first year of university with a 92 average, Huynh was selected to enter the school’s Outstanding Scholars program, which will pay him about \$14 an hour to work in a research placement in the lab of Dr. Narayan Kar, a Canada Research Chair in Electrified Transportation Systems, and the director of the university’s Centre for Hybrid Automotive Research and Green Energy (CHARGE) Lab.

Although he’s not certain what his role in the lab will be yet, he is sure that this opportunity will help him well into the future.

“It will be great experience to work with these researchers, and I will be able to create networks with many new people,” said Huynh, who hopes to one day work in the field of maximizing the efficiency of various power sources.

And while he has no idea where his career may take him, Huynh hasn’t ruled out the possibility of making Canada his permanent home.

“Khanh Hoa really exemplifies everything we want our program to be about,” said Nadia Desjardins, the WECDSB’s international education coordinator. “We’re recruiting students to come to our schools, but we also really hope they will stay and attend our post-secondary institutions too. It creates wonderful opportunities for our students and makes our communities so much more diverse.”

***“I made  
friends and I  
got more  
confidence, so  
my language  
improved.”***

***- Khanh Hoa  
Huynh***