Filipino Centre-Toronto Now Accepting Candidates to its 2020 Outstanding Students Awards

By Tony A. San Juan(OCT- Ret.)

Purposefully committed of encouraging and challenging Filipino Canadian students in Ontario to excel in school performance and to achieve student success, the Filipino Centre Toronto (FCT) is now accepting candidates to its annual competition for the “2020 Rosalind C. Javier Outstanding Students Awards.”

Started in 2005, this year’s FCT RCJ Outstanding Students Awards edition is an annual program of selecting and recognizing outstanding and exemplary elementary, high school, and post-secondary graduates from the public, Catholic and other government-supported educational institutions in Ontario. The yearly competition is one of the major projects of the 20-year old community-focused hub in the GTA.

Through its RCJ Outstanding Students Awards Committee (OSA), the Centre will present awards to chosen outstanding student graduates who have completed their elementary or high school or post-secondary studies (baccalaureate, master’s or doctorate). The selection criteria for top elementary and high school graduates include 1) scholastic achievement/academic marks – 50%, 2) community involvement and extra-curricular activities – 20% and 3) interview performance – 30%.

All applicants, who have been screened, selected and approved by the RCJ Outstanding Student Awards Committee, will be recognized and honoured appropriately in a ceremony. Monetary awards, trophies, plaques and certificates will be presented to the winners and/or nominees of each category. The Awards Rites will take place on October 25, 2020 Sunday, 2:00 PM. at FCT Social Hall, Toronto.

The overall and specific requirements for the 2020 FCT RCJ Outstanding Student Award Competition are as follow:
A. **General Requirements for All Categories:** Any applicant or candidate for an FCT Award must be a 1) Natural-born Filipino or of Filipino descent (either parent is Filipino); 2) Citizen or Permanent Resident of Canada; 3) Of good moral and exemplary character, i.e. has no pending charge involving sexual or child abuse or criminal case.

B. **Specific Requirements for Elementary and High School Graduates.** To qualify: 1) The applicant should be currently registered in the elementary or secondary school in Ontario, under one of the following categories: The elementary school applicant should have completed the last year of elementary school and be going into high school (grade 9); The high school applicant should be accepted and going into university or community college or apprenticeship program. 2) The student should have a minimum academic average of 85% (or equivalent) during the last two (2) school years and must be involved in extra-curricular and community activities. 3) The applicant must submit the following documents: For the elementary school graduate – Original copies of final report cards for the last two years. For the high school graduate – A current and original transcript bearing the school’s official seal. Also, both elementary or high school graduate must include two (2) original letters of character reference (at least one from the school, excluding immediate family); two (2) passport-size photos and completed FCT Award application form.

C. **Qualification Requirements for Post - Secondary Honour Candidates:** 1) For Baccalaureate or Undergraduate Degree candidates: Must have achieved Academic Honours, with Notation printed in the candidate’s degree diploma, such as any of the following: "Summa Cum Laude" or "Magna Cum Laude" or "Cum Laude" or "With Highest Distinction" (GPA 3.8 or higher) or "With Distinction" (3.5 to 3.79); or university/college equivalent of academic honours distinctive awards. 2) For Graduate Master’s or Doctorate degree candidates: Must have achieved Graduate Average Grade of Letter Grades of A+, A, A- only; or Numerical Marks of 90-100%, 85-89%, 80-84% only; or High Pass-Clear Excellence or acceptable equivalent marking scale.3) Documents (Photocopies only) to be submitted: a) Undergraduate program: Bachelor’s Diploma with Academic Honours Notation; b) Graduate program: Transcript of Academic Record and Thesis or Dissertation Paper, and 4) Passport-size Photo; 5) Completed FCT Award Application Form. Academic awards received must not be more than 5 years old, from date of application.

The members of the FCT Rosalinda C. Javier Outstanding Students Awards Committee (RCJ-OSA) include notable Filipino Canadian professionals, educators and community
leaders. It is composed of Tony A. San Juan, as Chairman, and the members are Wendy Arena, Jodelyn Huang, Steve Pagao, Mary Ann S. San Juan, Fermer Santos and Rose Tijam.

Application forms for the FCT RCJ Outstanding Students Awards are now available from the Filipino Centre Toronto (FCT) by contacting 416-335-0485 or e-mailing masj0515@gmail.com. Deadline for submission of forms and documents is August 31, 2020, Monday. Panel interviews will begin on September 19, 2020 Saturday. Completed forms and document requirements are to be submitted by hand or mailed to: The Filipino Centre Toronto -FCT, RCJ Outstanding Students Awards Committee, c/o Tony A. San Juan, Chairman, # 4395 Sheppard Avenue East, Scarborough. Toronto, Ontario M1S 1T9. (Tony A. San Juan, OCT-Ret.)