Scholarship is a dream come true for Laura

Kelmscott teenager Laura Valli has taken a major step toward fulfilling her dream of becoming a social worker after receiving a Curtin University of Technology Access Scholarship which will cover the cost of her course.

Laura, who has cerebral palsy, is determined to become a social worker so that she can become an advocate for other people with disabilities.

She will attend a presentation ceremony at Curtin on Monday 20 February along with around 160 other students as recognition of their achievements and to celebrate their success.

Over $4 million worth of scholarships have been awarded under Curtin’s new Undergraduate Scholarship Program, which is one of the most comprehensive and generous programs of its kind in Australia.

Assistance is shared between Academic Merit Scholarships and Access Scholarships.

Now well on her way to achieving her dream, Laura can reflect on what she has been through in the past few years and be proud of the remarkable determination she has shown to overcome many obstacles.

“It has been difficult at times, but now I am only a couple of weeks away from starting at Curtin and it’s all been worth it.

“I am beginning my journey to become a social worker, and I don’t have to worry about paying university fees – it’s a dream come true!”

Director, Student Services, Mr John Rowe said applicants for the Access Scholarships were assessed by a committee against a range of criteria including financial hardship, educational disadvantage, disability and/or medical condition and rural or remote isolation.

“The aim was to provide opportunities and financial support to students who might not otherwise have had the chance to attend university,” Mr Rowe said.

The Academic Merit Scholarships were awarded to high academic achievers, and were distributed amongst the University’s various courses by a panel including the Director, Student Services and the Pro Vice-Chancellor, Academic Services.

This is the first year such a generous scholarship program has been running at Curtin and it will continue to be developed further for 2007.

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