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Airdrie native gets wired

Scott Mitchell
Echo Reporter
Wednesday April 25, 2007

Airdrie Echo — Airdrie's Brenna Pierson has a simple goal after being named host of G4TechTV's summer Wired Road Trip.

"I think just to show the world that being a nerd isn't too bad and that there's nothing wrong with being able to use a computer and play video games," Pierson said recently from Jefferson College in St. Louis, where she is currently in her second year, majoring in psychology.

The self-confessed 'nerd', who went to George McDougall High School, is excited about the opportunity.

"I'd definitely say I'm a big nerd," she said. "I put in two to six hours a day playing video games. It's definitely right up my alley."

Pierson's official title is TJ (Tech Junkie) and she will be traveling to cities and events across Canada, introducing viewers to the latest gaming, digital entertainment and gadgets.

"Basically, it's someone who is well-advanced in the technology – from gaming to computers, even knowing how to use a cell phone," she said of her job description.

"I'm a big, big gamer. I'm always around technology," she added.

Pierson secured the gig after creating a 30-second video of herself on why she deserved to be the next TJ.

"Someone had posted on a website that I go to 'go check this out,'" she said. "I went and checked it out and basically I had to send in a 30-second video of (myself) to show Tech TV why (I) should be the next TJ."

It took a lot more than 30 seconds to get the content Pierson wanted in the video.

"I worked my butt off filming for days to make this tiny 30-second video," she said.

Competing with hundreds of other entries, Pierson – a big fan of first-person shooter games and a big believer in X-Box 360 – was selected as the most engaging, tech-savvy gaming enthusiast. She was the only female in the final 10.

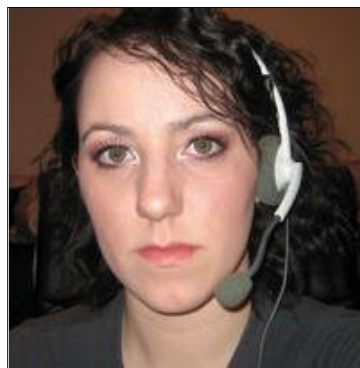
"I didn't know if that was a good or a bad thing," she said. "I'm a spunky, kind of outgoing person. I think I shone through and they realized I could do this job and do it well."

While most of the details of her summer have yet to be worked out, she knows Montreal is the first stop for the Formula One Grand Prix in June.

"I don't know the full schedule yet," she said. "They're still working out a few things. I think I'm going to be spending most of June in Ontario.

"I'm so nervous," she added, "but I'm really excited at the same time."

Segments from the trip will be available online at: www.g4techtv.ca



TECH JUNKIE: Brenna Pierson, a.k.a. TJ, dons her 360 headset in preparation for a summer of travelling across Canada as host of G4TechTV's Wired Road Trip.

Photo courtesy of Brenna Pierson



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