

NEWS RELEASE

INDUSTRY-EDUCATION COUNCIL OF HAMILTON'S ANNUAL PARTNERS IN EDUCATION BREAKFAST The Power of Mentorship

Hamilton – October 28, 2011– Partners in Education Breakfast 2011 is all about challenging Hamiltonians to be more proactive to invest in our young people's future. Centered on the power of mentorship in preparing youth for their future as working adults, the event celebrates community partnerships and individual volunteer career mentors.

"This event gives us the chance to report to the community about the Council's contribution in transitioning young people from 'learning to earning'. This year, we will particularly focus on our Career Mentorship program, which is a two-year project, funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). This project has been focused on tackling the challenge in finding and retaining high quality volunteer career-mentors. Thanks to OTF's funding, we have been able to work on maximizing opportunities for young people who are preparing to choose their career pathways. In addition, we have developed a guide-book documenting best practices and strategies in recruiting and retaining volunteer career mentors." says Mia Wilkinson, Executive Director for the IEC of Hamilton.

All young people need guidance, but all youth are not fortunate enough to find caring adults in their lives. *"The transition from adolescence to adulthood is difficult for all. Compound this difficult time with the stressors of learning difficulties, low self esteem, anxiety/depression disorders and weak family support, this transition can be impossible. An adult mentor or life coach has the ability to change a person's life and make the difference between an individual being a contributing member to society or a dependant on the system."* says Paul Beattie, Principal of Parkview Secondary School, who will be speaking at the breakfast focusing on how mentorship makes a difference in his students' lives, who mostly come from some of the poorest neighbourhoods in Hamilton.

The IEC Mentorship Awards will also be given to a business and an individual, who will be honored for their extraordinary efforts in providing mentoring opportunities for young people. These award recipients are chosen from the many organizations and individuals who were nominated by community members in Hamilton.

The breakfast will be held at Carmen's Banquet Centre on November 1, 2011 from 8:00 am to 10:00 am. The spirit of the event also matches the Take Our Kids to Work Day, which will be happening across Ontario the next day, on November 2nd, 2011. More than 500 people, including students, and leaders representing business, education, labour, government and community agencies are expected to attend the breakfast. Proceeds will support the IEC's ongoing programs and services.

The Council thanks this year's breakfast sponsors - Teachers Credit Union (Silver Sponsor), The City of Hamilton (Champion Sponsor), Evans Philp (Champion Sponsor), Grant Thornton (Champion Sponsor) and Astral (Media sponsor). IEC also appreciates the support from Mohawk College, Horizon Utilities, Career Connections, NORCAT, and Bullivant Associates Inc.

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For additional information on the Partners in Education Breakfast please contact:

Yohana Otite
Communications Coordinator
IEC of Hamilton
905.529.4483 x 226
yohana.otite@iechamilton.ca