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Ontario honours local businesses

Two local businesses will be honoured Wednesday for their roles in mentoring high school students thinking about their careers.

Hamilton Health Sciences and the Mall Road location of Fortinos will pick up awards under the provincial Passport to Prosperity program.

The honours will be presented at the Hamilton Industry Education Council's annual Partners in Education breakfast.

"Programs like this are very important, not only to students preparing for their careers, but to employers preparing their future workforce," said Yohanna Otite, IEC's communications co-ordinator. "These programs really help students make decisions about their futures."

The event marks the 30th anniversary of the IEC and will feature presentations by Cheryl Jensen, IEC board chair and vice-president, Academic, Mohawk College and the directors of education of the public and Catholic school boards. Jensen will give an overview of the council's history and successes as well as an update on its plans for the future. Patricia Amos, of the Catholic board and John Malloy of the public schools, will speak on a new Ministry of Education initiative entitled Specialist High Skills Majors – Partnering Today for the Employees of Tomorrow.

The event will be held at Michelangelo Banquet Centre on Upper Ottawa starting at 7:30 a.m.

The honours to Fortinos and Hamilton Health Sciences are known as the Passport to Prosperity Employer Awards and are administered by the Provincial Partnership Council, the Ministry of Education and the Ontario Business Education Partnership.

Proceeds from the event will support the council's programs and services.

The Passport to Prosperity program was formed more than 10 years ago as a way of supporting learning-by-experience programs for high school students. More than 26,000 employers across Ontario have taken part through efforts such as workplace tours, job shadowing, mentoring, cooperative education, school-work transitions, and the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program.

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