

2011 PREMIER'S AWARDS RECIPIENTS



Business

Geoffrey Stephens Georgian College

Program of Study: Business Administration

Graduating Year: 1984

Job Title: President

Place of Employment: Capital Paving Inc.

Geoffrey Stephens became president and controlling owner of Capital Paving Inc. at age 35 and has grown its revenue from \$18 million to \$80 million in just over 10 years. He and his partners recently made a major ownership investment in Fowler Construction. In 2010, Capital was named one of Canada's 50 Best Managed Companies and is an unprecedented three-time winner of the Ministry of Transportation's Paver of the Year Award. Stephens was one of 40 Canadian entrepreneurs chosen for the 2010 Quantum Shift at Richard Ivey School of Business. He is active in the community, serving on numerous industry association boards.

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Community Services

Brenda Combs Sault College

Program of Study: Developmental Service Worker

Graduating Year: 1982

Job Title: Executive Director

Place of Employment: Nimkii-Naabkawagan Family Crisis Shelter

Brenda Combs, granddaughter of residential school survivor Fanny Nolan, has been referred to as one of "Canada's thought-leaders" for her impactful work as a change agent in justice issues related to aboriginal women. Immediate past chair of the National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence, the largest organization in Canada aimed at the safety and well-being of native children and families, and executive director of Nimkii-Naabkawagan, Combs works tirelessly towards a violence-free society as well as contributing countless volunteer hours giving voice to the hundreds of murdered and missing aboriginal women in Canada who can no longer speak for themselves.

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Creative Arts and Designs

Jon Cassar Algonquin College

Program of Study: Radio and Television
Broadcasting

Graduating Year: 1983

Job Title: Director and Film Producer

Place of Employment: Cassar Filmworks

Jon Cassar is an internationally acclaimed film director and producer. For seven years, he served as director, producer and executive producer of the well-known television series 24. During his tenure, the series won multiple Emmys and a Golden Globe Award, while Cassar himself was awarded an Emmy for Outstanding Direction in a Drama Series in 2006. Cassar is now working in the feature film industry. His mini-series, The Kennedys, premiered this past April and he is presently working with Steven Spielberg as executive producer and regular series director on the set of Terra Nova in Australia.

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Health Sciences

Rahul Singh Humber College

Program of Study: Paramedic

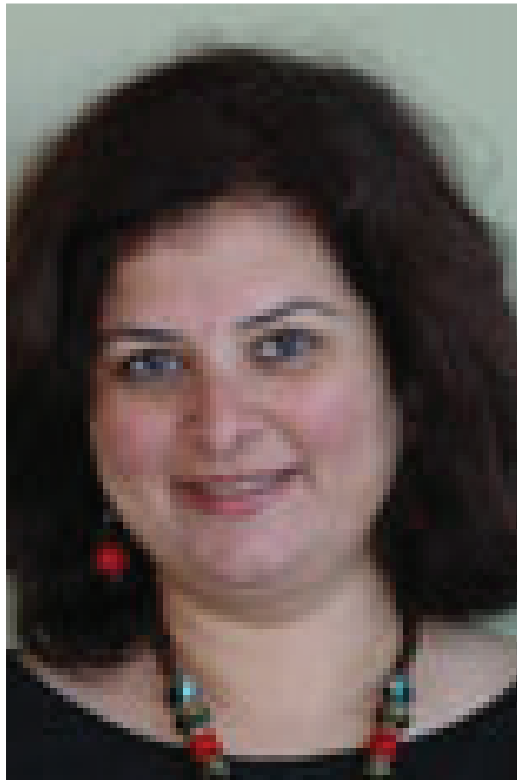
Graduating Year: 1993

Job Title: Founder and Director, Emergency Programs

Place of Employment: GlobalMedic

In 1999, paramedic Rahul Singh founded GlobalMedic, an organization providing efficient and cost effective disaster relief. He has led more than 50 missions in more than 30 countries. In 2003, the organization secured \$850,000 worth of aid. By 2009, the organization had donated more than \$10 million worth of relief items around the world. GlobalMedic's methods have been adopted by some of the largest international relief organizations. In 2009, Singh was named one of Canada's Top 40 Under 40, and in 2010 he was included on Time magazine's list of 100 most influential people in the world.

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Recent Graduate

Teenaz Javat Sheridan College

Program of Study: Canadian Journalism for Internationally Trained Writers

Graduating Year: 2008

Job Title: Senior Writer

Place of Employment: Canadian Broadcast Corporation

Teenaz Javat is an award-winning journalist whose work with the CBC's Metro Morning has shone a light on the pressing issues facing the diverse communities in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Her research and leadership has garnered recognition from news organizations and community groups, including the Radio Television News Directors Association of Canada and the GTA police forces. In 2008, she was featured in an exhibit celebrating Toronto's 1,000 creative women at the Luminato Festival. Her stories have appeared in many print and online publications in Canada, India and Pakistan.

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Technology

Jerry Howell Niagara College

Program of Study: Computer Engineering Technology

Graduating Year: 1988

Job Title: Owner/Operator

Place of Employment: Howell Family Pumpkin Farm, Chick-n-Mation

Jerry Howell's entrepreneurial spirit began at the age of nine, selling pumpkins out of a wheelbarrow from the family farm. After graduation, he pioneered Howell's Family Pumpkin Farm into an agri-tourism business from the ground up, promoting it as a Halloween destination for pumpkins and animatronic shows that draws thousands of locals and tourists. Combining farming with tourism and entertainment, Howell's company, Chick-n-mation, uses state-of-the-art electronics and software to create and sell singing, talking and moving animatronics shows to farms worldwide. He has received the International Amusement Parks Association Trade Show Award, and the Premier's Award for Agrifood Innovation Excellence.