

## 2013 PREMIER'S AWARDS RECIPIENTS

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### Business

## Tahani Aburaneh Conestoga College

**Program of Study:** Business Administration – Management Studies

**Graduating Year:** 1987

**Job Title:** CEO; Broker of Record; President and CEO; Founder

**Place of Employment:** Tahani Developments Inc.; Key Connexions Inc. Realty; Tahani International; Real Estate Riches Academy and Savvy Investor Agent Inc.

Tahani Aburaneh, a real estate entrepreneur, bestselling author and public speaker, moved to Canada from a refugee camp in Jordan at the age of 15 and is now one of the country's leading experts in real estate development and investment. She is the founder of five companies and recently launched a training and certification program for realtors across Canada.

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### Community Services

#### Ramesh Ferris Confederation College

**Program of Study:** Social Service Worker

**Graduating Year:** 2001

**Job Title:** International Advocate; Program Supervisor

**Place of Employment:** Polio Eradication and Rehabilitation; Northern Culture Expressions Society

Ramesh Ferris, a polio survivor, has become one of the most influential polio activists in the world. On a visit to India, he saw the ravages of the disease and vowed to work towards eradicating it by 2018. He organized Cycle to Walk, a polio awareness campaign, and in April 2013, he helped lobby the Canadian government to commit \$250 million to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

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### **Creative Arts and Designs**

#### **Rex Grignon Sheridan College**

**Program of Study:** Computer Animation

**Graduating Year:** 1984

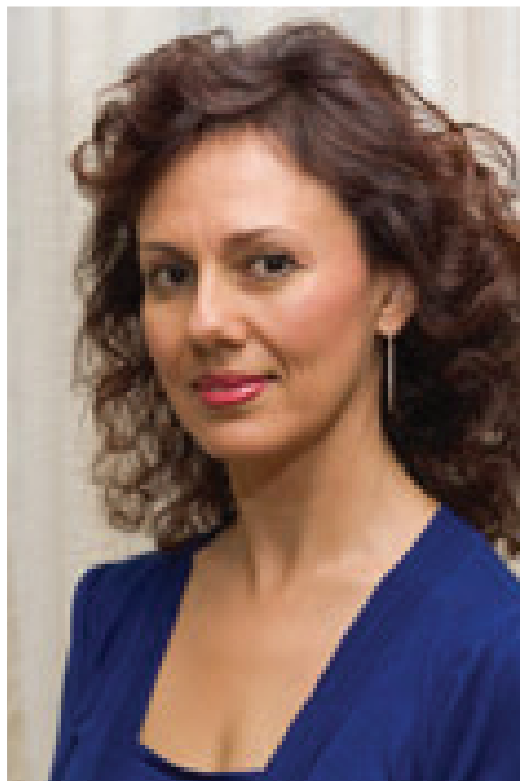
**Job Title:** Head of Character Animation

**Place of Employment:** DreamWorks

Rex Grignon has been the head of character animation at DreamWorks for more than 17 years and is a pioneer in the field of computer animation. He has led an animation team on five blockbuster films, including Shrek, which won the inaugural Academy Award for Best Animated Feature in 2002. In 2006, he was invited to join the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences.

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### Health Sciences

#### Elina Katsman Canadore College

**Program of Study:** Dental Hygiene

**Graduating Year:** 1986

**Job Title:** President and Founder; Instructor; CEO

**Place of Employment:** Smile Foundation and Sonrisas; APlus Institute; Dominican Republic Services and Investments Inc.

Elina Katsman, a dental hygienist, is the founder of the Smiles Foundation in Canada and its sister organization, Sonrisas, in the Dominican Republic. Her organizations deliver dental services to underprivileged children and include mobile clinics that have served more than 3.5 million patients. She created the first dental hygiene program at a private university in Santo Domingo.

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### Recent Graduate

#### Lee Renshaw Humber College

**Program of Study:** Industrial Design

**Graduating Year:** 2009

**Job Title:** President

**Place of Employment:** Round Circle Group Ltd.

Lee Renshaw, the president of Round Circle Group Ltd., has taken the luggage industry by storm with his creation, the Rise and Hang travel bag. He was offered two deals for his product on CBC-TV's Dragons' Den in 2012, and has also appeared on the Today show and in US Weekly. He has licensed the bag to a global firm and it is set to hit retail stores in 2014.

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### Technology

#### Jim Caruk George Brown College

**Program of Study:** Sheet Metal Worker

**Graduating Year:** 1976

**Job Title:** Principal; Founder; National Ambassador; HGTV Expert

**Place of Employment:** The Caruk Group Construction; Build-it-Yourself Learning Centres; DEWALT, Stanley & Bostitch Tools

Jim Caruk is the host of two HGTV series, Real Renos and Builder Boss, and is principal of The Caruk Group construction firm. He is also founder and editor of Renovation Contractor magazine and the creator of Build-It-Yourself Learning Centres for home improvement enthusiasts. In 2009, he launched the not-for-profit Renos for Heroes Foundation benefiting Canadian soldiers.