

November 29, 2011

For immediate release

## **Milton Employer Awarded for Excellence in Experiential Learning at HIEC's Breakfast with the Mayors**

**HALTON, ON** – On November 23, 2011, the **Halton Industry Education Council (HIEC)** celebrated the benefits of cooperative education and other experiential learning programs that connect business and education in Halton at the **Breakfast with the Mayors** event held at RattleSnake Point Golf Club in Milton. During the event, HIEC and the Provincial Partnership Council (PPC) honoured Milton employer **Spokes N Slopes** with the Passport to Prosperity Employer Champion award. The award – given out as part of the province-wide **Experiential Learning Week** -- recognized the ski and bike shop's longstanding commitment to providing experiential learning opportunities to local high school students.

"He never says 'no'," said Greg Murray, event emcee and Passport to Prosperity Coordinator at HIEC, referring to owner Matt Burger's willingness to take on any student looking for a co-op opportunity. Matt spoke on behalf of his colleagues, thanking the PPC for recognizing his efforts and encouraging more local employers to get involved.

In addition to the award, hosts Mayor Rick Bonnette of Halton Hills and Mayor Gordon Krantz of Milton brought greetings and spoke about their own unique perspectives on experiential learning, and why they believe these opportunities are essential to workforce development in Halton.

Rounding out the morning's program was keynote speaker Neil Hetherington, CEO of Habitat for Humanity Toronto. His presentation, sponsored by Teachers Credit Union, focused on how his own experiential learning opportunity with Habitat for Humanity International inspired him to pursue a career with the non-profit organization.

Experiential learning also played a critical role behind-the-scenes at the event, as HIEC welcomed students from across North Halton to participate in the program. Students from E.C. Drury High School arrived early that morning to assist the kitchen staff in making breakfast for over 200 people. Students from Bishop Reding and Notre Dame Catholic Secondary Schools played an important role, creating the centerpieces and attendee giveaways. Other students in attendance representing Specialist High Skills Major, Co-op and Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Programs were also recognized during the program.

To learn more about the many experiential learning opportunities available in Halton and how you can get involved, log on to [www.EmployerRegistry.ca](http://www.EmployerRegistry.ca) and get started today. To learn more about experiential learning programs available in our community, visit [www.schooltocareer.ca](http://www.schooltocareer.ca).

### **About HIEC**

Established November 17, 1989, as a not-for-profit organization, HIEC is a joint venture among industry, education and community partners in Halton Region. At HIEC, our goal is to enhance career education and create the best opportunities for youth. For over 22 years, HIEC has brought business and education together with the determined vision of 'Inspiring Informed Career Decisions' in Halton.

HIEC has delivered career education programs to more than 100,000 students in Halton and has four websites. To learn more please visit, [www.hiec.on.ca](http://www.hiec.on.ca), [www.schooltocareer.ca](http://www.schooltocareer.ca), [www.apprenticesearch.com](http://www.apprenticesearch.com), and [www.EmployerRegistry.ca](http://www.EmployerRegistry.ca). HIEC is provincially recognized for its wide-reaching, informative career education programs, innovative career resource centre, and our overall commitment to helping young people make successful transitions from school to career.

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @HaltonIEC. Visit HIEC's homepage at [www.hiec.on.ca](http://www.hiec.on.ca) and click on the media link!

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