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For Immediate Release

'MEN AS CAREER COACHES' INSPIRES A CULTURE OF MENTORSHIP IN HALTON

HALTON, ON – Following your dreams and the power of mentorship were key messages at the third annual **Men as Career Coaches** event, held Thursday, February 23, 2012 at the Burlington Convention Centre. An audience of over 300 men — made up of adult career coaches from diverse career backgrounds and high school students — took part in the intergenerational mentoring event, organized by the Halton Industry Education Council (HIEC). The program was driven by the belief that young men need access to adult role models who are willing to share their career pathways, encourage positive self-esteem and promote the goals and dreams of youth.

Keynote speaker Joel Hilchey capped off the program. Joel is founder of The Beanstalk Project, a youth engagement initiative to promote global citizenship, develop youth leadership, and create positive social change. He spoke about the need to explore your options and take intelligent risks in life. Those risks, he said, can lead to big rewards.

"Joel Hilchey was relevant and entertaining," said one attendee. "His presentation taught me to take intelligent risks and go after my dreams."

The informal and dynamic event offered attendees the opportunity to hear from many interesting and diverse speakers from the local community. In addition to Joel, the night's Spotlight Speaker line-up included: **Wayde Diamond**, a Critical Care Flight Paramedic; **Chris Tumath**, a Third Year Electrical Apprentice; **John Kuypers**, entrepreneur and owner of Performance Drivers; **Dan Carrocci**, owner of Determination Drilling; and **Stefan Ptaszek**, Head Coach of the McMaster Marauders Football Team, recent winners of the Vanier Cup.

"Follow your passion and you will never have to work a day in your life," said Ptaszek. "And passion is not easily defined; only you can figure out what your passion is."

Attendees also took part in table discussions about career paths, personal mentors and life lessons.

"I now know that I can accomplish anything that I set my mind to," said one student attendee after the event. "I must strive to do whatever my passion is and never stop moving."

HIEC would like to thank the many sponsors and supporters of MACC, including keynote sponsor The Hamilton Spectator and the Teachers Credit Union, who served as the event's cookie sponsor. Without the generosity and support from all of the sponsors, MACC would have never been able to inspire so many students and adults in the Halton community.

Continuing its efforts to foster a culture of mentorship in Halton, HIEC is hosting their Women as Career Coaches event on Thursday, March 29, 2012 at the Burlington Convention Centre. For sponsorship and registration information, please visit www.hiec.on.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 the Halton Region. At HIEC, our goal is to enhance career education and create the best opportunities for youth. For 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, www.schooltocareer.ca, www.apprenticesearch.com, and 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.

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