

March 8, 2012

For Immediate Release

Become a mentor at this year's Women as Career Coaches

"Just because you wander, doesn't mean you're lost"

HALTON, ON - In our fast-paced and ever-changing work environment, young women 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. To help foster this culture of mentorship, the **Halton Industry Education Council (HIEC)** is proud to present the eighth annual **Women as Career Coaches (WACC)** event on **Thursday, March 29, 2012** from 6 – 9 p.m. at the Burlington Convention Centre. Registration and dinner buffet begin at 5:15 p.m.

WACC is a free-to-attend intergenerational mentoring event that encourages adult women from diverse backgrounds to act as career coaches and discuss their goals, career paths, and accomplishments with female high school students. The event has had a strong impact on the Halton community since it was established in 2005, with hundreds of women attending each year.

"As a result of Women as Career Coaches, I am going to pursue my career passion and never give up, because I know that I have the potential to achieve my dreams," said one student attendee after last year's event.

Returning to the program this year is CP24 News Anchor and Traffic and Weather Specialist Pooja Handa who will serve as the emcee for the evening and share stories about her career pathway over the course of the program. This year's event will also showcase dynamic spotlight speakers who will speak to the audience about their unique and varied experiences. The evening will conclude with a spotlight speaker panel, allowing for audience questions and thought-provoking discussions.

To make sure this great opportunity continues to be available to Halton's youth, HIEC is putting the call out to our community to join our Community Challenge by contributing to this event as a sponsor or donor. Sponsorship levels start from just \$25. These programs rely on financial support from community members and businesses that are passionate about the power of mentorship.

HIEC is still looking for community members to come out as career coaches. Space remains available, but is filling-up fast. Go to www.hiec.on.ca/wacc to sign up online.

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.

-30-

Media Contact

Michelle Marino • Events Lead/Communications Specialist • Halton Industry Education Council • 905-634-2575 ext. 30 • mmarino@hiec.on.ca