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For immediate release

Insight on innovation brings “Shock and Awe” at HIEC’s Breakfast with the Mayors event

Halton, ON – The **Halton Industry Education Council (HIEC)**, alongside Milton Mayor Gord Krantz and Halton Hills Acting Mayor Ann Lawlor, brought innovation and entrepreneurship to the forefront at the Breakfast with the Mayors event on Tuesday, November 26. Keynote speaker Brock Dickinson wowed the crowd at RattleSnake Point Golf Club in Milton as he shared examples of how we are overwhelmed with the “shock and awe” of innovation happening in the 21st century, with forward-thinking entrepreneurs challenging the boundaries of change with things like self-driving cars and printable kidneys.

In his keynote presentation, Brock, a principal at Miller Dickenson Blais, explained how the advancement of new technologies will soon change the face of retail, manufacturing, and medicine. He went on to say that the recruitment, retention and nurturing of local talent are the keys to success in this “invisible economy.”

Brock’s comments were echoed by Ralph Benmergui, Executive Advisor to the President at Sheridan College. Ralph spoke about how Sheridan, also a program sponsor, has worked to build a philosophy of “getting creative” which transcends all aspects of the school’s fibre and culture.

Brock and Ralph were later joined on stage by Robert Duvall of RDC Networks and Marlene Coffey from the Town of Milton for a panel discussion, opening up the floor to give attendees an opportunity to engage in a question and answer period and discuss innovation and entrepreneurship in a local context. Guests were also introduced to the new Innovation Centre at Milton’s Education Village. The Centre is operated as a resource or “clubhouse” for local entrepreneurs to gather information and share ideas to assist them in economic development.

The morning’s program also saw a presentation from students from Acton High School, who shared their experience as finalists on Python’s Pit, a local program designed to give you entrepreneurs a chance to pitch their business ideas to business leaders from the community. The students shared details on how Python’s Pit allowed them the ability produce, market and sell a retail product -- which in turn developed their entrepreneurial skills for the future.

Both Milton Mayor Gord Krantz and Acting Halton Hills Mayor Ann Lawlor also took part in the program, highlighting the importance of looking after our younger generation and pursuing partnerships between business, education and government that help build a strong workforce.

HIEC would like to thank Sheridan College, The Centre for Skills and Development, the Halton Catholic District School Board and Halton District School Board for their support and continued partnership.

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 24 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.