

**CIBC and Advancing Canadian Entrepreneurship Name  
Amanda Harburn Student Entrepreneur of the Year**

**-Win celebrated at gala with Canadian business leaders -**

TORONTO, May 12, 2004 (Canada NewsWire via COMTEX) -- Amanda Harburn, a fourth year student at Mount Royal College and resident of Calgary, was named the 2004 CIBC Student Entrepreneur of the Year at a gala awards dinner held last night in Toronto. Amanda was awarded \$2,000 for the development and operation of the most innovative and entrepreneurial business by a Canadian post secondary student.

Amanda received the distinction for founding and operating Prestige Dance Academy Inc., a full-service dance studio for children and adults in Calgary. Her successful formula - that includes offering a wide range programs, including jazz, ballet, music theatre, hip hop, pre-school, Mom & Me, and private lessons - resulted a growing client-base and honours as top Canadian student entrepreneur.

Amanda was selected from among three finalists who competed in the annual CIBC Student Entrepreneur of the Year Award presented by CIBC and ACE (Advancing Canadian Entrepreneurship Inc). The award, which celebrates and showcases the accomplishments of Canadian student entrepreneurs, is open to full-time university and college student entrepreneurs running their own business. Mark Gillingham, from Memorial University in St. John's, and Derek Szeto, a Queen's University student from Oakville were awarded \$1,000 each as finalists.

"The students who have made it to the national event are operating very different businesses - a dance studio, a bargain website and an asset management technology firm - and all of them have been successful," said Rob Paterson, Senior Vice President, Small Business Banking. "We believe in supporting the future of Canada through the development of young entrepreneurs and celebrating their success. We are proud to honour Amanda as the 2004 CIBC Student Entrepreneur of the Year."

The competitors' businesses were judged by a notable panel of Canadian business leaders including Jill Bodkin, Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Golden Heron Enterprises and ACE Director; Jane Sharpe, Director, CIBC Small Business Banking; Catherine Swift, President and Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Federation of Independent Business; Vivian Woytiuk, Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Youth Business Foundation; W. Daniel Mothersill, Managing Partner, Ciris International Inc; Jeff Dennis, President and Chief Executive Officer, Flagship Capital Partners; Mark Farrell, Chief Executive Officer, KidsFutures Inc; Joe Chidley, Editor, Canadian Business Magazine, Rogers; Ian Portsmouth, Editor, Profit Magazine, Laas Turnbull, Editor, Report on Business Magazine, The Globe and Mail, and; 2003 CIBC Student Entrepreneur of the Year Award winner Oliver Davis, Owner, Green Meadows Lawn Services.

More than 100 nominations for the CIBC Student Entrepreneur of the Year Award were submitted through the ACE website from September 8, 2003 to November 14, 2003. Entries were evaluated on a 100-point scale outlining how effective the student was in communicating the organization's mission, objectives, and structure (20 points); demonstrating product/service need (20 points); developing marketing and public relations initiatives to reach customers (20 points); defining future company and personal goals and strategies (20 points); demonstrating learning to increase success

(10 points); ensuring a positive contribution to society (5 points); and presenting written ideas to the panel (5 points).

The awards were presented at the Enterprise Rent-A-Car Young Entrepreneurs Gala Awards Dinner held at the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel. The event was attended by more than 300 students and faculty representing 42 university and college campuses across the country, plus some 200 Canadian business executives including event keynote speaker Michael Lee-Chin, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, AIC Limited; Mario Pillozzi, President and CEO, Wal-Mart Canada; Kevin Dancy, CEO and Senior Partner - Canada, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP; Marc Chouinard, President and Chief Executive Officer, The Bay; Stephen K. Gunn, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Sleep Country Canada; Linda Hobol, President, TSX Venture Exchange; and others.

#### About CIBC Small Business

CIBC is a leading North American financial institution with just under 470,000 small business customers in Canada. CIBC is committed to helping small businesses succeed and has more than 1,300 business advisors across the country working with entrepreneurs to help them achieve their business and personal financial goals. A founding sponsor of ACE, CIBC is proud to support Canada's up-and-coming small business owners through the CIBC Student Entrepreneur of the Year Award. For more information, visit [www.cibc.com/smallbusiness](http://www.cibc.com/smallbusiness).

#### About Enterprise Rent-A-Car

Enterprise Rent-A-Car, a \$6.5 billion transportation leader, is the largest rental car company in North America with more than 5,000 offices and 50,000 employees in five countries. Enterprise was founded in 1957 on the principles of providing customers with exceptional service and employees with ample opportunities for growth. In 1993, Enterprise expanded its operations into Canada and today has more than 200 Canadian locations. In December 2002, Enterprise was named as one of the 50 Best Companies to Work for in Canada in the January issue of The Globe and Mail's Report on Business magazine. Enterprise's primary focus is the local rental car market, specializing in car rentals to consumers who need a replacement car as the result of an accident, mechanical repair or theft, or who require a vehicle for a special occasion.

#### About ACE

Founded in 1987, ACE is a national not-for-profit organization that provides and promotes education, training and instruction to Canadian youth on entrepreneurship and the formation and the operation of businesses. Today, ACE offers innovative, hands-on entrepreneurship training programs for students on 47 university and college campuses across Canada. For more information, contact Kelly O'Connell, 1-416-304-1566, or visit [www.acecanada.ca](http://www.acecanada.ca).

#### About Amanda Harburn

Amanda Harburn has been dancing since the age of three, taking classes in tap, jazz, ballet and musical theatre. She has danced competitively and began student teaching at the age of fourteen. By seventeen she was teaching her own classes and in the same year started a week long summer dance camp program that ran successfully for three years. In August, 2002 at the age of nineteen, Amanda opened her own dance school called the Prestige Dance Academy Inc. The Academy provides dance lessons in tap, jazz, ballet, musical theatre and hip hop to children and adults. She runs the business while she studies full-time at Mount Royal College in Calgary in Alberta where she

is working towards an Applied Small Business and Entrepreneurship degree. She hopes to complete her Masters in Business and is a community volunteer for programs such as Inn From The Cold.