

## Opportunity knocks for student entrepreneurs

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### **November 5 last chance to submit nominations for 2005 CIBC Student Entrepreneur of the Year Award**

TORONTO, ON (October 29, 2004) - Only one week remains before nominations close for the 2005 CIBC Student Entrepreneur of the Year Award, presented by Advancing Canadian Entrepreneurship Inc. (ACE).

The prestige of being named CIBC Student Entrepreneur of the Year has helped previous recipients take their businesses to the next level. The current CIBC Student Entrepreneur of the Year, Amanda Harburn, who owns and operates Prestige Dance Academy in Calgary, is no exception.

"My business has doubled in size since winning the award in May," Harburn said. "I was profiled on television and in major newspapers and the phone hasn't stop ringing since."

Ben Barry, the 2002 winner, says his Toronto modeling agency now represents twice as many models as the company did prior to receiving the CIBC Student Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

"When I won the award, we only had one small office. We are in the process of opening our third office and now represent over 200 models in Toronto and Ottawa."

"This award not only recognizes the extraordinary achievements of student entrepreneurs, but it also helps these businesses thrive," said Rob Paterson, Senior Vice President, Small Business Banking. "CIBC takes great pride in being able to play a role in the development of these outstanding young people and their businesses."

2001 winners Suzie Orol and Jennifer Kluger, who started their own unique jewelry company called Foxy Originals when they were students at the University of Western Ontario, also attribute a lot of their success to winning the award. "Winning the award was truly a turning point for us. The recognition demonstrated to our peers and teachers that our idea had lasting potential."

CIBC and Foxy Originals have also paired up to support the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. This year, Foxy introduced a limited edition CIBC "Circle of Strength" necklace which was sold at many CIBC Run for the Cure sites across Canada on October 3rd, 2004. The proceeds will be donated on behalf of CIBC and Foxy to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.