



## **Sault College News Release**

For immediate release

### **Sault College Graduates Nominated for Premier's Awards**

(Sault Ste. Marie, ON November 14, 2013) Five graduates from Sault College are among the nominees selected for the 2013 Premier's Awards for outstanding college graduates in Ontario. Winners in the various categories will be announced on Monday November 18<sup>th</sup> at a gala event in Toronto. More than 800 people are expected to attend the celebration, which is part of the college sector's annual conference, the Higher Education Summit.

"The Premier's Awards recognize the outstanding achievements of Ontario's college graduates," notes Dr. Ron Common, President, Sault College. "We are pleased to see our alumni in the company of such leaders. This is the highest honour we can bestow upon our graduates and we are very proud of this year's nominees. They have all been an exemplary testament to our institution and have all achieved great things."

The nominees from Sault College for this year are:

**Jean Paul Gladu: Forestry Technician graduate**

President and CEO – Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business and Director of Papasay Management Corporation

With over 20 years of success in the natural resources sector, Jean Paul strives to create opportunities in the natural resource industry that are obtainable, available and sustainable for First Nations communities. His work with the Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek First Nations highlights the successes possible with innovation and partnership. His efforts bring much needed economic possibilities to the area of northern Ontario, while preserving and protecting the natural environment he cherishes within his First Nations region. JP has recognized the importance of empowering Aboriginal people for the health and prosperity of all Canadians.

**Captain Brent Handy: Sault College Aviation Technology (Flight) graduate**

Captain, Royal Canadian Air Force and Lead Soloist, #9 Jet, Snowbirds demonstration team

Captain Brent Handy portrays the essence of a proud Canadian Ambassador as an elite military jet pilot with one of the world's most prestigious aerial fleets, the Snowbirds. Flying the coveted Lead Solo position, Captain Handy manoeuvres his #9 CT-114 Tutor jet in formations just 48 inches apart, thrilling airshow audiences across North America in over 70 high-risk shows each season. Captain Handy's military duty has assisted in protecting Canada's sovereignty through air surveillance during the 2010 Olympics, defence missions across the Arctic, all while being operationally ready to assist all levels of government in times of emergency.

**Callie Heppner: Digital Photography and Imaging graduate**

Lead Photographer and Sole Proprietor, Callie Heppner Photography

Callie Heppner is one of Canada's most impressive emerging photographers who is well known for producing not just pretty images but ones that are intellectually and emotionally inspiring. Callie has been noticed for her amazing vision and skill, inspired by Northern Ontario and was recently recognized by Photolife Magazine as one of Canada's top 15 Emerging Photographers. Heppner's works greatly range from artistic and conceptual, to professional and practical: the full package in Digital Photography and Imaging. Callie continues to inspire many by showing the world what she sees behind her lens.

**Darren McDougall: Finance and Sales Management graduate**

President, McDougall Energy Inc. and Iberic Oil

Darren McDougall became President of McDougall Energy Inc. at the young age of 31. Through the use of his entrepreneurial skills, Darren helped grow a small family business into one of Canada's Best Managed Companies. McDougall Energy Inc.'s strong corporate planning, acquisition strategy and vision for the future have led them to become one of the largest integrated distributors of Esso and Mobil products in Canada. Under Darren's leadership, McDougall Energy Inc. has been involved with 43 acquisitions, including five since 2011 all while never losing focus on serving their customers.

**Johanne Messier-Mann: Nursing graduate**

Chief Nursing Officer/Director of Maternal Child Program, Sault Area Hospital

Johanne Messier-Mann's notable accomplishments epitomize excellence in nursing leadership and the healthcare field. Her passion and deep respect of the nursing profession, as well as her deeply-held belief in quality patient care and ongoing quality improvement, have guided her to the highest ranks of nursing leadership. As the Chief Nursing Officer for the newly-built Sault Area Hospital, a state-of-the-art large community hospital, Johanne provides motivation and inspiration to the organization's 800+ nursing staff. In 2006, she played a critical leadership role

in managing and controlling a major C. Difficile outbreak that ultimately led the hospital to be recognized as a leader in infection control management in Ontario.

Each of these graduates was selected by Sault College as individuals who demonstrate outstanding career success related to their college experience, and who made significant contributions to their community.

The Premier's Awards ceremony will be hosted by James Cunningham, comedian and host of the TV show *Eat St.* A distinguished panel was assembled to judge this year's awards: Michelle E. DiEmanuele, President and CEO of Trillium Health Partners; Mary Ito, Host, *Fresh Air* CBC Radio One; Edward Keohane, Senior Vice President, Ontario Region, Scotiabank; Deborah Newman, Deputy Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities; Gisèle Quenneville, Host, *360, TFO*; Bruce Rivers, Executive Director, Covenant House and Marc Seaman, National Director, Public Affairs, Microsoft Canada.

"Every one of our nominees has achieved success in their respective fields and we are pleased that their College education with us has helped form the foundation of their professional lives," Dr. Ron Common said. "These awards honour their achievements and remind us of the value of higher education in Ontario."

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### **About Sault College**

The vision of Sault College is to provide a transformative life experience through empowering those who study with us to think and learn in progressive, innovative ways, including those we have not yet imagined. Sault College grants Ontario College certificates, diplomas, advanced diplomas, graduate certificates, and degrees to its graduates. The College is the largest deliverer of apprenticeship training in all of Northern Ontario. Sault College has ranked 83.8% in Student Satisfaction, the highest score for a Northern College and second highest score overall in the province. Educating over 4,500 students each year, Sault College has a significant economic impact on the community, with spin-offs in excess of \$150 million. Over \$2 million dollars in scholarships, bursaries and awards are distributed annually to students at the College. Located on the border to the United States and situated in the middle of three of the largest great lakes on the planet, Sault College is one of 24 publicly-funded colleges in the province of Ontario. Visit our website at [www.saultcollege.ca](http://www.saultcollege.ca) to learn more.

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