

2001 Ontario Premier's Awards for College Graduates Recipients



Chuck "Spider" Jones
Applied Arts: Community Services
Seneca College

Multi-award winning Spider Jones is one of Toronto's best-loved radio personalities. Spider dropped out of school in Grade 5 and joined a gang. At 35, he returned to school - Seneca - where he won three scholarships and a Board of Governor's Award. Spider went on to host primetime radio shows at FAN 590 and TALK 640, including Toronto's number one rated show, "Prince of the City." He now spends much of his time presenting his Student Alliance seminar, "Out of the Darkness," to children at risk across North America. A fixture in the sports world and an inductee into the Canadian Boxing Hall of Fame, Spider is also a dedicated supporter of charities

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Diana Capponi
Applied Arts: Creative Arts & Design
Centennial College

Diana Capponi is the Executive Director of the Ontario Council of Alternative Businesses (OCAB), which is dedicated to creating employment opportunities for psychiatric survivors. Told she could never work or go back to school because of her psychiatric condition, Diana earned a college diploma and went on to become the driving force behind OCAB. The organization has assisted ten survivor-run businesses and helped more than one thousand psychiatric survivors reclaim their lives. Diana has been honored with numerous awards, including the Courage to Come Back Award 2001, the Community Action Award 2000 and the City of Toronto Access Award 2000.

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Anthony Longo
Business
Humber College

Anthony Longo, President and Chief Executive Officer of Longo's, has established quality, freshness and service as hallmarks of his grocery store chain, now comprising 12 stores. In 1999, through a partnership with GroceryGateway.com, Longo's became the first grocer in Ontario to allow customers to shop online. Anthony also established the unique "Longo College," a 15-month training program at Humber College. He is chairman of the Executive Committee, Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers. Anthony supports charities designed to help children become healthy, productive, independent adults. In 2000, Longo's was named one of Canada's 50 Best Managed Private Companies.

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Dr. Anthony Brissett
Health Sciences
George Brown College

A surgeon and researcher, Anthony Brissett is Clinician Investigator and Instructor at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. A specialist in otorhinolaryngology (dealing with the ear, nose and throat), performing head and neck surgery, Anthony also instructs medical students, interns and residents. Research work is his passion. His focus is on wound healing, with an emphasis on keloids scars, which are more common in people of African descent. Active in giving back to the community, he established a scholarship at his high school in Kitchener, serves as a mentor for Rochester youth and volunteers as a fight doctor at inner city youth boxing matches.

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Tina Maddigan
Recent Graduate
Sheridan College

Since graduating from Sheridan, Tina Maddigan has sung and danced professionally, starred in a lead role in a major musical, toured Canada and the U.S. and fulfilled her lifelong dream of acting in an original cast production on Broadway - all by the age of 26. She was nominated for the 2001 National Broadway Touring Award for "Best Actress in a Musical" for her work as "Sophie" in *Mamma Mia!* Now she's playing the role she originated at the Winter Garden Theatre in New York. Tina believes in giving back to her community. She frequently returns to her hometown of St. John's, Newfoundland, where she mentors young performers.

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Ken Anderson
Technology
Algonquin College

In Fall 2001, organizational changes provided Ken Anderson with an opportunity to take an early retirement. As Chief Information Officer at Canadian Blood Services, Ken updated and revamped information systems, made them Y2K-compliant, and saved lives by improving methods for tracking both blood supply and donors. He dramatically reduced the staff turnover rate there and at Mitel Corporation, where he worked from 1981 to 1998. An award-winning professional (including CIO of the Year in 1995), Ken guest lectures at Carleton and the University of Victoria and chairs the Algonquin College Board. Active in his community, he has coached numerous children's sports teams.

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Dr. Bette Stephenson Honorary Award

Dr. Stephenson was elected to the Ontario Legislature as MPP for York Mills in 1975, and was subsequently re-elected three times. Dr. Stephenson served as Minister of Labour from 1975 to 1978; Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities from 1978 to 1985; and Chair of Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Economics, Treasurer and Deputy Premier in 1985.

Born in Aurora, Dr. Stephenson obtained her medical degree from the University of Toronto. She was a member of the medical staff at Women's College Hospital and served as Director of the Outpatient Department and Chief of the Department of General Practice; she was also a member of the medical staff at North York General Hospital. Dr. Stephenson is past president of both the Ontario Medical Association and the Canadian medical Association, and serves on the board of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research.

Dr. Stephenson was appointed as a Board Member on the province's new Education quality and Accountability Office, which monitors and reports to the public on the performance of the education system. In May 1997 she was appointed Chairman of the Learning Opportunities Task Force.

She is the recipient of many awards and honours including the Order of Canada, the Order of Ontario and the Persons Case.