

# **Hellenic Mentorship Night an Inspiration for All**

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Even with loans secured from the international community, there is no question that our beloved Greece is facing a hard road ahead. On Thursday May 6th, however, there was an undeniable cause for optimism and pride, as Toronto's Hellenic community joined together to support the 5th Annual Hellenic Mentorship Night. Young Hellenes from across the globe will be Greece's salvation, in the end, and the ambition and enthusiasm showed by the more than 40 student attendees makes the future of all Greeks look bright indeed.

Held at the Polymenakion Centre on Thorncliffe Park Drive, the HCBT led event was a true community affair, with support from groups such as, The Greek Community of Toronto, SAE, the HCLA, the Hippocrates Doctor's Association, the Asclepius Dentist's Association, the Academic's Association, student leadership from all major universities, and the consulates of both Greece and Cyprus. Indeed, the Mentorship Night was considered so vital by Greece that, even in this time of financial uncertainty, its government provided a very generous donation to give support to its greatest asset – the successful Hellenic-Canadian doctors, educators, business people, and professionals of the future.

Feedback was excellent from the student attendees, who were mentored by professionals from all disciplines, including law, medicine, engineering, and, a particular source of excellence for Hellenes, thriving entrepreneurs like software firm owner Tony Lourakis, who received one of the HCBT's annual awards for business achievement in February. Politically-minded students had the honour of being mentored by Consul General of Greece Mr. Dimitris Azemopoulos, Consul General of Cyprus Mr. Stavros Augoustidis, and the Greek Trade Commissioner Mr. Christos Gribas.

“The students were thrilled with the knowledge and advice they received from their mentors,” said HCBT President Aggy Apostolopoulos, who gave a special thank-you to fellow organizer Michael Gekas of the New Generation Department of the Greek Community. “It was wonderful to see that with the involvement and generosity of the Greek government, our mentors, and so

many of our local Hellenic organizations, we were able to help these students make valuable connections and receive advice that will enrich them throughout their careers.“

Mr. Apostolopoulos said that the HCBT is also excited to announce that the Mentorship Night will soon expand to an online mentorship portal, accessible at any time and across the country. [www.hellenicmentors.com](http://www.hellenicmentors.com) is an online mentorship network that will be offered free of charge and will provide an invaluable support mechanism to the next generation. Interested students and potential mentors can now pre-register for future events. The next event will likely be held in the Fall, he said. “It’s just a great way for the many prominent Greeks in our community to give back, and help aid the continued success of the next generation. With such resounding community support, we at the HCBT are looking forward to ensuring that the Mentorship program grows and evolves into a true Hellenic institution in Canada.