

[Ciris Group's Chairman & CEO Supports Young Entrepreneurs](#)

W. Daniel Mothersill, Chairman & CEO of the Ciris Group of Companies, participated in the judging for the 2004 CIBC Student Entrepreneur of the Award for Advancing Canadian Entrepreneurs (ACE), held in Toronto.

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, Chairman & CEO, Ciris Group of Companies; 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.

Dan Mothersill and the Ciris Group of Companies are proud supporters of ACE and the outstanding achievements of their students leaders.

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