

# 'Quebec High School Students for Science' Entrepreneurial Project wins contest and goes to the Provincial Competition !

By Diane Hostetler

A team of business-minded senior students from QHS recently saw their hard work rewarded at a gala held at the Impérial de Québec on May 3rd, 2006. The team had put together a project entitled '2006 Quebec High School Students for Science'. In order to be eligible to the Entrepreneurship Contest, as well as the "Mesure de sensibilisation à l'entrepreneuriat" from the Ministry of Education, the project had to be student-driven and carried out by them. I therefore remained an advisor, and called myself an employee for the duration of the project. They had no other choice but to develop and use their leadership and time-management skills, perseverance, creativity and problem solving, autonomy, sense of responsibility, and cooperation. They produced a written document as part of an application package to the "Concours Québécois en Entrepreneuriat".

To our great delight, the Quebec High School Science Fair student executive committee composed of Laura Arul, Zepehr Naserkhaki, Robert Puckrin, Jeremy Wong and myself witnessed the 2006 Quebec High Entrepreneurial Project's selection by the jury as one of the top three projects from a total of 12 projects for the Quebec City area. Our project was classified in the collective category - Entrepreneurial projects developing entrepreneurial attitudes and skills in students. QHS students were competing against all students in the 03 National Capital Region with such school boards as Des Découvreurs, de la Capitale, Les Premières Seigneuries as well as the Malbaie area. Five hundred sixty-nine Student Entrepreneurship projects took place and entered the Concours Québécois en Entrepreneuriat contest within the 03 Capital National region. Twelve projects were retained in our category. What an honor!

Our project consisted in organizing a student-led Science Fair Career Day which would inspire younger students with the desire and interest in science, all the while developing Entrepreneurial skills and attitudes within our senior students. The project was three-fold. A group of 14 students within the senior Chemistry class interested in developing their entrepreneurial skills took leadership and responsibility in organizing the annual Science Fair. The students from this class developed science projects and presented their research and findings to the whole student body. They found sponsors to carry out their projects: Laval University and Document Express. They also

organized a mini career day whereby they invited scientists to speak about their careers to interested students. Our distinguished speakers were Marine Biologist Mr. John Himmelman, Physicist, Mr. Roger Lessard, Mr. Guy Morisset a civil engineer and Pediatrician Dr. Jean Dorval. Finally the students organized a class trip to the Regional Expo Science Bell held at Laval University in March.

These QHS students have now been rewarded in their endeavors as the project earned first place and a 500\$ bursary at the Capital National Level. Now the project will be considered for the Provincial Level Entrepreneurial Contest! We were also happily surprised to witness the success of Elaine Trudel, former QHS graduate, winner in the category-business Project: cinema who was a winner in her category as well. Charles Sias, a QHS Science teacher and collaborator on the project, believe in student potential and their capacity to create and be entrepreneurs of tomorrow. We are truly very proud of their accomplishments and feel honored to be able to collaborate with these students.

Participants include: Laura Arul, Robert Puckerin, Sepehr Naserkhaki, Jeremy Wong, Kit-Ying Cheung, Irene Chu, Simon Garceau, Jeffrey O'Connor, Charles-Antoine Richard, Tania Verreault-Gravel, Pamela Bachelder-St. Pierre, Erika Blackburn, William Boucher, Eric Beaudreau, Jean-Denis Lemieux.

