



*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

What: Presentation of Southern Alberta Nominees for the prestigious Manning Innovation Awards 2017.

When: Monday, 10 April 2017 - 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM MDT

Where: Grey Eagle Resort & Casino – 3777 Grey Eagle Drive, Calgary
(To attend, purchase tickets at: <http://www.calgarywestrotaryclub.org/>)

Why: The Southern Alberta Chapter of the Manning Innovation Awards and the Calgary West Rotary Club will co-present the Southern Alberta nominees for the 2017 Manning Awards which recognize outstanding Canadian innovators.

These nominees are eligible for one of the Foundation's four awards, which will be announced on November 29th at the 36th Manning Innovation Awards Dinner, presented by Scotiabank.

The awards include two \$10,000 Manning Innovation Awards, the \$25,000 David E. Mitchell Award of Distinction and the \$100,000 Principal Award.

Who: Six 2017 southern Alberta nominees will speak at the luncheon and will be available for media interviews:

- **Tanya Beran's** curiosity about how to help children cope with pain associated with medical procedures, led to her innovation - MEDi™. She developed software applications for a child-friendly humanoid robot, which is the first of its kind used at bedside for pediatric pain management. Results have proven a reduction of children's pain by 50% and improved vaccination experiences for children, parents and medical personnel. Although originally intended solely for children's pain management, MEDi™'s applications are expanding.
- Nominee **Michael Bussoli's** work has resulted in making The Apparel Innovation Centre one of the most advanced apparel research and development facilities in North America. This unique public/private partnership between Olds College and Alberta Garment, helps Canadian designers and entrepreneurs create innovative products, providing world-class R&D services, such as thermal comfort research, to the largest apparel brands in the world and to the Canadian military.
- **Kevin Davies** created Canada's first inner-city compost facility and pioneered a closed loop around it. Since launching Hop Compost in February 2015, Davis has saved over 3 million pounds of food waste from landfill, and crafted the most nutrient-rich compost in Canada to boost organic crop yields. HotRot's cleantech operates without odours cutting

up to 83% of primary hauling costs, producing a product where one bag has the nutrients of approximately 8 bags of standard compost.

- **Yonathan Dattner** will share the vision that created Luxmux - an advanced light source used for manufacturing, research labs, telecommunications testing systems, and Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT, a non-invasive imaging test that uses light waves to take cross-section pictures of the retina). The innovation called the BeST-SLED (Broad Spectrum Tunable Superluminescent Diode), offers higher power and 5 to 20 times the bandwidth than similar products on the market.
- **Russell Gray and Bryan Pfahl** are the innovators behind Veterinary Simulator Industries which creates animal simulators that allow veterinary students to become proficient in their diagnostic and practical skills without the need to endanger or cause unnecessary discomfort to live animals.
- **Clark Johansson, Jennifer Lussier and Steve Skiba** created ways for owners to maximize equipment utilization, earning revenue on their idle equipment while providing renters with equipment they were seeking for less. AnyQuip is Canada's peer-to-peer equipment rental network and companies now connect on AnyQuip to get underutilized heavy equipment to work in every industry.

Background: The Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation is helping create a culture of Canadian innovation by discovering, encouraging and rewarding Canadian innovators, and telling their stories. The Foundation was established in 1980 by Alberta Energy Company CEO David Mitchell. Working with former Alberta premier Ernest C. Manning and others, he built the foundation to recognize and celebrate Canadian innovators of all ages and across all disciplines. Since then, the Foundation has built a national network of 3,000 young and adult innovators who are leaders in technology, business, engineering, and social innovation advancement. It has awarded innovation prizes to 281 Canadians who have demonstrated innovative talent in developing and successfully marketing a new concept, process or procedure.

The Southern Alberta Chapter is one of 11 Chapters across the country, which are a dedicated group of volunteers who are passionate about innovation.

For more information, visit: www.manningawards.ca.

For more information and to book interviews, please contact:

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