

## For Immediate Release

### “OUTSTANDING CO-OP STUDENTS EARN NATIONAL RECOGNITION”

Toronto, ON, March 18, 2013 – The Canadian Association for Co-operative Education ([CAFCE](http://www.cafce.ca)) announces the 2012 Co-op Students of the Year: **Mahfuz Mohammed Chowdhury** from Sheridan College and **Hangriu (Henry) Shi** from the University of Waterloo.

Rising to the top, from a field of 32 nominees, Mahfuz and Henry embodied all the attributes of an outstanding co-op student – a significant impact in their co-op placement, high academic performance, commitment to enhancing the profile of co-operative education at their post-secondary institution, and making a difference in their communities.

Mahfuz Chowdhury is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year Business Administration – Marketing Co-op graduate (December 2012) at Sheridan College. He completed two work terms with Candybox Marketing, most recently from May to August 2012. As a master of social marketing, he became an invaluable member of their organization and was offered a full-time position at graduation. Born in Saudi Arabia, he immigrated to Mississauga with his parents who sought educational excellence for their son. He embraced college life through his involvement in academics, student organizations such as Enactus, and as a Student Admission representative. Not afraid of challenge, Mahfuz is a stellar student who believes in positive self-growth and promotes his message through his own organization “Project Reinvention” which has extended throughout Canada and internationally. Mahfuz’s motto is that “it only takes one season to change your life from tragic to magic. So continue reinventing yourself everyday”.

In his nomination letter, Darrell Keezer, President of [Candybox Marketing Inc.](http://www.candyboxmarketing.com), wrote that Mahfuz “doubled attendance in our Social Media workshops; brought in a few major customers through his networking, amounting to a major increase in our sales for the year; acquired more than 1000 followers on both Twitter and Facebook for our company; and improved online awareness and ranking on Google for many of our small business clients ... (he) made such a mark on our company that we offered him a full-time position”.



Henry Shi is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year Computer Science student at the University of Waterloo. Henry completed a work term with Bloomberg Sports in New York City from January to April 2012. Henry performed above and beyond the expectations of a co-op student, receiving high praise for this work from his employer. Henry is passionate about start-up companies, and has had involvement with conferences and personal undertakings that help bring awareness to the importance of start-up companies and their role in co-operative education. Henry has consistently maintained his status as an honours student at Waterloo, often performing at the top of his class.

Jordan Sheldon, Head of Data and Analytics Development, at [Bloomberg Sports](#) wrote that “Henry, from his first day of work, showed he was excited to learn and eager to contribute... (he) built full production quality highly visible products that are used daily by our Major League Baseball clients. Henry’s ability to manage his time, dedicate himself to his work, and efficiently write code earned him a great reputation and made him stand out above any of the interns we’ve had previously ... he has the skills of an outstanding software engineer.”

In addition to receiving a \$500 cash award from CAFCE, with a certificate to commemorate their achievements, Mahfuz Chowdhury and Henry Shi will each receive the \$500 Emery-Dufault Award. The Emery-Dufault Award was established by CAFCE in 2003 in recognition of the contributions of two of the founding fathers of co-operative education in Canada, Dr. Charles Leslie (Les) Emery and Professor George Joseph Dufault. Les Emery first introduced the idea of co-operative education to Waterloo College Association Faculties, the forerunner of the University of Waterloo. His proposal and subsequent work led to the establishment of the first co-operative education program in Canada. George Dufault set up and headed the department of Co-ordination during its first year (from 1957 to 1958) at Waterloo College Associate Faculties. This was the forerunner of the current Co-operative Education and Career Action department at the University of Waterloo.

Each year CAFCE recognizes outstanding co-op student achievement at the college and university level. Co-op offices across Canada will be celebrating this and other co-op initiatives during National Co-operative Education Week, March 18-22, 2013. Currently there are 80 CAFCE member institutions across Canada and the U.S. representing over 80,000 students.

Honourable mentions were awarded to **Rebekah Parker** from the University of British Columbia (Bachelor of Arts, Interdisciplinary Studies), **Lisa Steele** from Conestoga College (Business Administration – Marketing Advanced Diploma), and **Katlyn Taylor** from the University of Manitoba (Bachelor of Science, Biological Sciences).

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Denise Olah

Chair, CAFCE Co-op Students of the Year (2012) Selection Committee

416.491.5050 | [Denise.Olah@senecacollege.ca](mailto:Denise.Olah@senecacollege.ca)