



TOP FIVE YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS FROM iGEN 2020

June 12, 2020

KELOWNA, BC – After the ten finalists presented their projects at the Kelowna Innovation Centre last night, judges selected the top projects of iGen 2020. The top five student entrepreneurs are:

- **Alltrek** – Zane Halperin, Sam Bekkering, Keiren Rice – App to share love of outdoors with other community members
- **Drone Movies** – Sebastian McDonald, Valentin Rainer – Drone footage promotional videos for businesses
- **GPSpeed** – James Ropotar, Eric Cho – Regulates top speed of a vehicle in relation to speed limit
- **JDH Naturals** – Jaxon Hicks – Natural Auto Care Products
- **Nature's Nibbles** – Katrina Laurila, Ashlyn Gardiner – Plant Based Dog Treats

The iGen challenge is for Grade 7-12 learners who want to engage with entrepreneurship. Local business mentors guide students through a startup process to create enterprises, find funding, build a network, and make an impact in the innovation ecosystem in the Okanagan. The program has been remarkably effective in launching student enterprises; past participants have gone onto success on CBC's Dragon's Den and started successful local businesses in niche markets.

"We are grateful for the local business leaders and entrepreneurs who mentor over 200 Central Okanagan students on the skills required to launch a new business, while trying to achieve some of the United Nations' sustainability goals," said Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO. "This program gives students practical experience solving real world problems and providing services the community finds valuable. I am always impressed by the participants' critical and creative thinking."

Central Okanagan Public Schools congratulates all the competitors on their innovation, hard work, and learning experience. The District also wishes to thank the many local entrepreneurs who dedicated their time to help develop the student projects and foster their future success.

For comments, please contact:

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