

# Rahim Essabhai

## *Biography – Spring 2020*



Rahim currently teaches Senior Business and Cooperative Education courses at John Polanyi Collegiate Institute, and most definitely enjoys providing his students with real life experiences, both within and exterior to the classroom, community, and country. Rahim has been an educator within the TDSB and various other countries for 15 years and is a 2017 recipient of the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence.

Exterior to his local classroom, Rahim has created partnerships with various community based organizations in which he has had the blessed opportunity to lead efforts in implementing an after school cooking program for students and in building an urban farm which harvests are then donated to the local community. One of his most meaningful achievements has been raising over \$120, 000 with a team of dedicated teachers, students, and donors to address local and global issues in order to strengthen communities through Social Entrepreneurship. In spring 2013, the team volunteered to build a school in

Nicaragua and in 2019, within the Amazon region of Ecuador. In 2014 and 2015, this team won National Social Entrepreneurship Competitions held at Ryerson University and represented Canada at the International competitions in Russia and South Korea.

Currently, he continues to further links to the Integrative Thinking Initiative based out of University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management where his work as an I-Think Mentor has allowed teachers to deepen their teaching practice and his students to solve real challenges and consult to organizations such as: Metrolinx, Toronto Region Conservation Authority, Baycrest Health Sciences, The North York Harvest Food Bank, Rotary and many others. While working with the PACT Urban Peace Program for almost a decade, he has assisted in bringing experiential specialized programs such as Urban Farming and the Culinary Arts to students from Toronto's priority neighbourhoods and is currently working with the organization's Co-Founder to develop an equitable and social plan to rebuild positive holistic community infrastructure.

Rahim holds a Masters Of Education specializing in Applied Psychology and Human Development from OISE (University of Toronto), has completed a Bachelors of Education (B. Ed) from OISE (University of Toronto) and a Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A) at Wilfrid Laurier University. Rahim has been blessed with the opportunity to visit more than 25 different countries. Whether it has been volunteering in the refugee camps of Kenya, teaching within a College in Oman, or climbing Mount Fuji in Japan, his goal is to be able to experience the endless beauty this world has to offer.

Rahim enjoys meeting new people, personalities, and possibilities; and of course tasting the endless variety of culinary arts that this planet has to offer. Family and philanthropy are embodied in all aspects of his life and aspires to improve this world one conversation at a time.