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MEDIA RELEASE

SFU students shine in 'CEO for a Day' competition

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Photo: <http://at.sfu.ca/eIqIfu>

Simon Fraser University undergraduate student Ryan Smith will spend Thursday, Feb. 19 walking in a CEO's shoes. He surpassed competitors from five local universities to secure a spot at the helm of **Goldcorp** alongside CEO and President Chuck Jeannes in B.C.'s inaugural **CEO for a Day** competition.

SFU students excelled in the **Odgers Berndston**-run competition, with **seven students** advancing to the B.C.-wide top 12. The finalists' fields of study ranged from business to international studies to environmental sciences. More info on each finalist can be found at <http://sfu.ca/wil/ceo>

Smith, a co-operative education (co-op) student in the **Beedie School of Business**, boasts an impressive work history. Through co-op, he worked in finance for **Morgan Stanley**, **Fidelity Investments** and **GE Capital**.

Smith credits these experiences for helping him to reach the top of the competition: "My co-op work as an analyst in the commodities field was an important part of what made me a good fit with CEO Chuck Jeannes."

"We were excited to see so many co-op students in the top 12 of the competition," explains Adam Brayford, communications coordinator with SFU's Work Integrated Learning team. "The diverse work experience that co-op students gain, not to mention the interview practice, seems to provide them an edge in situations like this."

Executive search firm Odgers Berndston evaluated hundreds of student competitors' leadership potential in a rigorous four-part assessment process. Upon passing an online screening, candidates completed multiple interviews before advancing to a day-long 12-person group finale.

Smith will spend this Thursday shadowing Jeannes. Additional information on the competition and CEOs can be found at ceox1day.ca. To follow winners' experiences check out Twitter [@ceox1day](#) and [#ceox1day](#).

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