



COTILLION BALL CELEBRATES

# 10 YEARS

DELTA TORONTO EAST HOTEL  
2035 KENNEDY RD, SCARBOROUGH, ON

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2019



# *The EDGE Program*

*Presents the EDGE Ball*

— 2019 —

## MESSAGE FROM THE 2019 **EDGE** PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE

The 2019 EDGE Program Planning Committee is pleased to welcome you to this prestigious event. Thank you so much for coming. A lot of devotion has been poured into making this night a success and we sincerely trust that you will enjoy every minute of this exciting evening.

The youth in our society need the tools to succeed in this world and we are here to help them to achieve this goal. Our mission is to provide a forum for them to excel in their undertakings; to gain self-confidence, and to become amazing and independent individuals in the ever-changing world's landscape. So, it is with this in mind that a program was devised to complement the general academic curriculum to which our youth are accustomed. The programs offered - to name a few - Dining Etiquette and Social Graces, Financial Planning, Public Speaking, Tools of Engagement, Ballroom Dancing, Navigating your Career Path – have all contributed to the preparation of the participants' entry into a world of challenges with confidence and self-esteem. Supported by you, our program will continue to develop, grow and empower our youth to strive for success in their chosen fields. And for this we thank you.

To our Debutantes, Beaux and Juniors: to give you a competitive EDGE as you venture out into the world of opportunities, we ask that you apply the learning experiences gained from The 2019 EDGE Program to your lives to help strengthen your resolve to be the best you can be in your future undertakings.

PAY IT FORWARD BY SHARING YOUR KNOWLEDGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY.

*2019 EDGE Program Planning Committee*



## Toronto Police Service

40 College Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. M5G 2J3  
(416) 808-2222 FAX (416) 808-8202  
Website: [www.TorontoPolice.on.ca](http://www.TorontoPolice.on.ca)



Mark Saunders  
Chief of Police

File Number: .....

### Message from the Chief of Police



On behalf of the Toronto Police Service, I would like to extend greetings to everyone attending the 2019 EDGE Program Cotillion Ball.

The EDGE Program is uniquely designed to empower and develop our youth through a variety of workshops. Designed to encourage personal growth and positive changes, these workshops develop life skills that allow our youth to excel and become future leaders of the community.

I would like to congratulate all participants attending this year's Cotillion Ball on successfully completing the EDGE Program. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the Organizing Committee for their continued support of this annual event. All of you should be commended for your dedication and commitment to the youth of our community.

I extend my sincere congratulations to all participants and wish you an enjoyable evening!

Best wishes,

*Mark Saunders*

Mark Saunders, O.O.M.  
Chief of Police





## Mitzie Hunter, MPP

Scarborough-Guildwood



August 2, 2019

**Re: The EDGE Program**

Dear Friends,

The EDGE Program offers an important service of mentorship and growth to the young Black youth of Scarborough. Their commitment to helping the community's Black youth is invaluable.

As you gather to celebrate The EDGE Program, we are reminded of the importance of building a network of future Black leaders. The work that you do improves lives and empowers our residents to believe in the success of Black youth.

On behalf of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, as the Member of Provincial Parliament for Scarborough-Guildwood, I would like to thank the EDGE program for advancing social inclusion and equity.

Sincerely,

Mitzie Hunter, MPP  
Scarborough-Guildwood

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i @mppMitzieHunter

## FRANCIS ATTA

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Motivator, author, celebrated award winner, and community social worker, Francis Atta continues to be one of the most prominent speakers in Canada!**

Once homeless, and a high school drop out, he went on to post-secondary studies and graduated with honours. Today, he is completing his Master's degree at the University of Toronto. Francis is the founder of Knowledge and Effort Yield Success (K.E.Y.S), a motivational speaking company that provides keynote speeches, workshops, and programs meant to inspire and encourage people of all ages to pursue their goals despite the many obstacles that may exist.

Francis is the recipient of over 30 prestigious Canadian Awards including; 2012 Top 25 Canadian Immigrant of the year, 2015 premier torchbearer for the Pam Am Games, and in 2016 became a Harry Jerome Award recipient.



*Francis Atta*





## PROGRAM

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Host Introduction of Program Chair      | Sandra Whiting   |
| Welcome                                 | Patricia Gloudon and Rosa Berdejo-Williams – on behalf of the 2019 EDGE Program Planning Committee |
| Anthems – O Canada and Lift Ev’ry Voice | Perfect Cadence  |
| Grace                                   | 2019 Committee Member  |

## DINNER AND DESSERT SERVICE

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Musical Interlude                              | Courtenay Frazer and Perfect Cadence           |
| Becoming                                       | 2019 Committee Member                          |
| Official Greetings                             | Sandra Whiting                                 |
| Juniors Welcome Presentation                   | Junior Participants 2019                       |
| Official Presentation and Introduction         | Debutantes, Beaux and Junior Participants 2019 |
| Grand Entrance March                           | Debutantes, Beaux and Junior Participants 2019 |
| Keynote Address                                | Francis Atta                                   |
| Dance Presentation                             | Debutantes, Beaux 2019                         |
| Acknowledgements                               | Sandra Whiting                                 |
| Song Presentation                              | Nia Cohen, 2019 Debutante                      |
| Presentation of Trophies and Certificates      | EDGE Program Volunteers                        |
| Song Presentation                              | Iyiola Bakel Thornhill, 2019 Debutante         |
| Announcement of Debutante and Beau of the Year | Patricia Gloudon                               |
| Song Presentation                              | Jordan Adjebeng                                |
| Final Dance                                    | 2019 Debutantes and Beaux                      |
| Dancing  | DJ Proof; Wayne Hylton                         |

## COURTENAY FRAZER, “PERFECT CADENCE”

### FEATURE BAND

Courtenay Frazer is a pianist with a wealth of stylistic knowledge.

He has been singing and playing instruments in the church since 1986, winning district and regional Teen Talent competitions for group ensembles, as well as piano solos at the church he attended - Driftwood Church of God. Courtenay went on to play keyboards for a country folk band, The Haltons, directed by his late father, Wesley Frazer. His journey soon took him into other arenas of music, where he began singing for the Gospel quartet “Surrender”, a well-known group on the Toronto Gospel music scene.

Courtenay’s diverse musical inspiration can be attributed to his deep appreciation for the music of such Gospel greats as Thomas Whitfield, Daryl Coley, The Clark Sisters and Ben Tankard, as well as his affinity for the artistry of the top Jazz players known as Oscar Peterson, Herbie Hancock, Art Tatum, and Chick Corea. His love of music encouraged him to study at Humber College of the Performing Arts where he completed studies in the Art of Jazz in 1999. In the same year Courtenay formed *Perfect Cadence*, a Gospel Jazz Group which encompasses the traditional make up of Bass, Drums, and Keys.

Since then, Courtenay has moved into challenging yet inspiring territories of music that have allowed him to bring new light to Gospel Jazz, embracing the feel of Smooth Jazz, Fusion and other realms of music.



*Courtenay Frazer*

**SW**  
Sandra Whiting  
SPEAKER | STORYTELLER | EVENT HOST

*Let's Talk*

“

STORY  
PERFORMANCE

*Storytellers rule the World!*

BOOK SANDRA

Sandra Whiting Associates | Toronto, ON  
Email: [info@sandrawhiting.ca](mailto:info@sandrawhiting.ca) | Phone: 416 573-1375

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<https://edgeprogram.net>

# *The EDGE Program*

*Presents the EDGE Ball*  
— 2019 —

**SANDRA WHITING**  
HOST



*Sandra Whiting*

Sandra Whiting has been at the epicentre of activity and change in Toronto's African Canadian community for over thirty years.

She has worked with, among others, The Black Business and Professional Association, the Jamaican Canadian Association, The YWCA, Factory Theatre, Obsidian Theatre, The Caribbean Cultural Committee, as VP of Culchaworks and currently presides as President of PACE Canada.

As a writer and storyteller, Sandra uses the arts as a vehicle for change. She was awarded the Harry Jerome Award for Community Leadership in 2002, has received the JCA Award and the Gleaner Awards for Community Service.

Born in Kingston Jamaica, Sandra now runs her own Event Planning Business - SWA Associates (Sandra Whiting Associates) - and is a storyteller, M.C., and Inspirational speaker.

**+MBUK<sup>2</sup>**  
EDUCATION



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Contact us at: (416) 287-2061 8  
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<https://edgeprogram.net>





DEBUTANTES, BEAUX



JUNIORS

THE 2019 GRADUATES



Guru Wilson

GURU WILSON

- PARENTS** Siri Avtar
- SCHOOL** Home Schooled
- HOBBIES** Fashion, entrepreneurship and politics
- CAREER GOALS** To work in the field of Commercial Advertising

PERSONAL COMMENTS

The EDGE Program has helped me grow and meet great people while improving my leadership skills.



Negel De Young Jr.

NEGEL DE YOUNGE JR.

- PARENTS** Elvis Caroline and Negel De Young Sr.
- SCHOOL** Markham District High School
- HOBBIES** Skating and cars
- CAREER GOALS** To become an Auto Mechanic

PERSONAL COMMENTS

“You only live once but, if you do it right, once is enough!” – Mae West  
Thank you to my family for all your encouragement. Life can be very tough but, thankfully, I have your support to help shine my way.

CAITLYN HALL

- PARENTS** Denise Williams and Alvin Hall
- HOBBIES** Gymnastics, making slime and singing her favorite songs

PERSONAL COMMENTS

Caitlyn is a grade 2 French Immersion student who loves her school, teachers and friends. She loves gymnastics and being part of the competitive team. Her favorite part of gymnastics is doing back handsprings. When Caitlyn grows up, she wants to become a Veterinarian because she loves animals.



Caitlyn Hall



*Shania Jackson*

## SHANIA JACKSON

**PARENTS** Nadia and Dwayne Jackson  
**SCHOOL** Saint Elizabeth Catholic High School  
**HOBBIES** Track & Field, basketball, playing the violin, software development  
**CAREER GOALS** To becoming a Neurosurgeon, Cardiovascular Surgeon or Biomedical Engineer

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

"Hard work beats talent when talent fails to work hard" – Kevin Durant



*Jaden Boyd*

## JADEN BOYD

**PARENTS** Maria Boyd  
**HOBBIES** Art, running, playing basketball and loves to dance  
**CAREER GOALS** Pursuing a career in the field of art or mechanics

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

Thank you to The EDGE Program for this opportunity. I think this experience is valuable and I will be able to use the skills I have learned in my future experiences.

## LEAH SEVERIN

**PARENTS** Delia and Edmond Rodney  
**HOBBIES** Singing, dancing, arts and craft

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

Leah's favorite color is Red. Leah loves to eat pizza and macaroni & cheese. When old enough, Leah hopes to one day become a Dental Surgeon.



*Leah Severin*



*Hazlon Davis*

## HAZLON DAVIS

**GUARDIAN** Deonne Sargeant and William Davis  
**SCHOOL** David Suzuki Secondary School  
**SPONSOR** Andrene Lewis  
**HOBBIES** Reading, writing, fashion and robotic engineering  
**CAREER GOALS** To focus in the area of Robotic Engineering

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

"Your vision will become clear only when you can look into your own heart. Who looks outside, dreams; who looks inside, awakes." – Carl Jung. I chose this quote because it reminds me to always take an honest look inside myself, especially when making goals and creating my life path. This quote also teaches me to find and hold the things that are most important to me. I believe when I find what is right for me, my true self will appear.



*Jordan Adjebeng*

## JORDAN ADJEBENG

**GUARDIAN** Grace and Michael Adjebeng  
**SCHOOL** Sir Oliver Mowat Collegiate  
**HOBBIES** Rugby, dragon boat, performing arts honours program, singing and piano  
**CAREER GOALS** To become an Aerospace Engineer

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

The EDGE Program workshops taught me the disciplines needed to be confident in myself. The program inspires me to structure my path to be in the best position to achieve greatness. The EDGE Program is life changing and I am very happy I participated in this amazing program!

## NHYIRA SMART

**PARENTS** Orica Smart  
**HOBBIES** Singing, dancing, reading, cooking and hanging out with friends

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

Nhyira would like to thank her mom for entering her into this program. Nhyira thinks her family is supportive and they encourage her to try new things. When Nhyira grows up should would like to be a Scientist who cures diseases or a Dance Teacher.



*Nhyira Smart*





*Iyiola Bakel Thornhill*

## IYIOLA BAKEL THORNHILL

**PARENTS** Odessa Thornhill  
**SCHOOL** Wexford Collegiate School for the Arts  
**HOBBIES** Performing, reading, watching Netflix and spending time with family  
**CAREER GOALS** To become a Criminal Lawyer or Homicide Investigator

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

The EDGE Program taught me a lot over the past few months, from how to greet others to the best way to hold a napkin. I have met many great people and I thank the committee for taking the time to educate us.

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did but people will never forget how you made them feel" - Maya Angelou



*Andrew Saunders*

## ANDREW SAUNDERS

**PARENTS** Wendy and Gary Saunders-Fisher  
**SCHOOL** David and Mary Thompson Collegiate  
**HOBBIES** Playing basketball, music, rapping and making beats  
**CAREER GOALS** To become an Auto Mechanic

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

In life, if you really want something - Just Do It like Nike says!

## NEVAEH DOWNEY

**PARENTS** Alicia Downey and Pierre Ellis  
**HOBBIES** Playing tennis, piano, painting, dancing and taekwondo

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

Nevaeh is very caring; she loves her family, the whole universe and God. Nevaeh loves to eat lobster. When Nevaeh grows up she would like to become a Professional Tennis Player and play in the Olympics.



*Nevaeh Downey*



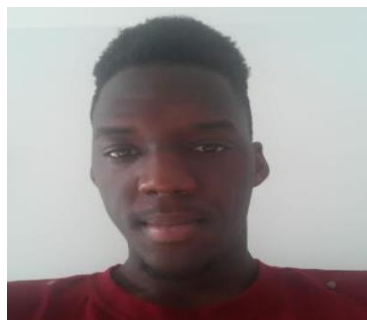
*Ashara Wright*

## ASHARA WRIGHT

**PARENTS** Wendy Millen  
**SCHOOL** University of Toronto, Mississauga Campus  
**HOBBIES** Dancing and reading  
**CAREER GOALS** To become a Forensic Scientist

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

I have learned that to have success you will need to have determination, dedication and self-discipline. And also, don't let anybody tell you what you can or cannot do.



*Terrel Chambers*

## TERREL CHAMBERS

**PARENTS** Natalie Smith and Colvin Chambers  
**SCHOOL** George Brown College  
**HOBBIES** Playing basketball  
**CAREER GOALS** To become a Social Worker

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

I have enjoyed being part of The EDGE Program. I feel that it has helped me grow in many different areas and I have many memorable moments during my time here. One of my favorite quotes is from Dwyane Wade. "My belief is stronger than your doubt!"

## ZAYDA MCCALLA

**PARENTS** Naila Keleta-Mar and Robert McCalla  
**HOBBIES** Running, reading and writing

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

Zayda loves eating caesar salad and pancakes. Zayda is grateful for her family's support. When she grows up she would like to be a Scientist, a Runner, a Writer AND a Professor.



*Zayda McCalla*



*Nia Cohen*

## NIA COHEN

**PARENTS** Oseye Cohen  
**SCHOOL** Sir Oliver Mowat Collegiate Institute  
**HOBBIES** Theatre, singing, sociology  
**CAREER GOALS** To become a Media Manager

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

I enjoy meeting new people and having exposure to many different career paths and opportunities within my community. The EDGE Program has inspired me to follow my dreams and work hard for what I want.



*Brandon Hylton*

## BRANDAN HYLTON

**PARENTS** Tricia and Wayne Hylton  
**SCHOOL** St. Mary Catholic Secondary School  
**HOBBIES** Music and playing basketball  
**CAREER GOALS** To become an Engineer

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

"Our doubts are traitors, and make us lose the good we often might win, by fearing to attempt" – William Shakespeare

## GALYN COHEN

**PARENTS** Oseye Cohen  
**HOBBIES** Gymnastics and playing on the computer

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

Galyn loves to eat candy! Galyn is thankful for her family and friends because she has people to play with and talk to. When Galyn grows up she would like to become a Gymnastics Teacher.



*Galyn Cohen*



*Geneviève Alfred*

## GENEVIÈVE ALFRED

**PARENTS** Jo-Ann Alfred and Kelly Sharkey  
**SCHOOL** Wexford Collegiate School for the Arts  
**HOBBIES** Singing, dancing, playing softball and cooking  
**CAREER GOALS** To become a Pediatrician

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

At first, I thought this program would be boring and no fun but, I thought wrong! I had the chance to meet new people and make friends. This program was fun and full of so much joy. Being in The EDGE Program really helped me grow as a person. It taught me about how to make life and career choices. A quote that recently popped up in my life that has heled me with difficult challenges is "Listen to understand don't listen to reply."



*Tyreke Small*

## TYREKE SMALL

**PARENTS** Arlene Faulknor-Henry  
**SCHOOL** George Brown College  
**HOBBIES** Dancing and playing sports  
**CAREER GOALS** To become a Psychologist and work with underprivileged children

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

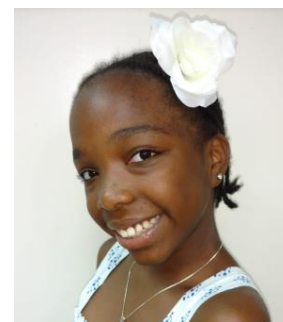
The EDGE Program was a wonderful experience to be apart of. I am happy that I had the chance to be apart of this years program. This program was a great learning experience and I hope to be apart of it in the future years.  
 "A man who stands for nothing will fall for anything." - Malcolm X

## JUSTINE MILLER

**PARENTS** Gail and Ervin Miller  
**SPONSOR** Patricia Gloudon  
**HOBBIES** Playing with slime and baking

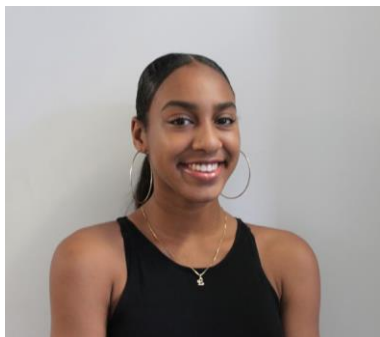
### PERSONAL COMMENTS

Justine's favorite color is purple. Justine loves to eat sprinkled donuts. When old enough, Justine hopes to one day become and Pediatric Doctor and help children in poor countries (Doctors without borders).



*Justine Miller*





*Lauren Caines*

## LAUREN CAINES

**PARENTS** Leslie Rivers and Nigel Caines  
**SCHOOL** Cardinal Carter Academy of the Arts  
**HOBBIES** Dancing and fashion  
**CAREER GOALS** To become a Psychologist

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

I am truly happy I made the decision to join The EDGE Program. I had the great opportunity of meeting Janielle Mckoy, a Fashion Stylist. Janielle's life story inspires me to continue to work hard. Her stories of her struggles, challenges, but also the success she attained striving to be a fashion stylist, showed me that hard work pays off and you can accomplish anything you put your heart and soul into.



*Joshua Boxill*

## JOSHUA BOXILL

**PARENTS** Lesley Boxill  
**SCHOOL** Brock University  
**HOBBIES** Acting, film, track & field, playing football, dance and modeling  
**CAREER GOALS** To become an Actor/Model or Film Maker

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

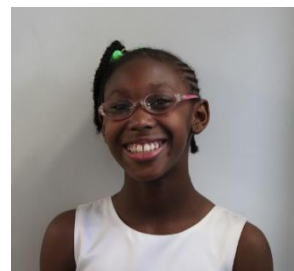
I like to make films as a hobby; I have made a documentary that won 1<sup>st</sup> at a film festival in Berlin. I currently model and act and I am looking for ways to further develop my career in either acting, modeling or film.

## ALANNA VALLADARES-FOUNTAIN

**PARENTS** Dezerray Fountain and Quinn Valladares  
**SPONSOR** Liz Valladares-Pereira  
**HOBBIES** Singing and playing video games

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

Alanna's favorite food is her Nana's fettucine alfredo pasta. Alanna loves her family. Alanna enjoys playing games and having fun. She loves to travel and is very excited about her trip to Europe after the ball. Treat people as you would like to be treated.



*Alanna Valladares-Fountain*



*Alexia Ward*

## ALEXIA WARD

**PARENTS** Donna-Marie McKenzie-Smith and Lexford Ward  
**SCHOOL** J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate  
**HOBBIES** Drawing, writing, reading, gaming, cooking, baking and sleeping  
**CAREER GOALS** To become a Cyber Security Specialist/Engineer

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

“Don’t let anyone hinder your success. Only you can help you, ignore the distractions. Reach forward towards the skies for your goals, and don’t stop until YOU are satisfied.”



*Savion Rennie*

## SAVION RENNIE

**PARENTS** Sheron Rennie  
**SCHOOL** Castlebrooke Secondary School  
**HOBBIES** Photography, videography and bike riding  
**CAREER GOALS** To become a freelancer

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

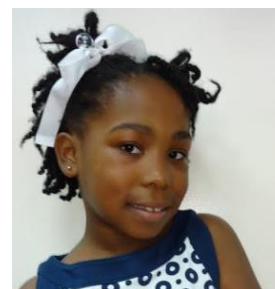
I was once watching this show and one of the characters said “Being weak is nothing to be ashamed of... staying weak is!” – Fuegoleon Vermillion

## JADE MILLER

**PARENTS** Gail and Ervin Miller  
**SPONSOR** Patricia Gloudon  
**HOBBIES** Drawing, decorating, eating and reading

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

Jade’s favorite color is yellow. Jade loves to eat brownies. When old enough, Jade hopes to become an Artist and a Baker.

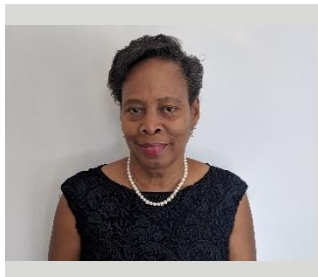


*Jade Miller*



## MEET THE ORGANIZERS

The **EDGE** Program Planning Committee is a group of dedicated volunteers who share in the vision of the **EDGE** philosophy: **Empower. Develop. Grow & Engage** our young people. In addition to these volunteers, past graduates and supporters assist in making the program have an **EDGE**!



*Patricia Gloudon*

## PATRICIA GLOUDON

**Organization Role:** Chair

**Career:** Retired; Funds Director at Scotiabank, 40 years and 9 months of service

**Personal Comments:** Together with education, we believe that style, etiquette, and leadership are vital skills for success; our focus is on teaching our participants the poise and tenacity that will help them make powerful and lasting first impressions. I am so proud to be a part of this program that changes and impacts young lives.



*Tracy Grant*

## TRACY GRANT

**Organization Role:** General Manager, Operations Planning

**Career:** Business Analyst at Bell Canada, 21 years of service

**Personal Comments:** As a community, we need to bond together to build up our children so they feel empowered to go after their dreams because we are here supporting and encouraging them to shine. The EDGE is their extended family and we remain connected offering assistance in any way we can.



*Serena Thompson*

## SERENA THOMPSON

**EDGE Organization Role:** Community Outreach Coordinator

**Career:** Sickle Cell Advocate

**Personal Comments:** it has been a fulfilling journey to watch the Beaux/Debutantes flourish in The EDGE program, and I cannot wait to work with them in the community throughout the year. Congratulations to everyone and enjoy your Graduation Ball.





*Rosa Berdejo-Williams*

## ROSA BERDEJO-WILLIAMS

**EDGE Organization Role:** Community Partners Liaison and Grant Writer

**Career:** Program Coordinator for York University Transition Year Program, 14 years of service

**Personal Comments:** I volunteer for The EDGE because the program represents all the values I believe in and provides the necessary life skills to help succeed in today's competitive work field.



*Leonie Falconer*

## LEONIE FALCONER

**EDGE Organization Role:** Lead Workshop Facilitator

**Career:** Customer Service Associate, Pizza Nova

**Personal Comments:** I volunteer for the EDGE program because I believe in what the program supports. Our youth need this kind of program and what it offers to help them on their life's journey. I have been part of the program for over 20 years. My children, nieces, nephews and cousins have all enrolled in the program and only have positive things to say about it. I am thrilled to be apart of the EDGE program and will continue to support the program to the best of my ability.



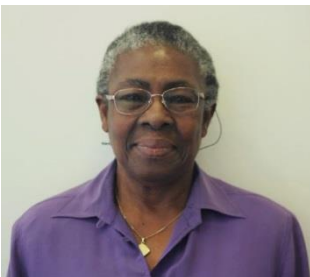
*Liz Valladares-Pereira*

## LIZ VALLADARES-PEREIRA

**EDGE Organization Role:** Youth Services Co-ordinator

**Career:** Retired; Supervisor at Toronto Employment & Social Services, 35 years of service

**Personal Comments:** My daughter was a debutante many years ago. Since then my god daughter and two grandchildren have also taken the program. The EDGE encourages black youth to aspire to be the best they can by equipping them with life skills, introducing them to a network of black professionals and uplifting them with positive reinforcement. The night of the ball is magical as you see confident transformed individuals who are happy, proud and engaged. The sky is the limit for our graduates!



*Maureen Simpson*

## MAUREEN SIMPSON

**EDGE Organization Role:** Venue Lead Coordinator

**Personal Comments:** "The main hope of a nation lies in the proper education of its youth." - Erasmus



*Jameeka Murdock*

## JAMEEKA MURDOCK

**EDGE Organization Role:** Choreography Assistant, Admin Officer Edge Youth Alumni

**Career:** Performing Arts Student, George Brown College

**Personal Comments:** I enjoy assisting with the workshops (dining etiquette and dance choreography). It has been a lot of fun getting to know the new debutantes and beaux and I congratulate them for completing the 2017 EDGE Program.



*Brianna Hylton*

## BRIANNA HYLTON

**EDGE Organization Role:** President, Edge Youth Alumni

**Career:** Business Law Student, Ryerson University

**Personal Comments:** As the 2014 debutante of the year, now turned President of the EDGE Youth Alumni Committee, nothing makes me happier than to see more and more of my peers complete this program. EDGE helped me to grow and discover my full potential and self-confidence. My goal is to encourage more youth to do the same. Taking initiative and working towards personal development is really what gives you an EDGE in life, and I hope all of this year's participants find success in all of their future endeavours by drawing on the lessons they've learned with us. To the EDGE graduates of 2017: Congratulations! You did it! I wish you all the best and hope you all continue to be the best you that you can be.

## Special thanks to our dedicated program volunteers

Joan Smith  
Diane Obermuller  
Tamara Henningham  
Jennifer Matheson  
Janet Jackson

## WHAT PARENTS HAVE SAID

...

*"Thank you immensely for this trip, Andrew REALLY appreciated it and enjoyed all that was done. You guys are amazing."* – **W. Saunders**

\*\*\*

*"Thank you EDGE and to all the chaperones for a wonderful retreat."* – **O. Cohen**

\*\*\*

*"Thank you for taking care of the young people. Friends were made and seems more relaxed with this peer group. Thanks again"* – **D. Sergent**

\*\*\*

*"Thank you for offering great programming for our young adults. Lauren enjoyed her weekend."* – **L. Rivers**

\*\*\*

### HENNINGHAM & ASSOCIATES



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## THE 2019 EDGE PROGRAM - WORKSHOPS AND FACILITATORS

| WORKSHOPS                                    | FACILITATORS                         | BIOGRAPHIES  |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| Navigate your career path                    | Tanya Dacres                         | Tanya is a Senior Manager People Strategy at Sapient Razorfish.  |
| Health and Wellness                          | Dr. Nadine Thornhill                 | Nadine is a member of the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counsellors and Therapists; The Sexuality Information Council of Canada and The Centre For Sex Education. She holds a Doctor of Education in Human Sexuality, with a concentration in child and adolescent sexual development.                          |
| Tools of engagement (Etiquette)              | Maureen Simpson                      | Dining etiquette and Lifestyle Management.   |
| African Canadian History                     | Channon Oyeniran                     | Channon has an indescribable passion and thirst to not only know more about history, in particular- slavery (historical and modern), but to educate people on these issues and to in some way stop it from continuing!   |
| Selling You                                  | Janielle Mckoy                       | Janielle is an eclectic wardrobe stylist, visual display artist and now advocate for youth and adults living with Dyslexia. She is known for her effortless take on style and let's her clothes tell a story. Styling for the past 15 years, Janielle is known as one of the most influential forces working in fashion today. |
| Financing Freedom                            | Kris Daley                           | Kris is a Senior Analyst, Statutory Reporting at BMO. Kris received his Master of Science in Accounting and Bachelor of Science in Economics and Accounting at the University of West Indies.  |
| Kemetic Yoga                                 | Vonette Ford                         | Vonette is a Kemetic Yoga instructor working in the Toronto area. Kemetic Yoga originates in Africa and assists participants with transcending self.   |
| Social Media & You                           | Courtney Roberts-Lawes               | Courtney is a Product and Content Marketer with 10+ years of online experience launching successful brands.  |
| The Law and You                              | Gordon Cudjoe                        | Gordon is a Criminal Defence Lawyer practicing in the GTA. Gordon received his LL.B from University of Toronto in 1999 and was called to the Bar in February 2001. Gordon received a Masters of Arts degree in Criminology in 1999 at the University of Toronto and his B.A in English from the University of Ghana (1990)     |
| Navigating Post Secondary Studies            | Lydia Gill                           | Lydia is University of Toronto Student Recruitment Officer for equity outreach and support.  |
| Entrepreneurship - Starting your own company | Liza Keizer                          | Liza started her own business after making the decision to do away with chemical relaxers. Liza took a chance and started Up North Natural, which is now sold in Canada and the USA.   |
| Effective Resumes and Interviewing Skills    | Lisa Hill                            | Lisa is a Talent Acquisition Consultant at Marsh & McLennan Companies. Her specialty is in building and delivering value-added programs with a focus on talent management, leadership development, employee relations, and diversity.  |
| Team Building                                | Randel Adjei                         | Randell is a spoken word practitioner & Edutainer who uses the spoken word to empower through Edutainment.   |
| Managing your time and study tips            | Celina Reyes and Marlon Redley Smith | Celina and Marlon are a husband and wife team who run TMBUK2 - Education - a tutoring service from JK to grade 12. Their mission is to develop learning goals for students and to involve parents and guardians in the learning process.   |
| Conflict Management                          | Roderick Brereton                    | Roderick is the founder and owner of the conflict/stress management consultancy Urban Rez Solutions. He has worked extensively since 2000 directing capacity-building initiatives.   |

## ANDREA DOUGLAS

### DANCE EDUCATOR AND CHOREOGRAPHER


Andrea Douglas, educator, dancer and choreographer, received her training at The Guyana National School of Dance, the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, Jamaica, York University Faculty of Fine Arts and the University of Toronto. Ms. Douglas has trained and performed with legendary Caribbean dancers including Eduardo Rivera of Cuba, and Rex Nettleford of Jamaica.

A former dancer with the Guyana National Dance Company and the National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica, Andrea is the Artistic Director of the Children and Youth Dance Theatre of Toronto, a community-based Dance Academy for underserved children. She is currently an Administrator with the TDSB and an avid advocate for Arts in Education and Integrated Arts as a Differentiated Instruction process.

Andrea was the resident choreographer of the Applause Institute Cotillion Ball, and continues as resident choreographer with The EDGE. She has facilitated Lecture demonstrations, presentations and Dance workshops at local and international Conferences and Dance Summits. Andrea is the proud recipient of the 2013 Harry Jerome Award of Excellence in the Arts.



*Andrea Douglas*



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## WORKSHOPS





# RETREAT

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## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BALL





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## SPONSORSHIPS:

|                  |                                     |
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| Patricia Gloudon | The EDGE Program Planning Committee |
| Oliver Williams  |                                     |
| Stanley Julien   |                                     |

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|                                |
|--------------------------------|
| Delores Lawrence; NHI Nursing  |
| Gordon Cudjoe; CABL            |
| Liza Keizer; Up North Naturals |

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|                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
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| Lorraine Delsol          | Make-up Artist      |

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## THE 2019 EDGE PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE

Patricia Gloudon  
Tracy Grant  
Serena Thompson  
Brianna Hylton

Leonie Falconer  
Rosa Berdejo-Williams  
Maureen Simpson  
Jameeka Murdock

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## NHI Congratulates the EDGE Program Graduating Class of 2019



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“I am where I am because I believe in all possibilities.” – Whoopi Goldberg

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## THE EDGE PROGRAM

The **EDGE** Program offers Black youth - male and female between the ages of 16 and 20 - a unique, transformative experience that **Empowers** them to **Develop** and **Grow** their social and professional **Engagement** skills.

The **EDGE** provides diverse workshops that expose participants to information and techniques not offered in a conventional classroom. Designed to empower and motivate, The **EDGE** Program engages participants in a variety of leadership workshops, team-building exercises and includes a weekend retreat.

The **EDGE** Program is conducted in a safe, non-judgmental environment where mutual respect and support for their peers are promoted. As participants travel through this journey, we quickly establish the importance of adapting the skills and techniques they will gain while participating in the program.

Workshops are conducted during the spring - ending early summer. The **EDGE** concludes with a formal presentation ball where participants are re-introduced to their family and friends as graduates of our program.

Workshops offered in the Program are:

|   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Ballroom, Hip Hop/Jazz and Modern Dancing | Leadership and Time Management        |
| Canadian Black History                    | Public Speaking                       |
| Career Panel "Lived-it" Discussions       | Resume Writing                        |
| Civic Duties                              | Selling You                           |
| Dining Etiquette and Social Graces        | Social Media – Your Digital Footprint |
| Financial Planning                        | The Law and You                       |
| Health and Wellness                       | Kemetic Yoga                          |

Graduates have an opportunity to continue learning through our pre-arranged work internships and volunteering. We are aware that in today's world a strong drive to succeed is one of the most valuable gifts a young person can have, and increasingly one of the hardest to achieve. Technical skills may get you the interview, but without social graces and a strong work ethic, getting the job will be an overwhelming task.

We are committed to helping our community's young people to develop skills and attitudes that will support their future goals. We do our utmost to help participants find their inner spark and fan it into a bright flame.

We encourage you to give financial support to this program so that youth may enjoy the benefits of this transformational experience. Their involvement in The **EDGE** is just a small investment that will earn big dividends.

The cost of the Program:

Debutantes and Beaux (ages 16-20): \$300.00  
Junior Debutantes (ages 6-9): \$150.00

For further information, please contact:

(416) 287-2061

[taketheedge@gmail.com](mailto:taketheedge@gmail.com)

<http://edgeprogram.net/>



## Lead through inspiration

Empowering diverse youth to become the leaders of tomorrow is a priority for Scotiabank and part of our belief in promoting a culture that encourages everyone to reach their full potential.

Scotiabank is proud to support the Youth Development Program and Cotillion Ball in their goal to help young people develop tools for success. When we invest in young people, we invest in our shared future.

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