

Families of the Year Award

When two people decide to raise children together, they make a commitment to provide the support that the children need to thrive and grow as people. This describes my parents perfectly, as they did everything in their power to fulfill this commitment to my sister and me as their daughters.

When I was 13, my father made a life decision to work abroad in China (where he resides to this day) to make a better living for his family. He sacrificed the emotional attachment that he had with his loved ones to immerse himself in his work. As a result, he was able to provide me with the financial freedom that I needed to enhance my own career and education. With his support, I was able to move closer to school from Mississauga, have a car at my leisure and take extra courses at Humber College and the University of Toronto to pursue certificates in Event Management and French – on top of having my full tuition paid for. Most recently he even funded two of my trips abroad: one to Beijing, China, where I conducted research for my senior thesis, and the other to Atlanta, where I completed an unpaid internship at one of the biggest broadcasting networks in the United States (Turner Broadcasting). As well, he has proven to be a wealth of knowledge when it comes to career advice and guidance. My father's knowledge on business practices and professionalism has taught me invaluable things, along with instilling a drive and passion for me to pursue my endeavours, qualities that I otherwise would not have acquired had it not been for his guidance.

My mother has been the emotional support for my sister and me for as long as I could remember. She quit her career when I was born in order to ensure that we had a successful upbringing, rooted in proper education and deep Christian faith. My sister and I were able to decide on professions that suited our interests, fuelled by the incomparable advice and encouragement from my mother. All throughout my education – from junior kindergarten to now – she delved herself into protecting and enhancing my well-being, from sitting in the audience for every talent show and competition, to nourishing me with words of encouragement (and proper meals) on exam days, to making sure that my career decisions were made with my best interests in mind. Her love for her children – and our extended family – has inspired me to become a better person, not only in my career, but as a daughter, sister, friend and girlfriend. My father gave me the means to work towards my goals in life – my mother gave me the support to achieve them.

I don't consider my graduation from university as something solely based on my education achievements. I consider it as a milestone for my parents as well, as this is just as much as an achievement for them as it is for me. Which is why I want to nominate my parents for the Family of the Year Award, as I can't think of anyone that deserves it more.