

[REDACTED]
Whitby, ON
L1R 3C7

July 13, 2008

To: the Judges of the Business Excellence Award, Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade
Re: Tutorwiz Education Centre, Ajax; Don Reist, proprietor

Dear Judges:

I would like to nominate Tutorwiz Education Centre on Westney Road, Ajax for the 2008 Business Excellence Award. Although a Whitby resident, I travel to Ajax for weekly tutoring sessions for my son, Geoffrey. Tutorwiz offers a unique service; there is no comparison anywhere in Durham Region, or even the entire GTA to my knowledge. Tutorwiz offers state of the art adaptive computer technology that, combined with experienced teaching, can level the playing field for struggling students with learning disabilities, high functioning autism spectrum disorders, attention deficit related disorders and other special needs.

It has been well researched that certain kinds of software and hardware can lead students with special needs to a much higher level of achievement. But the education system has been slow in integrating this knowledge into the curriculum. Large gains have been made recently and Durham District School Board has shown leadership in this area among Ontario school boards. But it is still not enough. Inadequate training for the students in the use of the software, lack of training for teachers and teaching assistants, and a shortage of technical support severely limit the potential of these at risk students. Tutorwiz offers an environment that develops the skills necessary for success.

It is a large risk to open a business to serve the special needs of children, requiring a large capital outlay and tremendous patience and skill. But Tutorwiz deserves the Business Excellence Award for more than this; it is deserving because of the recognition of the future potential of at risk children, knowing that with the right strategy, they will become happy and productive members of the workforce in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Alison McCullough

[REDACTED]