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## GLOBAL STUDENT ENTREPRENEUR AWARDS

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An Entrepreneurs' Organization Global Competition

GSEA is the world's premiere award for students who run companies and study at the same time.

**The Entrepreneurs Organization (EO) South Africa will host a National Competition for the Global Student Entrepreneur Awards.**

**APPLICATIONS OPEN 1 JULY 2017 – apply:** [www.gsea.org/apply](http://www.gsea.org/apply)

EO South Africa will host a national competition on 23 November 2017 at 15h00 at Cape Town – venue to be announced. The winner of this competition will be recognized as the South African champion and will attend the GSEA finals in Toronto, Canada from April 14 – 17, 2018 to compete with the world's top student entrepreneurs and stand in line to win prize money in the amount of US\$20,000 as well as additional endowments from the EO network.

### **Who can enter?**

1. You must be enrolled for the current academic year in a university/college as an undergraduate or graduate\* student at the time of application. Full-time enrolment is not required; part-time enrolment is acceptable.
2. You must be the owner, founder or controlling shareholder of your company and principally responsible for its operation. Each company can be represented by only one owner/co-founder.
3. Your business must have been in operation for at least six consecutive months prior to the application.
4. Your business must have generated US \$500 or received US \$1000 in investments at the time of application.
5. You should not have been one of the top six finalists from any previous year's GSEA Global Finals Competition.
6. The age cap for participation is 35 years of age.

\*Graduate students are eligible to apply only if they have continually enrolled in a university following their undergraduate degree and not left school to work on their business or to seek other employment. Exceptions can be made for students who have taken up to 12 months' break before beginning their postgraduate education.



### **2017 Global Winner**

Julian Rios Cantu, an 18-year-old student at the Monterrey Institute of Technology in Mexico, won the top prize in May 2017 for his potentially life-saving invention, a bra that can help detect breast cancer.

After his mother's painful battle with breast cancer, Julián resolved to save women's lives through early breast cancer detection. As CEO of Higia Technologies, Julian developed its flagship product, EVA, the first intelligent bra that uses touch, texture, colour and pressure to non-invasively assess breast health. Julian believes that technology has helped him to give women a better chance of life so that they do not have to suffer what his mother suffered. "Technological innovation is the main tool to save lives, if you have the passion to innovate and solve problems."

### **2011 South African Winner**

In 2011, South African Ludwick Marishane, a student at the University of Cape Town and founder of HeadBoy Industries won the Global Student Entrepreneur Award. His flagship product, DryBath, the world's only bath substitute lotion for the whole body was inspired by Ludwick's roommate who was often too lazy to take a shower. That same year Google named Ludwick as one of the 12 brightest young minds in the world. TIME Magazine named him as one of the "Top 30 under 30 people that are changing the world" in 2013.

### **About the Entrepreneurs' Organization**

The Entrepreneurs' Organization (EO) is a global, peer-to-peer network of 12,000+ influential business owners with 163 chapters in 52 countries. Founded in 1987, EO is the catalyst that enables leading entrepreneurs to learn and grow, leading to greater success in business and beyond.

EO opened its First South African chapter in Johannesburg in 2005, a chapter followed in Cape Town in 2011 and Durban in 2015. On the rest of the continent, EO has chapters in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), Nairobi (Kenya), Abuja & Lagos (Nigeria) and Mauritius. EO announced that it plans to expand to Accra (Ghana), Angola (Luanda) and Pretoria. The focus is now on the rest of Africa and the MEPA region.

There are currently 850 member entrepreneurs across the region, employing 347 000 people, with an average turnover per business of US\$5m pa.