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## FrontStreet Facility Solutions Awards \$20,000 to New York Young Entrepreneurs

FrontStreet Facility Solutions, Capital One Bank and Sprint set the stage for successful entrepreneurship

June 18, 2014



NEW YORK (June 11, 2014) – FrontStreet Facility Solutions (FrontStreet) Chief Development Officer Joseph Scaretta recently announced Karim Abouelnaga of Practice Makes Perfect and Emily Raleigh of The Smart Girls Group as the 2014 New York Young Entrepreneur Challenge (NY YEC) winners during an awards reception at Capital One 360 Café in New York City. The NY YEC was sponsored by FrontStreet, in partnership with Capital One Bank and Sprint. Each winner received \$10,000 start-up funding, mentorship and other support essential to establishing a business.

“We could not have been more pleased with the caliber of entries we received in expanding this year’s competition to the entire state of New York,” Scaretta, founder of the NY YEC, said. “Nearly 20 finalists presented live pitches, which were perfected through the help of their Capital One Bank mentors, and the judges were thoroughly impressed with the quality, innovation and professionalism of every entrepreneur.”

In his live pitch to an esteemed panel of judges, Entrepreneur Track winner Abouelnaga explained the proven “near-peer” model **Practice Makes Perfect** uses to support students from grades one through

college admission. He outlined the methods through which Practice Makes Perfect pairs academically struggling elementary and middle school students with older, higher achieving mentor peers from the same inner-city neighborhoods, all under the instruction of trained college interns and the supervision of certified teachers for a six-week summer academic experience. Beginning July, Practice Makes Perfect will run summer school programs in the South Bronx, Jamaica, East New York and Bedford-Stuyvesant.

The suite of services won through the NY YEC will assist Abouelnaga and Practice Makes Perfect with scaling the promising business and improving internal processes to ensure this summer's program sets the stage of excellence for future growth. Abouelnaga is a 2013 graduate of Cornell University with a Bachelor of Science in Hotel Administration and a 2009 graduate of Long Island City High School.

Raleigh, the Student Track winner, explained the road that led to her founding **The Smart Girls Group**, a one-stop shop for the next generation of superstar women. The group connects female trailblazers from across the globe through its overarching Smart Girl Sisterhood, comprised of 700+ girls from India to Indiana, representing 48 states and 31 countries, currently increasing by 50% monthly.

She also outlined plans for the upcoming **Smart Girls Summit** featuring an outstanding lineup of speakers July 9-10<sup>th</sup> in New York City, including former New York Times Executive Editor Jill Abramson, the first woman firefighter of the NYFD Brenda Berkman and FEED Founder Lauren Bush Lauren.

“Congratulations to Karim and Emily on their hard work, dedication and achievement – we wish them success and offer our support as they continue to grow their businesses,” said Michael Minerva, Senior Vice President, Capital One Bank. “As a local bank, we are committed to investing in New York and helping our community to grow and thrive. By fostering entrepreneurship and enabling students to gain real world business experience, we are helping to develop the future business leaders of our community.”

In addition to planning for the upcoming conference, Raleigh will utilize her earnings to focus on new Smart Girls Group ventures, including the development of a more robust web platform and expansion of the chapter-based program. Raleigh is a full-time student at Fordham University.

The NY YEC is open to entrepreneurs ages 17-22, who either live in New York or are enrolled as an undergraduate student at an accredited New York college or university. Formerly known as the Long Island Young Entrepreneur Challenge, which launched in 2012, the competition was founded by FrontStreet with the desire to support young entrepreneurs as they bring innovative ideas from concept to start-up.

For more information on Practice Makes Perfect, visit <http://practicemakesperfect.org>.

For more information on The Smart Girls Group, visit <http://www.thesmartgirlsgroup.com>.

For more information on Smart Girls Summit, visit <http://www.smartgirlssummit.com>.

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retrofits, and energy control solutions. FrontStreet offers holistic single-source facility solutions that allow our clients to deliver an exceptional brand experience to their clientele. For more information, visit <http://www.frontstreetfs.com>.

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