The award, introduced in 2004 by the Gustavson School of Business Board of Advisers, recognizes an inspirational entrepreneur who has had a significant and positive impact on the global community through their business leadership.

DISTINGUISHED ENTREPRENEUR OF YEAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

2004: Jeff Mallett
2005: David Ritchie
2006: Gwyn Morgan
2007: David Black
2008: Clive Beddoe
2009: Sir Terence Matthews
2010: Alex Campbell Sr.
2011: JR Shaw
2012: Chip Wilson
2013: Brandt C. Louie
2014: Dennis R. Washington
2015: David Foster
2016: Linda Hasenfratz
2017: Don A. Mattrick
2018: Stewart Butterfield
Thank you to our DEYA committee whose vision for BC’s premier business event has led to 15 years of innovation, inspiration and celebration. Each year, we’ve gathered to honour entrepreneurial excellence and it’s through your hard work and dedication that DEYA has been a sold out event for every one of its fifteen years. Congratulations and thank you!

ORIGINAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Lance Abercrombie
Bill Anderson
Bruce Cafferky

Dr. Ali Dastmalchian
Pat Elemans
Peter Gustavson
Stacy Kuiack

Denis Racine
David Schneider
Sybil Verch

A special thank you to all committee members, past and present!
2004: Jeff Mallett
FORMER PRESIDENT AND COO OF YAHOO! INC.

They might all be Giants...

Jeff Mallett (left) receives award

Opportunity is everywhere!
2005: David Ritchie
FORMER CEO OF RITCHIE BROS. AUCTIONEERS

All bids are in and the unreserved winner is...

Think big, you’re only limited by your own visions.
2006: Gwyn Morgan
FORMER PRESIDENT AND CEO OF ENCANA CORPORATION

Farm kid from Carstairs has TONS of energy...

Being a business leader carries with it both a noble objective and important responsibilities.
2007: David Black
CHAIRMAN OF BLACK PRESS

A newsworthy evening...

An important entrepreneurial trait is to enjoy the competition.

David Black (right)

Award for cutest David Black fan goes to...
2008: Clive Beddoe
FOUNDING SHAREHOLDER AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF WESTJET

WestJet founder earns his wings.

Where there is pain there is opportunity.

sharp-lookin' bunch

Clive Beddoe (left)
2009: Sir Terence Matthews
CHAIRMAN OF MITEL CORPORATION AND FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN OF WESLEY CLOVER

What a great Knight!

And that’s the secret...
Timing, hard work, smarts and partners.
2010: Dr. Alex Campbell Sr.

CO-FOUNDER, CHAIRMAN EMERITUS AND FORMER PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THRIFTY FOODS

An occasion to smile about.

Remember, the smile begins in the bag.
2011: JR Shaw
FOUNDER OF SHAW COMMUNICATIONS INC.

Entrepreneurs do what others don't want to do or don't see what to do.
2012: Chip Wilson
FOUNDER OF LULULEMON ATHLETICA

Celebrating an uncommon thread.

Train and mentor your staff, they can do a better job than you.
2013: Brandt C. Louie
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF H.Y. LOUIE CO. LTD. AND CHAIRMAN OF LONDON DRUGS

Where proud heritage and remarkable innovation meet.

When you build a business on such a solid foundation and guard your values fiercely as you grow, success is sure to follow.
Inspired by the power of machines. Fuelled by passion for life.

Entrepreneurship is just damn hard work and dedication.
2015: David Foster
MASTER OF THE MUSIC BIZ.

The microphone of life only goes by once. You speak or it keeps going.
2016: Linda Hasenfratz  
CEO OF LINAMAR CORPORATION

Woman of STEEL

Be bold about the goals that you’re setting for yourself.
2017: Don A. Mattrick
FORMER PRESIDENT OF MICROSOFT INTERACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS

Enjoy the successes and challenges each day.

Don A. Mattrick (right)
2018: Stewart Butterfield
CEO AND CO-FOUNDER OF SLACK AND CO-FOUNDER OF FLICKR

A bit of Slack goes a long way.

Communication is hard, yet it is the most fundamental thing we do as human beings.