

Contact: Maria Konikov, Director of Operations
(647) 919-9334 ext 124
mkonikov@yedoinstitute.org

TORONTO, CANADA, February 22, 2018 – The York Entrepreneurship Development Institute (YEDI) is ranked the **#1 University-Linked Business Accelerator in the World** by UBI Global. In just 4 short years, YEDI has pioneered an innovative methodology for business acceleration which combined with strong partnerships and talented mentors, propelled them to become the leading acceleration program in the world.

I wasn't at all surprised to hear that YEDI has been selected #1 Business Accelerator in the world by UBI - this news only makes me prouder to have been part of such a remarkable program. My time at YEDI is one of the highlights of my entrepreneurial career. Everything from the faculty to the curriculum to the industry partnerships is exactly what a top notch accelerator should strive towards. I walked away from the program at YEDI with more confidence, tools and relationships than I could have hoped for to further grow my business. And YEDI is still in our corner cheering us on and supporting us every step of the way. Andre Orazi, YEDI Alumni and Founder of The Chufa Co.

"YEDI has developed tremendously since the 2015 UBI global rankings; our alumni network grew by five times and the number of jobs created by them grew tenfold. YEDI developed strong partnerships across the ecosystem and around the world. This helped us to provide alumni with all resources needed for growth. We see this as a great example of collaboration between academia, industry and government!" Dr. Marat Ressin, YEDI President

UBI Global is a Swedish-based data and advisory firm specializing in mapping, highlighting, and connecting the world of business incubation. Through a network of more than 500 member organizations from over 70 countries, UBI Global provides matchmaking, ranking, benchmarking, and research services to corporations and business incubation programs. According to UBI Global, a top university-linked acceleration program is a business accelerator connected to an institution of higher education that achieves outstanding impact and performance relative to its global peers. The program outperforms its global peers with regard to the value it provides to its innovation ecosystem and its client startups, as well as the attractiveness of the program itself.

"YEDI operates based on a unique model and therefore it was important for us to see how we compare to other accelerators in order to validate that our choice of model was indeed correct. Additionally, the scientific research provided by UBI has been incredibly

valuable as we are able to understand which areas require a greater focus and how we may improve. Due to the research provided in 2015, we were able to implement significant improvements which helped us improve our ranking this year. Moreover, YEDI is linked to one of the top business schools in the world, and it is important for us to maintain this high level of education.

Being part of UBI's global rankings has allowed us to connect with leading accelerators and incubators around the world, share resources and learn from each other so that we may provide the best services and support to entrepreneurs.” Dr. Marat Ressin, YEDI President

This year's rankings showcased the growth and improvement of Canada's incubation and acceleration landscape with many of the top programs being from Canada. As YEDI embarks on its fifth year, we look forward to leading the first Canadian Global Start-Up Mission to Israel, welcoming international entrepreneurs, growing the Incubator track and expanding the YEDI Business Acceleration Campuses.

About YEDI:

The York Entrepreneurship Development Institute (YEDI) is the top-ranked university-linked accelerator in the world. YEDI's mission is to provide top-tier business education and mentorship to innovative entrepreneurs from any sector or industry in order to build and accelerate successful businesses and efficient not-for-profit organizations. YEDI is committed to ensuring that ideas with high impact are not lost due to lack of knowledge during the start-up process. YEDI guides innovators to refine their ideas and create tested proof of concepts that are attractive to investors and will benefit Canadian society, and the world at large. For more information, visit www.yedinstitute.org.