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PRESS RELEASE

Bikila Award 294 Main Street, Suite 205, Toronto, Ontario M4C 4X5 • Email: contact@bikilaaward.org

Bikila Award Announces The 2024 Award Recipients and Guest Speakers

August 19, Toronto, ON — **A Decade of Promoting Community Excellence: The 10th Annual Bikila Awards and Gala Dinner to Illuminate Toronto's Carlu Venue. As autumn arrives in Toronto, a special event is scheduled to take place at the iconic Carlu on Saturday, September 21, 2024.** The 10th Annual Bikila Awards and Gala Dinner will not only mark a significant milestone in recognizing outstanding achievements, but also unite the community in a celebration of resilience, innovation, and the indomitable spirit of perseverance.

Over the past decade, the Annual Bikila Awards have evolved into one of the most esteemed events, drawing hundreds of guests from across the globe each year. This year's landmark celebration promises to be the grandest yet, bringing together a constellation of visionaries, leaders, and changemakers who have made exceptional contributions to their fields and society at large.

The grandeur of the Carlu, a designated National Historic Site, will serve as the perfect setting for this night of elegance and inspiration. Guests will be treated to a gala dinner, live performances, and powerful speeches from some of the most influential figures in the industry.

AWARD CATEGORIES AND HONOREES

Bikila's Social Impact Recognition: Celebrating **UofT's FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE, MOUNT SAINIA'S HOSPITAL TAAAC Team, and THE JESUITS OF CANADA** for their remarkable contributions to society, fostering community betterment locally and internationally, driving forward a diverse and equitable future.

The Order of the Shining Star of Ethiopia Medal: A prestigious honor bestowed upon **HAKIM WORKNEH ESHETE** who has made unparalleled contributions to the preservation and promotion of Ethiopian heritage and values to his nation and on the world stage.

Lifetime Achievement Award: Celebrating **LEUL RAS MENGESHA SEYOUM** whose lifelong dedication and contributions have profoundly impacted the developments of modern-day Ethiopia, inspiring generations to come.

Professional Excellence Award: Will be presented to **MESERET HAILEYESUS, ARTIST TEWODROS KASSAHUN (TEDDY AFRO), DR. TIRUSEW ASEFA, PAUL VANDERVENNEN, and DR. MENGISTU WOLDE,** Recognizing outstanding professionals who have reached the pinnacle of success in their careers, setting new standards of excellence. *Continued on page 2*

Business Excellence Award: Celebrating **DR. HENOK TESFAYE**, a trailblazing entrepreneur and business leader whose vision and determination have driven significant growth and innovation within their industries.

Community Service Excellence Award: Honoring **AMBAYE KIDANE** and **DEACON YOHANNES ALONZO** for their unwavering commitment to serving and uplifting their communities, which has created lasting positive change.

Academic Excellence Award: Recognizing **NUNU MEQUANINT**, **REBECCA GIRMA**, and **YETBAREK ASRAT**, exemplary students who have demonstrated exceptional academic achievements, embodying the values of hard work, perseverance, and excellence.

The evening will feature a keynote address by **DR. GORDON RIXON**, a renowned leader and President of Regis College, St. Michael's Faculty of Theology, University of Toronto, whose work continues to inspire and impact lives around the communities. The gala will be hosted by GOWN, African Scholars Awards winner, **FASIKA WOLDESENBET**, whose warmth and insight will guide guests through this unforgettable celebration.

JOIN US IN THE CELEBRATION:

This is more than just an awards ceremony – it is a celebration of the human spirit and the extraordinary potential within each of us. Don't miss your chance to be part of this momentous occasion. Tickets for the 10th Annual Bikila Awards and Gala Dinner are now available, but seats are limited. Secure your place at the biggest celebration of the year by contacting us at 416-709-5647, 647-833-5647, or 416-857-4820. Early reservations are highly recommended.

ABOUT THE ANNUAL BIKILA AWARDS:

Since its founding in 2014, the Annual Bikila Awards have become a beacon of recognition for individuals and organizations that exemplify the highest standards of excellence, innovation, and dedication. These awards symbolize honor, inspiration, and the ongoing pursuit of progress, both within the broader diaspora community and beyond.

For more information about the event and other updates, please visit our website www.bikilaaward.org.

CONTACT:

Tessema Mulugeta
President, Bikila Award
1-647-833-5647

Behailu Atnafu
Public Relations, Bikila Award
1-416-857-4820

**Email: contact@bikilaaward.org
bikilaaward@gmail.com**