

JA Grad Lecture

PROGRAM REPORT



2023-24



JA
British
Columbia

Member of
JA Canada

JA GRAD LECTURE OVERVIEW



UNLOCKING BOUNDLESS POSSIBILITIES IN BC YOUTH

On May 28, 2024, JA British Columbia hosted the inaugural JA Grad Lecture at Prince of Wales Secondary School in Vancouver. The event brought together 300 High School students, offering them a unique opportunity to gain real-world insights from Brian Hill, a distinguished alumnus of Prince of Wales from the class of 1978. Brian, Founder and Executive Chair of Aritzia, returned to his former school to share his inspiring entrepreneurial journey, offering a personal perspective on resilience and success in business.

The lecture was designed to connect students with one of British Columbia's most successful business figures, providing them with both inspiration and practical knowledge as they look ahead to their own careers. With the success of this first Grad Lecture, we look forward to continuing this series, empowering future graduates with vital skills and inspiration to thrive beyond high school.

“It's inspiring to see industry leaders like Brian Hill share their entrepreneurial journey with young minds. Looking forward to seeing how these students will shape the future of entrepreneurship with the wisdom they've gained!”

- Manuj Aggarwal, Founder, TetraNoodle Technologies



Program Highlights:

- Keynote Address: Brian Hill shared his entrepreneurial journey, discussing challenges and the importance of resilience in founding Aritzia.
- Q&A Session: A 40-minute live Q&A where students received practical advice from Brian Hill on entrepreneurship and leadership.
- JABC President & CEO Remarks: Sheila Biggers, co-hosted the event, highlighting the lecture series' role in preparing students for future opportunities.

BRIAN HILL: A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP



Brian Hill is the founder of Aritzia, a global fashion retailer he started in Vancouver in 1984 alongside his family. Over the years, he has grown the company into a major player in the industry, with more than 110 boutiques across North America and a robust eCommerce platform. Under his leadership, Aritzia has become a publicly traded company with a market value of \$3 billion and annual revenues surpassing \$2 billion.

Brian's impact goes beyond Aritzia's growth. He has shaped the careers of over 60,000 employees and is known for his expertise in operations, creative direction, and corporate strategy. His leadership has earned him accolades, including the Fraser Institute Founders' Award in 2022 and the Distinguished Retailer of the Year award in 2012. In 2024, he was inducted into the Business Laureates of BC Hall of Fame.



BLBC HALL OF FAME GALA DINNER AND INDUCTION CEREMONY

Brian Hill was among a group of eminent business leaders inducted into the BLBC Hall of Fame, celebrated at the 18th annual Business Laureates of BC Gala Dinner and Induction Ceremony on June 3, 2024, at the Vancouver Convention Centre. This prestigious event recognizes business leaders who have made significant contributions to British Columbia's business community. One hundred percent of the net proceeds from the Business Laureates of British Columbia Hall of Fame support the efforts of JABC in delivering work readiness, financial health, and entrepreneurship programs to youth in urban, rural, and Indigenous communities across the province.



JABC PRESENTS
BUSINESS LAUREATES
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
HALL OF FAME
They Built. We Benefit.

ABOUT JABC



JA British Columbia (JABC) is a not-for-profit impact organization that delivers hands-on, immersive education in work readiness, financial health, and entrepreneurship. Through JA, young people are equipped with the skillset and mindset to build thriving communities. Learn more at jabc.org.



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