

Interview with Ken Otto, MBA Distinguished Leader Award Recipient, 2015

Description

In this video, Ken Otto (HAFA '87) President, Family Dining Division & Chief Development Officer, CARA, shares his views on leadership and receiving the 2015 Distinguished Leader Award. The interview takes place in front of PJ's restaurant at the University of Guelph. Throughout the interview, Otto is standing outside in front of Macdonald Stewart Hall with the PJ's logo visible in the background.

The video starts with a title slide featuring the College of Business and Economics logo, name of the award and Ken's name and job title.

Transcript

I think most important characteristic of a great leader is curiosity. The ability to go into a job an organization or a problem or an opportunity with a very youth youthful lens and look at it for the very first time it's from looking at issues and problems or opportunities and finding out why something happens and if you if you drill deep enough there's always some really interesting insights that you can gather and people like it when you ask about their life or their job you know if you could walk into an office and I've done that many times in a new job and you just ask someone about what are they doing and why are they doing it and it's amazing if you just ask questions and simply listen how much you learn. The award is an amazing honour I've been very lucky in my career and I think a huge part of my growth has come through really helping others excel and I've been very lucky in my jobs I've watched young people and I've mentored them and I've coached them in a very dynamic industry and you know what I found out about this the honour of the award I kinda felt that it's a recognition of just kind of giving back and I'm very hopeful that this will also give me an opportunity to speak to more people to talk about the industry I think in many respects our industry is misunderstood and it needs a better brand and perhaps this designation will help me speak to those and develop hospitality as a career option for lots of folks both of the undergrad level and at the graduate level.

The video ends with the college's business plus leaders for a sustainable world logo followed by the official logo featuring the University of Guelph cornerstone.