



## **AI-powered, Future of Work Startup Working to Close the Skills Gap**

*New Unique Debt-free, Degree-free, and Lecture-free Model Develops Skills for the Future and Guarantees Interview with Employers*

For Immediate Release

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**Toronto, June 4, 2018** - Canadian startup, AudaciousYou, is launching the Future Skills Accelerator to provide over 100 candidates in the next year with top skills valued globally by leaders and employers. Upon successful completion, candidates are guaranteed an interview with one of the participating employers, which include Deloitte, Royal Bank of Canada, TD Canada Trust, CIBC and Sun Life Financial.

The Future Skills Accelerator is a new and innovative approach to bridging the education to employment gap. It is debt-free, requires no degree to apply, and shifts away from lecture-based, passive learning.

“We are developing in-demand skills for the future and guaranteeing an interview with an employer seeking talent with those skills,” said Hamoon Ekhtiari, CEO of Audacious Futures, which incubated AudaciousYou. “Bridging the talent and skills gaps in the rapidly changing world of work requires innovative solutions, which is why we are excited to have leading employers join us.”

“We’re committed to readying our next generation of leaders and we’ve made it a priority to support organizations like AudaciousYou,” said Ryan Brain, Managing Partner of Deloitte’s Toronto region. “We believe AudaciousYou has an innovative solution to help bridge the talent and skills gap in our country. We’re excited to be a part of it.”

“We are thrilled to be a part of such an exciting venture and help bring AudaciousYou’s vision to life,” said Emily Schur, SVP, Global Talent, Sun Life Financial. “This innovative and inclusive approach to helping prepare and develop future leaders for our rapidly changing world is inspiring and we’re excited by the opportunities it presents.”



Candidates will be introduced to a unique combination of technical skills such as data analysis and digital marketing, while honing critical human skills ranging from creative thinking and complex problem-solving to communication and collaboration. They will learn through working on real-world challenges supported by one-on-one coaching, peer support, and professional mentors.

Candidates will also receive personalized career and learning recommendations, powered by AI, based on their strengths, experiences, and skills.

Applications are now open for the first cycle of the Future Skills Accelerator, which will run from September to December 2018.

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