

Ric Elias Awarded Nish Jamgotch Jr. Humanitarian Award

April 6, 2015 – The Nish Jamgotch Jr. Humanitarian Award was awarded to Ric Elias, CEO and co-founder of Red Ventures, a marketing and sales powerhouse for some of the largest brands across North America.

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Ric co-founded Red Ventures in 2000, just days before the dot-com bubble burst. The company weathered the storm and by 2007 was ranked 4th on the Inc. 500 list. Today, Red Ventures employs more than 2,300 people and is poised for continued growth in 2015. Armed with his favorite motto, “What got us here won’t get us there,” Ric is constantly finding new ways to improve the company’s model, while maintaining its unique culture.



Elias (left) receiving The Nish Jamgotch Jr. Humanitarian Assistance and Innovation Award from Brian Collier, Executive Vice President, Foundation For The Carolinas.

Beyond Red Ventures, Ric focuses on creating equal educational opportunities for the more than two million undocumented youth in the U.S. In August 2012, he founded Golden Door Scholars (GDS), a nonprofit that creates educational and career opportunities for high-performing undocumented students. To date, GDS has sent 45 students – valedictorians, award-winning artists, athletes and community leaders – to the colleges of their choice.

"Educating undocumented students should not be a political issue; it's a human rights issue and it's also the right thing to do. By failing to support these students in their pursuit of higher education and professional success, we are squandering some of the richest talent our community has to offer," said Elias. "Golden Door Scholars builds on the investment our community makes in K-12 education by providing opportunities for exceptional students entering college and beyond."



Nish Jamgotch Jr.

The Nish Jamgotch Jr. Humanitarian Award is presented annually to an individual or group that demonstrates exceptional service to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community. Named for the retired UNC Charlotte professor who established the program, the Nish Jamgotch Jr. Humanitarian Award is facilitated by Foundation For The Carolinas. Previous award winners include Thereasea Elder, a public health pioneer who was among the first to integrate health care in our region.

In the words of Professor Jamgotch, “to be creative means to uncover something new; or to synthesize seemingly unrelated experiences in a fresh and inspiring way; or to provide a foundation for future intellectual and scientific breakthrough that can truly make a difference” and it is in this spirit that awards should be made.

The award includes a \$6,000 cash gift which was presented to Golden Door Scholars in Ric’s honor.

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