

## CEO for a Day

Odgers Berndtson and Ontario Power Generation

By Emma Donnelly

The day was filled with self-discovery, learning and meeting tons of new people. I was able to actually see what the day in a life of a CEO is actually like and see if it would be a goal I would like to set for myself someday. The day really showed me what a CEO truly does on a day to day basis and it actually helped alleviate some misconceptions I had prior about what the job entails.

I arrived at Cisco for 9 a.m. and was immediately taken in to meet Cisco President Nitin Kawale who I would be spending the day with. At this meeting we made introductions and then I was able to ask him some questions. I asked him about his leadership style, about his day-to-day activities and some more in-depth questions about his role.

Following my meeting with Nitin, I met with Paul Zed who is the Chairman of Nitin's Advisory Council. He took me around the office and introduced me to more people, telling everyone I was their boss for the day and that they should ask for a raise now! It was funny. After meeting with Paul, I met with David Heather, the Human Resources Manager for Canada. David was great, he answered all of my questions about HR in a corporate environment and also gave me some sound career advice.

After meeting David, I went into a meeting with Nitin where he was being given a status update by some of his employees. It was a great experience to shadow this meeting because I was able to listen and really test my knowledge and theory learned at UOIT to see if I could follow along the conversation.

After this meeting, Nitin and I were whisked in luxury in a Lincoln town car to their Scarborough location where there was an Emmy Award Celebration. Cisco won an Emmy for their PVR technology. After the Emmy luncheon, we went back to the office where I had a few more meetings with some individuals from Marketing, including a manager who lives in San Jose, California. I communicated with him via TelePresence which is basically Skype on steroids, it is so cool!

I wrapped up the busy day by doing some video interviews for Odgers Berndtson outlining my experience in the program.