

## This youth is in motion

Juan Antonio Sison  
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David Castelino is part of an elite group of youths under the age of 20.

The 19-year-old University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) chemical engineering student has been recognized by Youth in Motion as one of the most remarkable young people in the country for his invention of a special solar tile.

Each year, Youth in Motion, a Toronto-based youth mentoring charity, honours The Top 20 Under 20 for outstanding achievements in leadership, innovation and environmentalism. It's the seventh year the list has been generated.

Each winner receives \$5,000 as well as mentoring and a career coach for one year. Castelino caught the attention of judges with his Sol-tile product, a cheap organic form of harnessing solar energy. He says the solar cell uses plant pigments extracted from fruits, vegetables and even weeds.

The St. Aloysius Gonzaga Secondary School graduate says he conceived the idea at age 11, when his parents gave him a solar cell.

He was inspired to marry solar energy with plants because his parents are avid gardeners.

"I combined my passion for gardening, biology and plants with interest in solar cells," said Castelino, who just finished his second year at UTM.

He hopes his invention will one day be used in hospitals in third world countries.

Others in the top 20 include a two-time cancer survivor who raised more than \$83,000 for cancer research and an inventor who created a hybrid walker and wheelchair.

Castelino garnered additional praise last Thursday (June 30), when he won the Canada Foundation for Innovation Impact Award. He was presented with the award at a ceremony at Arcadia Court in Toronto. He collected \$2,000 for that honour.



**Top achiever.** David Castelino's Sol-tile invention, a cheap organic alternative to conventional solar tiles, was selected by Youth in Motion as one of Canada's top achievements of youths under age 20. *Photo by Jamie Buisman*