



**Bikila Award®**  
Promoting Excellence

## PRESS RELEASE

Toronto, Ontario, August 3, 2018

---

### **Bikila Award Board Members Selected to Receive the 2018 Arbor Award from the University of Toronto**

Bikila Award is pleased to inform our community and supporters in Toronto and around the world, the University of Toronto - Faculty of Arts & Science has selected the Board Members of Bikila Award for the University of Toronto's **Arbor Award**, which recognizes outstanding volunteer service in the community.

In a letter dated July 6, 2018, further states that ***“As committed volunteers, you have taken a leading role in educating and engaging the Ethiopian Canadian community about U of T’s interests and ambitions in Ethiopian history, language, and culture. Thanks to your great efforts, we have organized important events and discussions to promote a permanent place for Ethiopic Studies in Arts & Science.”***

The award ceremony will be held on **Monday, October 15, 2018**, and will be presented to **Tessema Mulugeta, Birku Menkir, Dr. Haregua Getu, Behailu Atnafu and Tamrat Gebeyehu** - posthumously.

We take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to the University of Toronto for this encouraging recognition of our volunteer service which in reality it is a recognition of the support of members of the Ethiopian Community. Thanks to you all who joined us and helped us all the steps of the way by donating your time and money to make it possible.

Not only that you have assisted us by participating in our annual Bikila Award Ceremony, Youth Leadership Conference and Bikila Barefoot Challenge, you sponsored and volunteered to make all the past events to be successful. We are hopeful that this encouragement and amazing co-operation will continue for the realization of the Bikila Award’s vision and beyond.

The University of Toronto’s Arbor Award which recognizes outstanding volunteer service is indeed a beacon to all of us to continuously remember the importance of volunteering in our communities.

This is particularly beneficial to the youth, volunteer service enhances their career advancement besides the personal satisfaction it generates. It has been said that giving is receiving. We urge the youth in our community to take note of the importance of volunteering by joining us as members of standing committees which ultimately would lead to being Board Members and community leaders.

Thank you for your attention.

Board of Directors, Bikila Award