



OCEA e-NEWS@ ~ OCTOBER 2024 EDITION

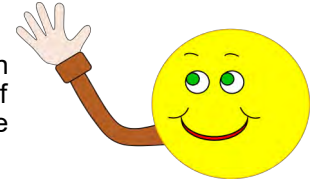
Ontario Cooperative Education Association | Stay Connected | oceacon.ca

Facilitating and Supporting the Exchange of Ideas Among Experiential Learning Professionals



Welcome back to the 2024-2025 school year from OCEA!

As we embark on another exciting school year, the Ontario Cooperative Education Association (OCEA) extends a warm welcome to each of you. On behalf of the Board of Directors and Provincial Representatives we hope that your summer provided ample opportunities for rejuvenation and reflection.



At OCEA, our commitment to fostering excellence in Cooperative Education, OYAP and all other forms of Experiential Learning remains steadfast. Since our establishment in 1976, we have continuously strived to provide leadership and vision for the professional development of our members across Ontario. Together, we amplify our voices, ensuring that our collective advocacy resonates strongly at provincial and local levels.

As we resume activities for the new academic term, we encourage you to renew your OCEA membership and invite your colleagues to join us as well. Through your membership, you have access to our exclusive **Resources+ Members Only** section that provides a wealth of curated materials such as collaborative curriculum documents and archived presentations from past events. Moreover, membership grants you the privilege to participate in our Annual Business Meeting (ABM), where your voice can shape the future direction of our vital subject association.

We invite you to stay informed with OCEA via our social media accounts:

[instagram.com/ocea_aeco/](https://www.instagram.com/ocea_aeco/)
[x.com/OCEA_AECO](https://twitter.com/OCEA_AECO)
[facebook.com/OCEA.AECO/](https://www.facebook.com/OCEA.AECO/)
[linkedin.com/in/ocea-aeco/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ocea-aeco/)

We look forward to another year of collaboration, innovation, and professional growth with each of you. Together, let us continue to advance the field of Cooperative Education, OYAP and all other forms of Experiential Learning in Ontario.

The **OCEA STUDENT CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT** for COOPERATIVE EDUCATION and / or EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING are available on-line ONLY in the **RESOURCES+ Members' Only** section.

The certificates are provided in an interactive PDF format. OCEA members can download the PDF file from the Members' Only Resource section, insert the student's name, add the date and print to present to their student. OCEA members are instructed to print (2) two copies per school year.

Please note, however, that THESE STUDENT CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT ARE NOT AWARDS and should not be represented as such to post-secondary school officials, students, parents and/or placement supervisors. Rather, the Student Certificates allow you, the educator, to acknowledge exemplary student success in their secondary school Cooperative Education and/or Experiential Learning program in a formal manner.

CAPTURING THE STUDENT VOICE@

Do you have a student who would like to share their success at a placement? We are always looking for stories in the following areas:

- ◆ Dual Credits and Co-op
- ◆ Successful OYAP / Co-op
- ◆ Successful SHSM / Co-op
- ◆ Successful Special Ed. Co-op (non-earning credits)
- ◆ Successful Co-op





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EVENT #1:

2024 VIRTUAL OCEA FALL SYMPOSIUM

Collaborate – Integrate – Innovate!

Virtual Online ~ Via ZOOM

November 7th, 2024

Save the Date for the 2024 Virtual OCEA Fall Symposium!

Calling all educators new to Cooperative Education, OYAP and Experiential Learning – **MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for an exciting opportunity to **Collaborate – Integrate – Innovate** with OCEA!



Date: Thursday, November 7th, 2024



Location: Virtual ~ Online ~ Via ZOOM

Join us for a dynamic one-day event designed to enhance your professional journey. Discover new strategies, connect with peers, and gain insights that will empower your practice.

Register Online Now! Let's shape the future of education together!

#OCEAFallSymposium #CoopEducation #OYAP #ExperientialLearning #ProfessionalDevelopment

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT!

Join us as a **Sponsor** for the **2024 Virtual OCEA Fall Symposium!**

We are excited to announce that the **2024 Virtual OCEA Fall Symposium** will take place on **November 7, 2024**. We are inviting you to become a valued **sponsor** of this engaging online event.

As a **sponsor**, your organization will receive exclusive promotional opportunities across all our media channels. Benefits include:

- **Recognition during the symposium:** Your logo and acknowledgment will be featured prominently in our visual materials throughout the event.
- **Website Promotion:** Your **sponsorship** will be highlighted on our website, <https://oceacon.ca/>, reaching our community of educators and stakeholders.
- **Exclusive Post in OCEA e-NEWS:** You will be recognized in our January 2025 edition of **OCEA e-NEWS**, which is distributed to all our members and contacts.

Sponsoring the **2024 Virtual OCEA Fall Symposium** not only enhances your organization's visibility but also demonstrates your commitment to professional development for educators dedicated to helping students succeed.

We invite you to join us in making this symposium a success! If you are interested in becoming a **sponsor** or would like more information, please contact us at oceacon@rogers.com.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to support education and professional development.

Together, let's empower educators and inspire student success!

The Ontario Cooperative Education Association (OCEA) is a not-for-profit professional organization of Ontario Cooperative Education and Experiential Learning Professionals. It strives to provide the leadership and vision needed for optimal professional development of its members. The Association also develops and facilitates access to information, resources and other supports relevant to OCEA members and other Experiential Learning Professionals in the province of Ontario, while supporting excellence in the education of all students in Ontario.



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EVENT #2

2025 OCEA SPRING CONFERENCE

Sheraton and Best Western Parkway Toronto North Hotel
600 Highway 7, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 1B2

April 27th, 28th and 29th, 2025

Save the Date for the **2025 OCEA Spring Conference**, where inspiration meets innovation in Cooperative Education, OYAP, SHSM and all other forms of Experiential Learning!

 **Date:** April 27th, 28th, 29th, 2025



Location: Sheraton and Best Western Parkway Toronto North Hotel in Richmond Hill.

Join us for this in-person gathering where educators, administrators, and industry leaders converge to share best practices, explore emerging trends, and collaborate on the future of Cooperative Education, OYAP, SHSM and all other forms of Experiential Learning!

Stay tuned for more details on registration, keynote speakers, and enriching workshops that will elevate your professional growth in the coming months!

Save the date and get ready to be inspired! See you there!

#OCEASpringConference #CoopEducation #OYAP #SHSM #ExperientialLearning #ProfessionalDevelopment

The Cooperative Education (Co-op) course lies at the heart of the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) and the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program -- all three play a pivotal role in shaping student success and career readiness.

Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP): OYAP offers secondary school students the opportunity to begin apprenticeship training while completing their high school diploma. Cooperative Education (Co-op) placements through OYAP enable students to work alongside skilled tradespeople, gaining practical experience and accumulating apprenticeship hours. This early exposure to the trades not only accelerates their journey towards becoming certified journeypersons but also facilitates a smoother transition into the workforce post-graduation. For more information visit: <https://www.oyappajo.com/> and <https://www.ontario.ca/page/prepare-apprenticeship>.

Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM): SHSM programs integrate rigorous academic learning with specialized training and real-world experience in key economic sectors. There are 19 sectors such as business, arts and culture, aviation/aerospace to name a few. Cooperative Education (Co-op) placements within SHSM allow students to apply classroom knowledge in authentic workplace settings. This hands-on approach not only enhances technical skills but also fosters critical soft skills such as teamwork, communication, and problem-solving. SHSM provide students with a pathway to explore career interests, earn valuable industry certifications, and graduate with a competitive edge in post-secondary education and the workforce. For more information visit: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/specialist-high-skills-major>

Both OYAP and SHSM are instrumental in bridging the gap between education and employment, equipping students with the knowledge, skills, and industry connections necessary for future success. By integrating Cooperative Education (Co-op) experiences into these programs, Ontario fosters a skilled workforce prepared to meet the demands of a dynamic and evolving economy.

Cooperative Education (Co-op) truly forms the cornerstone of OYAP and SHSM, empowering students to explore their career passions, gain practical skills, and embark on meaningful pathways towards their professional aspirations.