

APRIL 2020



CAPTURING THE STUDENT VOICE

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*The purpose of learning is growth, and our minds, unlike our bodies, can continue growing as we continue to live.
~ Mortimer Adler*

WHAT'S NEW ON OUR WEBSITE?

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"CAPTURING THE STUDENT VOICE"

is an electronic journal that includes success stories written by students from across Ontario, who participate in Experiential Learning programs such as Cooperative Education, OYAP, SHSM, etc., in their high school. These stories describe their placement experience, the tasks they had to complete, challenges overcome and the benefits they derived. Thank you for taking the time to read these inspiring stories and maybe even share yours!

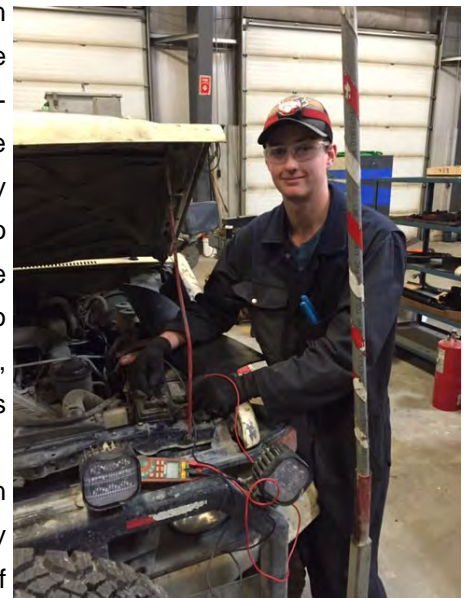
A HANDS-ON POINT OF VIEW

Submitted by: Zach Belisle, ÉSC Champlain, Conseil scolaire catholique du Nouvel-Ontario

My name is Zach Belisle, and I am currently completing my 12th Grade at l'École secondaire catholique Champlain. I started my Co-op placement in September on the electrical side at Total Equipment Service Inc. (TES). I truly enjoy my placement with the guys at TES Inc. I got to learn from a hands-on point of view how the equipment functions from bolters, to rock-trucks, to yard scoops and mine-runners. While in the shop, I've been able to learn how the ladder diagrams and branch diagrams work.

I've been able to use all the information from the certifications I have received with my Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) in the field of industrial electrician. I'm proud to say that I have started my apprenticeship in the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP).

I would like to give a big thanks to Clayton for allowing me to begin my apprenticeship at Total Equipment Service Inc. Also, a huge thanks to Brad and Kris and the entire team at Total Equipment Service Inc. for showing me around the shop and teaching me about this awesome trade!



SHSM STUDENT COMPLETES CO-OP IN LABOUR AND DELIVERY UNIT

Submitted on behalf of: Brooke Murphy, St. Mary Catholic SS, Hamilton-Wentworth CDSB

Deciding on a career, especially in high school, can be nerve-racking, to say the least. But for Brooke Murphy, a Grade 12 student at St. Mary Catholic Secondary School, she's already mapping out her future. "I want to be a nurse," she said. "Just like my mom."

A Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program offered at the school is helping Murphy follow in her mom's footsteps. The program, which is in its 13th year, offers successful students a Red Seal Designation on their Ontario Secondary School Diploma that recognizes their sector, said SHSM Counsellor Nancy Castura. "The SHSM Program includes two mandatory credits of cooperative education, CPR, first aid and infection control, WHMIS and other certifications according to the sector."



Currently, there are six SHSM sectors offered at St Mary, which include Business, Construction, Energy, Health and Wellness, Non-Profit and Community Development and Transportation with a possibility of a future Arts and Culture sector.

Murphy is completing her SHSM Co-op at the McMaster Children's Hospital in the Labour and Delivery unit. "Everyone here has been so inclusive," said Murphy, who noted the staff she's interacted with have gone above and beyond taking her in and teaching her about their role. A highlight, she gushed, has been holding a 12-hour baby. "This community partnership in health care is mutually beneficial for Hamilton Health Sciences as a teaching hospital and for our students who can gain real life working skills in an industry setting," said Castura.

The Co-op, which runs from September to December, has allowed Brooke to shadow the working links of the unit that allow for operations to run smoothly. Even something as simple as filing, Murphy noted, plays a vital role in the efficiency of the department. "You get to see the business side of everything and how everything is connected and relies on the other."

Murphy has also had an opportunity to observe nurses prepare medicine for the newborns and take blood samples. "Everything have to be so precise because they are so small," she said. Bathing babies also has a specific set of instructions, she added, because of how fragile they are. "You have to hold the head steady and wash it separately from the rest of the body."

As the Co-op continues, Murphy hopes to absorb as much information as possible to help ready her for her post-secondary career, which includes applying for the nursing program at McMaster University. "I want to come back and work here," she said. "It's a great facility."

*"The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives."
~ Robert M. Hutchins*

CO-OP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH GRYPHONS MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM

Submitted on behalf of: Cole Keating, Guelph CVI, Upper Grand DSB

Cole Keating is a Grade 12 Co-op student at Guelph CVI. He is a Sports Specialist High Skills Major student and completed a Co-op in Grade 11 at a local fitness club. Cole has played hockey since he was 5 years old and is an avid Guelph Storm fan. This year, he got the opportunity to work at his dream Co-op placement, with the University of Guelph Gryphons Men's Hockey Team. He is working as an assistant to the Gryphons' Equipment Manager, Dave Storey.

He works with Dave before, during and after practices, setting up the required equipment, filling water bottles, and helping players adjust their equipment. Between practices, Cole helps with laundering and cleaning uniforms, packing up for games, and learning how to perform maintenance and repairs on skates and equipment. Cole is also learning what Dave calls the "art" of skate sharpening. Cole's background in Manufacturing class has given him a bit of experience and confidence going into learning this skill.

After all that preparation, it should come as no surprise that Cole's favourite part of his Co-op is the games. He rides the bus with the team and has travelled to universities all over Ontario with them. He works the defensive door for line changes and supports Dave and the players with any equipment issues that arise. As Cole prepares for a career in Sports Equipment Management, he is grateful for the opportunity to learn about the job, and develop some of the required skills and knowledge: "What I like most is being in a hockey rink for 6 or more hours each day, and working with players I've grown up watching my whole life. It also makes me happy that I get along with every player and coach, and with the team staff. It's been a dream of mine to be an equipment manager for the last four years and now I have the opportunity."



SIMULATION LAB AT HEALTH SCIENCES NORTH

Submitted by: Karissa Kavanagh, ÉSC Champlain, Conseil scolaire catholique du Nouvel-Ontario

My name is Karissa Kavanagh, and I am currently in Grade 11 at l'École secondaire catholique Champlain.

This year I've decided to complete a Cooperative Education placement at Health Sciences North (HSN) in Sudbury in the Cancer Centre. I enjoy my placement very much, and I would like to pursue my education in a nursing program in the future.

When I walk into the Cancer Centre in the morning, I feel confident that I will know how to reassure patients when receiving news. Prior to this semester, I did not know much about the realities of cancer.

I am also learning a lot during our monthly outings at the Simulation Lab in Sudbury, on-site at the Memorial Hospital. I have learned several topics such as intubation, CPR, x-ray, infections and heart trauma. In addition, I completed many certifications at school towards my Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) in Health and Wellness.

This experience of being able to do my placement at HSN is a real honour, and I can't thank Angela Corsi-Raso enough for letting me be a part of the volunteer team at the Cancer Centre.



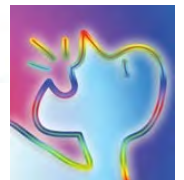
One learns by doing a thing; for though you think you know it, you have no certainty until you try.
- Sophocles

CRITERIA: CAPTURING THE STUDENT VOICE

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

- ⇒ Dual-Credit 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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Criteria:

1. Submit student(s) story(ies) by May 31st (annually) via email to OCEA@rogers.com;
2. Ensure the article is no more than 350 words in length;
3. Teachers' are asked to edit students' article(s) for grammar, spelling, sentence structure, etc.
4. Submit one picture of the student at their placement (high-resolution (300 dpi) jpg format)
5. Complete and submit the [Photo and Model Release Agreement Form](#).

WOMEN, GET INVOLVED IN THE TRADES!

Submitted by: Patrina Brooks, Trenton High School, Hastings and Prince Edward DSB

My name is Patrina Brooks, I am 17-year-old student at Trenton High School and I started working in the drywall trade in the summer of 2018. A man I train Brazilian jujitsu with owns “Knell Custom Drywall” and I had mentioned to him that I was interested in dry walling for Co-op the next year and he was all for it! He asked if I wanted to start in the summer before coming back for Co-op and I agreed.

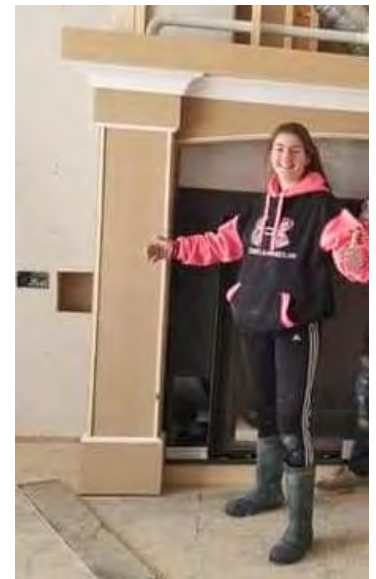
I’m currently back at “Knell Custom Drywall” as a Co-op student and I couldn’t be having more fun! It’s hard work but I absolutely love physically putting things together, especially when it’s going to be someone’s home! I take pride in my work and the process can be difficult but overall, it’s something I love doing. I have learned so many new skills when it comes to the home building process, it’s incredible. Not only have I been installing and taping drywall, but I have had the opportunity to learn all kinds of things about building homes like installing insulation, windowsills, crown moulding, wainscoting, flooring and more!

I’m in my graduating year and my plan right now is to take a year off to continue dry walling so that I can learn more about the trade and save money so I can then pursue a post-secondary education in 2020. By doing this, I will always have something to fall back on, although, I am loving my job and who I work with so this may just end up being permanent. These are great skills to have in life and working in the trades also teaches you to have a good work ethic and character. I highly recommend to anyone, women especially, to get involved in the trades!

The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why.
~ Mark Twain

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***Nothing ever becomes real till it is experienced.***  
~ John Keats



## CO-OP PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCOVER NEW PASSIONS!

*Submitted by: Gillian Hazzard, Bishop Tonnos Catholic SS, Hamilton-Wentworth CDSB*

Cooperative Education is a program that provides students with an out of classroom experience and opportunity to explore their interests in a field of work. I am currently a student at Bishop Tonnos Catholic Secondary School (HWCDSD) and have been involved in two Co-op placements during high school.

I completed a Co-op placement at Meridian Bank and now I am currently enrolled in a placement with Jamie McMillan of KickAss Careers. KickAss Careers is an organization that is devoted to promoting and making aware the options available for a future in the skilled trades. My placement involves taking over KickAss Careers' social media accounts as well as creating and posting content to attract an audience that will hear their message. I have attended multiple events with Jamie where I have been able to witness her incredibly inspiring presentations. At these events I was able to observe Jamie's networking skills as she connects with various individuals.



During my placement I have been given different research tasks to assist KickAss Careers in expanding its platforms and promoting KickAss' merchandise. This placement has also given me the opportunity to learn skills in business such as marketing, time management, responsibility and networking. All of which have allowed me to grow as an individual and taught me many skills that have been applicable to my everyday life. These Co-op experiences have impacted my life and inspired me to pursue business in my post-secondary career. This program has provided me with a better understanding of the qualities I need to successfully achieve my goals for the future.

I recommend the Co-op program for all youths in the process of determining their future in the workplace. Co-op provides an opportunity to discover new passions one might never know had they not gotten the pleasure of working with such inspiring, driven and hardworking people like Jamie McMillan.

***What we learn to do, we learn by doing.  
- Thomas Jefferson***

## TRICK-MIC'S LEGACY

*Submitted on behalf of : Haley Mirault, F.J. McElligott SS, Near North DSB*

It's unlikely that you've ever heard of the legendary Trick-Mic, but to his granddaughter, Haley Mirault, he's a hero. When Haley was a little girl playing in Trick-Mic's garage, she imagined herself making the same diagnoses and repairs as her late-grandfather: "He'd give me toy tools, and I'd really believe I was working on a tire with him," she said. Haley's passion followed her all the way to F.J. McElligott Secondary School in the Near North District School Board, where her student success team encouraged her to take the Automotive Service Technician Level One Apprenticeship dual credit program at Canadore College together with a Co-op at a local garage to round out her academic year.

As a student who struggles in a traditional classroom, Haley sees very clearly the benefits of taking a dual credit and a Co-op in the same semester: "Everyone thinks I'm taking the easy way out doing it this way because I'm not at our school every day, but they don't see it first hand," she asserts. "I lose focus easily when something is new to me or I'm asked to understand by reading a book, so getting a lot of hands on learning directly in front of me allows me to get more knowledge. When I'm at Co-op or in the shop and I can see right in front of me something that I will need to be able to do later, I'm already ahead. When it comes to this trade, I am fully engaged."



Haley's skill set doesn't just include knowing how to tap holes to properly thread drill bits, though; she has also come to value the importance of communicating this process, seeing improvement in her ability to verbalize the steps she's learning and teaching those steps to others: "My goal is to be fluent when talking about the trade – to be able to explain it to others – something I couldn't do before I came here," she said.

When asked what advice she had for students considering taking a dual credit, Haley didn't want them to let their fear of transitioning from high school to college get in their way: "At first, I thought I'd have to prove myself, but it's not scary once you're actually here. The idea is scarier than the reality. Go for it!"

***"Tell me and I will forget. Show me and I will learn. Involve me and I will understand" ~  
Teton Lakota***

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### **CAPTURING THE STUDENT VOICE®**

A newsletter published for the members of the Ontario Cooperative Education Association

### **LA VOIX DES ÉLÈVES®**

Un bulletin d'information pour les membres de l'Association de l'éducation coopérative de l'Ontario

### **OCEA MISSION STATEMENT** *"Facilitating and supporting the exchange of ideas among Experiential Learning Professionals"*

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.

### **ÉNONCÉ DE MISSION DE L'AÉCO**

*« Aider et encourager l'échange d'idées entre les professionnels de l'apprentissage par l'expérience »*

L'Association de l'éducation coopérative de l'Ontario (AÉCO) est une association professionnelle, sans but lucratif, qui regroupe des professionnels de l'éducation coopérative et autres formes d'apprentissage par l'expérience. Elle s'efforce de fournir un leadership et une vision nécessaires au développement professionnel optimal de ses membres. De plus, l'association contribue au développement de ressources, en facilite l'accès, et fournit des renseignements actuels et pratiques à ses membres et aux autres professionnels de l'apprentissage par l'expérience en Ontario, tout en soutenant l'excellence en éducation de tous les élèves de la province.

### **CAPTURING THE STUDENT VOICE® IS PUBLISHED ONCE EACH YEAR BY THE ONTARIO COOPERATIVE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (OCEA)**

*Subscription is included with a yearly OCEA membership.*

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### **LA VOIX DES ÉLÈVES® EST PUBLIÉE UNE FOIS PAR ANNÉE PAR L'ASSOCIATION DE L'ÉDUCATION COOPÉRATIVE DE L'ONTARIO (AÉCO)**

*L'abonnement est compris dans l'adhésion annuelle comme membre de l'AÉCO.*

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English Editorial Staff / Équipe éditoriale anglophone : Jerry Slobojan

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Desktop Publishing / Édition informatisée : Carol Madsen