



CAPTURING THE STUDENT VOICE®

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"CAPTURING THE STUDENT VOICE®" is an electronic journal that showcases stories written and submitted by Ontario high school students who have participated in a Cooperative Education course. The stories describe the tasks that were completed, the challenges overcome and the benefits they derived from their Cooperative Education placements.

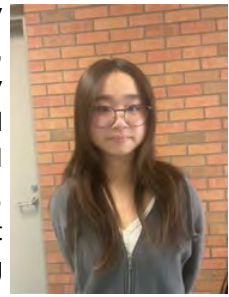
PLEASE NOTE: *These stories are in the student's own words and the articles have not been edited in any way, to maintain the true spirit of "CAPTURING THE STUDENT VOICE®".*

Thank you for taking the time to read these inspiring stories and we hope that you will encourage your students to share their stories for publication in our next edition!

CO-OP AT U+ EDUCATION AS A DIGITAL CONTENT CREATOR

By: Alenna Chua, Markville SS, York Region DSB

I work at U+ Education as a Digital Content Creator, and my experience at U+ Education has been nothing but a delight, characterized by comfort and positivity coming from everyone at my workplace. Everyone was really welcoming, and it made me feel comfortable from the start. I was not afraid to ask questions when I was in doubt as my supervisor was very patient with me. In addition, through all the work I have done at U+ Education, I could tell they put a lot of effort and thought into their company to provide a fun learning experience to children.



The task I had to do at the start was more research based, where I gave suggestions on how to improve the company by comparing it to similar companies. We then shifted to complete our individual tasks within our sector. I have worked in the digital content creation team generating new TikTok and YouTube ideas, filming and editing videos, and more. We are given four new topics to film and edit every week, which allows me to constantly enhance my skills as a Digital Content Creator.

In late-April to early May, I participated in a small contest that was held in the Digital Content Creator sector, where we each had to create flyers and an outstanding video to promote our company's summer courses, and I won! I thoroughly enjoyed filming and >>>

*"A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new."
— Albert Einstein*

2024 Virtual OCEA Fall Symposium
Online via ZOOM
November 7th, 2024

2025 OCEA Spring Conference
Sheraton Parkway Toronto North
April 27th, 28th & 29th, 2025

...CO-OP AT U+ EDUCATION AS A DIGITAL CONTENT CREATOR

editing my own video but also watching other people's videos to learn from them to improve my skills even more.

Throughout the term, we also did personal skill improvement tasks (e.g., elevator pitch) and had to work in a group with other Co-op students virtually. I had to learn to manage my time and responsibilities between co-op and schoolwork and had many opportunities to improve my research skills, public speaking skills, and collaboration skills. It was a new experience, and I am very grateful for this Co-op placement!

MY CO-OP EXPERIENCE AT BARTON TRUCK SERVICE

By: Dylan Legare, Bishop Ryan Catholic SS, Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic DSB

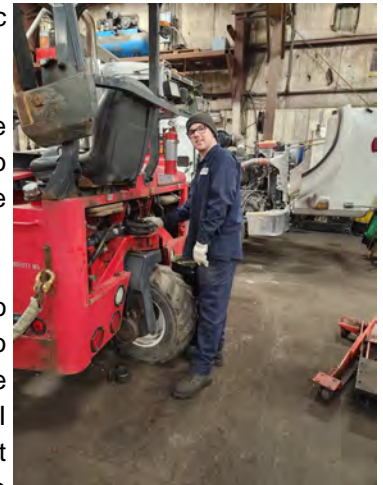
My name is Dylan Legare and I am a Co-op student from Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School in Hamilton. My Co-op teacher is Mr. Piro.

My Co-op placement was at Barton Truck Service as a SHSM student in the Transportation Sector and OYAP. My career is especially important to me because I do not want to be sitting in an office or behind a desk all day, I would much rather be working on trucks and learning new things everyday.

I learned many things at my Co-op placement such as, how much it takes for a trailer to pass a safety or how a trailer must have a document holder on it. Also, I learned how to lift tires using a crowbar and a foot because you cannot lift the big truck tire or how there is a certain tool that lifts brake drums. I took Co-op to help me make sure this is what I want to do for my future because last year I did have a Co-op and was at a different place for 310S, but I was not sure if I wanted to do 310S (Automotive Service Technician) or 310T (Truck and Coach Technician).

This Co-op placement has helped me decide that I want to work on heavy trucks. At Barton Truck Service I learned many new skills such as, I replaced a water pump on a truck, and worked on Moffetts and cranes. Most the work I helped with in cranes was replacing hydraulic lines that had holes in them or lines that were leaking. I also had to take the hydraulic tank off as it needed to be welded because it had a hole in it. I also helped with a basic inspection on a truck.

This is what I would I want to do in the future because one of my passions is to work on vehicles and learn and get better at what I do every day. Something I learned about this field is that everyday - no matter how much you think you know - you learn something new everyday, or you learn an easier way to do something, but the most important thing is to do it right the first time. At my Co-op placement, one of things I was told was to "try your hardest to learn electrical because it is the hardest thing to do."



*"Believe you can and you're halfway there."
— Theodore Roosevelt*

MY CO-OP PLACEMENT WITH EARLYON

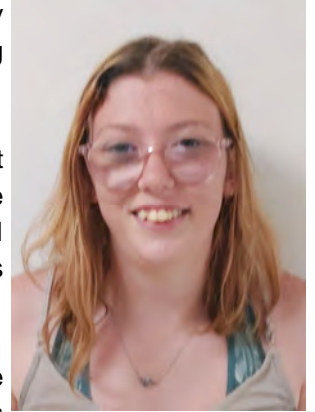
By: Emily Howard, East Northumberland SS, Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB

My Cooperative Education experience was incredibly good for me. When I first started my Cooperative Education placement with EarlyON, I felt happy because I really enjoy working with little kids.

I had never taken a Cooperative Education course before, so I felt a little nervous about meeting and talking with my supervisor. My first day went well and I learned over my time working there. I felt prepared because my teachers helped me create my resume and I completed my health and safety certifications. The placement was great too because it was attached to my school.

I am thankful that I had the chance to take the Cooperative Education course and work in the Early Childhood Education Sector. I want this to be my career when I finish school and this Cooperative Education placement gave me an idea of what it is like to work with little children and families.

I was successful in this placement because I was able to plan fun crafts and activities for the kids. For example, on Earth Day I co-planned and led a bird feeder craft and it went very well.



“Teaching is the one
profession that creates
all other professions.”
-Unknown

*"The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little extra."
— Jimmy Johnson*

MY CO-OP PLACEMENT AT ST. CECILIA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

By: Francheska Tubiera, St Thomas Aquinas Catholic SS, Simcoe Muskoka Catholic DSB

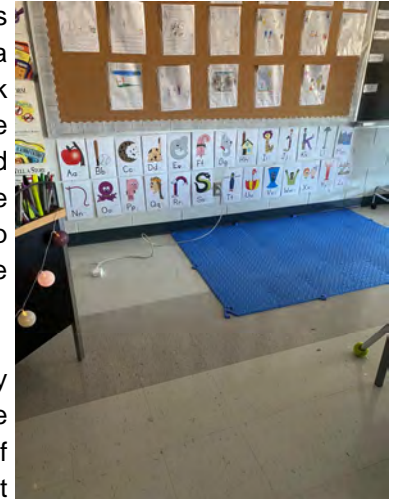
My name is Francheska Tubiera. I am a grade 12 student at St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School in Tottenham. I took Cooperative Education as a requirement for my secondary school's SHSM in leadership. In elementary, I took French Immersion every year for seven years and loved it, leading me to continue French in high school. I truly admired the methods my grade 11 French teacher would use to help the class fully learn the language, inspiring me to do the same and become a French teacher. In consultation with my Co-op teacher, I realized that a Co-op placement at my sister's elementary school—St. Cecilia—would help me gain experience in the educational field.

I was fortunate to be placed in a wonderful grade 2/3 class where I had the opportunity to work alongside two teachers with different teaching styles. After five weeks, the original teacher moved to another school and there was a new teacher for the rest of the year. Observing both of their teaching styles prompted me to think critically about my own approach to teaching.

One challenge that came with this placement was coming out of my comfort zone when it came to interacting with younger children. I did not think I was good at making kids comfortable, but the students warmed up to me quickly. To this day, when I see the students and parents, they still remind me of how much they appreciated my work.

While doing Co-op, I applied and was recently admitted to York Glendon's concurrent education program, which is a program that has been my top choice since it was recommended to me by my grade 11 English teacher. If it were not for the grade 2s and 3s at St. Cecilia, I would not have even thought about teaching elementary school.

These children have changed my life. Engaging with them daily brought me so much joy. I am so grateful that I was able to spend time in their classroom getting to know them! I am eager to visit one day and see how much they have changed since my last day at Co-op.



Take the attitude of a student, never be too big to ask questions, never know too much to learn something new.

Og Mandino

*“Learning is not attained by chance; it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence.”
— Abigail Adams*

MY STORY IS A FAMILY STORY

By: Isaiah Vincent Giacomo Donato, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic HS, Simcoe Muskoka Catholic DSB

I cannot help but find the roots of my story in my family history. When I think back to the start of my high school years, what remains clear and overwhelming is how much my family has been present throughout every decision and moment. My grandparents, my parents and my uncles and aunts all have contributed in one way or another to my travels and my achievements. I am truly thankful for the people who have surrounded me and directed me.

I grew up on a small farm, my mom and dad raised laying hens for eggs, poultry as meat birds and grew crops like corn, pumpkins, strawberries and beans to sell at our farm gate. I can say that I was exposed to hard work from very early on and my father did not shy away from getting me involved and teaching me what it means to get to work and not be afraid to get my hands dirty. In retrospect, this is all important because my history has provided me with a good work ethic that I have brought into my Co-op/OYAP placement.

From the very beginning of my school years with Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board, my mom and dad always maintained the importance of my schoolwork and the completion of all my tasks; these years were difficult and certainly not my favorite, but I got through them and arrived at my gr.11 year. I always preferred hands-on work over academic work and at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School the Co-op program was just what I was looking for; for me the opportunity to work in shop class, construction class and then to end my school years in a Co-op placement was an easy decision and a natural progression of my own growth and achievements.

Nearing the end of my Co-op placement, I was gifted with the extra efforts of my teachers: Mrs. Theresa Birmingham and Mr. Bryan De Longhi. Both of them coordinated their efforts to then enroll me in the OYAP program; this meant that immediately following the successful completion of my Co-op placement I would be given the opportunity to also enroll as a candidate in the OYAP program and immediately begin a paid position at Trillium Ford in Alliston as a Lube and General Labourer; this was exactly what I had hoped, and I am grateful. What surprises me most is that all the hours I have spent in my Co-op placement are now also a contribution to my apprenticeship program hours that I will enroll in after one full year of full-time work with Trillium Ford in Alliston Ontario.

Beyond my teachers and my parents who have guided me in this long adventure, I need to express my gratitude to Gary Carvin, the Assistant Service Manager at Trillium Ford; he is a gentleman. He provided me with real experience, guidance, suggestions and encouragement; it was Gary who encouraged me to consider a full-time position at Trillium Ford and it was Gary who took me on as an apprentice in his shop; Thank you Gary!



*"Nine-tenths of education is encouragement."
— Anatole France*

KICKSTART TO MY CAREER IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE SECTOR

By: Jonathan Medina, East Norhumberland SS, Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB

Cooperative Education (Co-op) and the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) are fantastic opportunities, and I am very grateful for the learning and experiences I have had through these programs. I have been given a kickstart to my career in the Automotive Service Sector. These programs have provided me with a unique chance to gain valuable hands-on experience in a real workplace setting. They supported me to explore the trade and pathway I want to pursue. I was able to develop and refine many workplace skills needed to be successful, all with the support of my Co-op teacher, college teachers and my workplace supervisors.



Working as an automotive technician is an incredibly rewarding experience. I have had the opportunity to diagnose and repair vehicles, troubleshoot complex issues, and see the direct impact of my work. Being able to work hands-on with cars, learning about their systems, and using specialized tools to fix problems was both challenging and exciting.

I have learned that the automotive technician field is one that has continuous learning opportunities. With the changing technology and the evolving of vehicles, the Automotive Service Technician must keep up! I really like how this field has opportunities to continue to learn and grow.

Overall, as an Automotive Service Technician, I have developed a sense of pride as I learn to master the various specialized skills. It is rewarding to be able to problem solve and work through an issue with a vehicle, and to be able to see the finished result when it has been repaired. I appreciate the opportunities that the Co-op and OYAP program have given me.

CRITERIA: CAPTURING THE STUDENT VOICE©

“[Capturing the Student Voice©](#)” is an electronic journal that includes success stories written by students from across Ontario who participated in the Cooperative Education program and other forms of Experiential Learning (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!

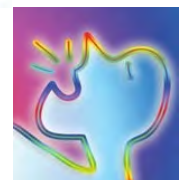
Do you have a student who would like to share their success at a placement? We are looking for stories in the following areas:

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

The
Spirit of
COOPERation

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 student articles 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](#).



MY CO-OP EXPERIENCE AT BLUE WILLOW PUBLIC SCHOOL

By: Sneh Kaushal, Woodbridge College, York Region DSB

Many times, throughout my life, I've been asked the question "What do you want to be when you grow up?" When I was five years old, I wanted to be a fashion designer, then a lawyer and by age thirteen I decided to pursue teaching. In September of 2023, that dream came true. As a part of my Cooperative Education experience, I had the opportunity to work in a kindergarten classroom at Blue Willow Public School.



My first few weeks in the classroom were focused on familiarizing myself with routines and developing appropriate communication skills to be better able to support young learners. I spent quite a bit of my time talking to them, learning their names, and just really getting to know them.

Over the next few months, I earned their trust and built deep and meaningful relationships with each one of them. I led multiple activities with small groups, some of which I planned myself, and some with the support of my supervisor. Eventually, I took over weekly journals and led many mini literacy, math and visual art activities. The high energy level of the kids made me happier and more excited to come to work every day.



Ms. Czaniecki's class was the first classroom that I had ever been so involved in that I could really see and call myself a teacher. This experience brought out the best of me and taught me how to cherish the little things in life. I enjoyed every minute of my experience. I learned so much throughout the entirety of this experience and am genuinely so proud of myself for being dedicated to this work and understanding my impact on the lives of young ones. Waking up early and going to Blue Willow Public School to pursue my passion of becoming a teacher became my life, and I wouldn't trade the relationships I've built for anything in the world. I am so thankful to all of those who have worked with me throughout this process and acknowledge that this is just the start of my journey as an educator.

**TO TEACH IS TO LEARN
TWICE OVER.**

— JOSEPH JOUBERT

*"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."
— Dr. Seuss*

MY CO-OP EXPERIENCE AT “BOOKS IN LINE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES INC.”

By: Kamshayaa Thayananthakumar, Courtice Secondary School, Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB

My name is Kamshayaa Thayananthakumar, I am a grade 11 student at Courtice Secondary School in Courtice, Ontario. I had an incredible experience at my Co-op placement, Professional Services Inc. I gained more insight into my future career as an accountant by collaborating with professional bookkeepers. Reflecting on the last several months, I've improved my efficiency and skill level in data entry, tax return preparation, research, and overall communication with colleagues and clients.

My wonderful supervisor and colleagues made me feel welcome from the first day. I gained practical experience working as a bookkeeper in the finance industry, which made my placement experience valuable. I saw how respect, patience, and communication were essential in every aspect of the day. This promoted a safe environment for both staff and clients. During my time at Books In Line, I had a range of tasks to complete. In addition to assisting my supervisor with tax returns, entering data into Excel spreadsheets, and refining my research skills, I had the opportunity to participate in seminars and workshops conducted by our CEO, Shaelene McInnis and compose articles for her magazine.

Indeed, there were challenges that I endured along the way, but the most challenging one was finding efficient methods to enter data into spreadsheets. I took the initiative to watch videos on Excel shortcuts since I was unfamiliar with Excel to provide my team with the greatest support possible (I am used to doing journal entries, financial statements, etc. on paper). After overcoming this obstacle, I quickly input data and relieved some of my colleagues' workload.

In conclusion, my Co-op experience at Books In Line Professional Services Inc. has been transformative. Working in the finance industry, completing various tasks, and overcoming challenges contributed to my personal and professional growth. Additionally, I am thrilled to have been offered a paid position at the end of my placement, which validates my hard work and dedication to my role. I am proud to say that I am leaving this placement with a better purpose, enhanced skills, and gratitude for the enriching experience Annette and the Books In Line Professional Services Inc. staff have provided.



**Education is learning what you didn't
even know you didn't know.
- Daniel J. Boorstin**

*“Don't wait for the opportunity. Create it.”
— George Bernard Shaw*

MY UPLIFTING CO-OP AND DUAL CREDIT EXPERIENCE

By: Marc Jauregi, Cardinal Ambrozic Catholic SS, Dufferin-Peel Catholic SB

I was the first student in the entire Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Board to land a job in the aviation field. Also being the first person at Porter Airlines to obtain the title “Junior Technician”, the main goal of my placement was to help the maintenance team at Toronto Pearson International Airport with whatever I can to help them keep the airline’s passenger jets airworthy. Our responsibilities include repair, overhaul, writing and inspecting our Embraer E195-E2 jet aircraft.

Responsibilities:

- ⇒ Diagnose mechanical or electrical problems
- ⇒ Replacing defective parts
- ⇒ Examine replacement parts for defects
- ⇒ Reading manufacturer and airline-approved manuals
- ⇒ Organizing equipment and supplies
- ⇒ Clean the hangar



I was also enrolled in a Dual Credit Aeronautics class at Seneca College’s, which ran for 2.5 hrs every Thursday at North York/Scarborough Newnham campus.

I loved my course where I was able to: participate in aviation-related class activities, obtain a free aviation textbook, obtain my Restricted Operators Certificate (Aeronautical) License and access and operate in their flight simulator, piloting the Beechcraft King Air 200.

**“IT IS POSSIBLE TO FLY WITHOUT MOTORS, BUT
NOT WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL.”**

WILBUR WRIGHT

*“Believe you can and you’re halfway there.”
— Theodore Roosevelt*

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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.

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