

east york WORKS



2012/2013 – Semester 1

Why Co-op?

Get the most out of co-op

Mr. A.N. Persaud



Why do students apply to the co-op program year after year? What do they get out of it? For 30-plus years at East York C.I., a great deal. It's for

the same reasons that universities and colleges across Ontario are currently expanding their own co-op programs – but with a price tag attached. While in secondary school – without the hefty tuition fees – students in co-op have the chance to:

- **Test drive a career;**
- **Network** with workers within a particular job sector;
- Gain valuable **resume experience;**
- Earn a solid **reference** for the job-hunt;
- Learn real life **technical skills** from licensed professionals;
- Build professional **communication and interpersonal skills** in interacting with supervisors, co-workers, clients and the general public;
- Build their **self-confidence** in accepting, safe and nurturing environments; and earn 2 to 4



credits toward completion of their *Ontario Secondary School Diploma*.

The above, however, are not automatic benefits. I recall an early programming term: “garbage in, garbage out”. The same principle from computer programming applies to life. The students who come away with the most are often the ones who put in their maximum. From my years of experi-

ence as an educator in Cooperative Education, I have seen some common traits among our more successful students. These include:

- **Punctuality and Attendance** — student travel to work has ranged from a few minutes to considerably more. Students are taught to plan their schedule to ensure that they arrive early for the job each and every day. Successful students do not blame their circumstances; they help to shape their circumstances.
- **Initiative** — Instead of waiting around to be assigned the next task, these students learn to

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anticipate the needs of the situation and take steps to meet those needs.

- **Focus and Perseverance** — Successful students at co-op, as in the classroom, are able to attend well to each task, taking in instruction and information and applying it. Sticking with a particular assignment until completion also allows these students to apply patience, flexibility and problem solving skills while learning more completely.



- **Enthusiasm** — Enthusiasm makes possible the above listed traits. Our more enthusiastic co-op students are hungry for knowledge and experience and open themselves to the various learning opportunities at their placement.



American inventor Thomas Edison once wrote, “Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.” Students interested in seizing opportunity are encouraged to apply to the Co-op Program for 2013-2014. See your Guidance Counsellor or contact the Co-op Department with any questions.

Profiles of Success



My Semester with the Police

Stefan S.



I have a great interest in the legal field and the world of policing and wanted to have a placement at a police station. The application process started in the spring of the last school year and after being interviewed in September, I was accepted into the Toronto Police Service and am currently placed at 11 Division. As difficult and lengthy as the process was, I knew that this would be a great learning experience for me.



I have been provided with an office and have my own desk. My duties vary from day to day – it's never the same. I work in the adminis-

trative support area and assist everyone with any kind of work needed. The good thing about this is that I am able to see the many different kinds of work that have to be done on a daily basis in order to run a police station. Another great advantage about this placement is that I get to constantly communicate with many police officers and police personnel, and get first-hand experience of a variety of work.

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