

## east york WORKS



2012 – Semester One

### What is Co-op?

Mr. A.N. Persaud

Co-operative Education [“co-op” for short] is an experiential learning framework, where students combine traditional classroom-based study with practical work experience. Co-op provides our students with academic credit for structured work experience combined with classroom work. Co-op students at East York Collegiate have a number of choices in terms of structure and placement; see Ms. Gillin’s article on “A History of Co-operative Education at East York C.I.” as well as our “Profiles of Success” feature, highlighting some of our successful co-op students.

Prior to beginning a work placement, our students will learn about, among other topics, job readiness (including writing cover letters and preparing for an interview), employment law, human rights in the workplace and health & safety. This semester, our co-op students heard from guest speakers on labour unions and health & safety in the workplace, and each student was trained and certified in CPR and First Aid. Additionally, our Grade 12 co-op students produce a professional portfolio showcasing their skills, experiences, certifications and the like.

As well as the academic knowledge and credits earned toward their Ontario Secondary School Diploma, the real benefits for our students come in the hands-on experiences working with trained professionals, the ability to explore an occupation or sector of work and the opportunity to identify their choices for post-secondary destinations.

### A History of Co-op at East York C.I.

Ms. A. Gillin

The predecessor to Co-operative Education began over 30 years ago with the Work Experience Program. This Program provided Grade 12 Business Studies’ students the opportunity to spend two weeks working in an office environment.



From these initial stages of combined classroom learning and practical work experience, the Co-op program was launched in the mid 1980’s. Opportunities were extended to students across

the curriculum, not just those taking Business Studies.

In time, a wide range of co-op models were opened including full day co-op placements, in which students earn up to four credits in a semester, as well as placements in either the morning or afternoon where students may earn up to two credits.

In 30 plus years, students have had the opportunity to explore a variety of careers. From more traditional placements, in places such as hospitals, schools and offices to areas such as animation, funeral homes and recording studios, our range of placements is vast.

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## Profiles of Success

### Realizing his Goals

#### OYAP, Plumbing and Perseverance

Ms. A. Gillin

No one was surprised when Daniel Chrzan was accepted into the Accelerated OYAP in Plumbing. Daniel had completed a co-op placement in plumbing the previous year and had found his passion. While completing his Ontario Secondary School Diploma in his last semester at East York in 2010, Daniel was also enrolled at George Brown College where he successfully completed the Level One apprenticeship training in plumbing.

That summer, Daniel loaded his mother's van with copies of his resume, certifications and business cards. Daniel drove to construction sites leaving his information with potential employers or more often on the windshields of on-site vehicles. Within two days, he was hired at a plumbing company in Scarborough.

A few months ago, Daniel started as a plumbing apprentice with a commercial plumbing company that is working on the redevelopment of Women's College Hospital. Daniel has learned that the Ministry of Education will count his OYAP hours and 1.5 years in the service industry towards his certification. Having already logged over 3,700 hours, Daniel has been placed as a THIRD YEAR APPRENTICE. Now 19 years old, he may write his license by age 21.

We are extremely proud of Daniel. Through hard work and determination, Daniel is realizing his goals. We are certain that he will enjoy continued success in the future.

### Aspiring Early Childhood Educator

Holly Fournier

I am Holly Fournier. I am 17 years old and I get to work with Grade 1 and 2 students at Selwyn School. I enjoy being able to teach the Grade 2's their science lesson; I got to teach lessons on solids, liquids and gasses. It is amazing to see how happy and excited they get when they learn something new. I also enjoy being able to work with individual students, seeing how they learn and understand things.



I feel very lucky to have this experience and next year I plan on going to college to study Early Childhood Education. When full-day Kindergarten is in every elementary school, I would love to work in an elementary school with young students.



### Reflections on success

Some people dream of success, while others wake up and work hard at it.

Be not afraid of going slowly; be afraid only of standing still. (Chinese Proverb)

Without labour nothing prospers. (Sophocles)

### A History of Co-op at East York C.I.

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Over the past few years, we have seen an increase in the number of students interested in apprenticeship trades: electrical, plumbing, automotive service technician, aesthetics and hairdressing, to name a few. The Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) has allowed many of our students to start work on post-secondary apprenticeship qualifications while in high school.

We have seen the positive, enriching results that the workplace experience has had on our students and look forward to providing a new generation of students with these enriching experiences.