

Update

Summer 2008

PASSPORT to Prosperity

Passport to Prosperity Employer Resource Forum

Tapping into Your Future Workforce: Build the Relationship Now



The Honourable John Milloy.

Ideas and enthusiasm were at the heart of this year's Passport to Prosperity Employer Resource Forum. Close to 200 employers, educators and HR professionals filled the InterContinental Toronto Centre on April 8 to hear about experiential learning programs and why business-education partnerships are critical to the future success of Ontario.

Keynote speaker Justin Trudeau inspired the crowd to become more engaged with youth. As a youth and education advocate, he successfully bridged the generational gap through sharing his knowledge and experiences. Training, Colleges and Universities Minister John Milloy brought greetings from Premier Dalton McGuinty and outlined the province's significant investment towards training Ontario's next generation of skilled workers.

Philip Steenkamp, Deputy Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, thanked employers for their support and recognized the important work done by the Provincial Partnership Council on Passport to Prosperity. Deputy Minister of Education Steve Marshall spoke on the benefits

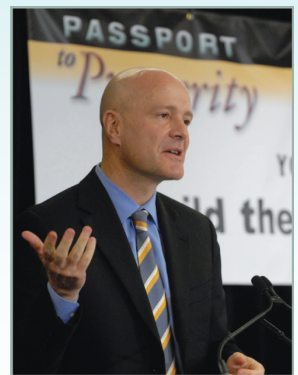
of employers giving back to the community and about how programs, such as Passport to Prosperity, are working to keep Canada globally competitive.

The student panel provided the same energy and fresh perspective that students have brought to their co-op placements.

The forum was also an opportunity for the Provincial Partnership Council to celebrate and honour employers who have shown outstanding commitment to providing experiential learning programs over the past year. This year's award recipients were D&D Automation, Stratford; Dorval Electric Inc., Oakville; St. Joseph's Villa, Dundas; TVCOGECO, Pembroke; and The Westin, Ottawa. Each champion will be profiled in upcoming Update Newsletters.

(top below): Philip Steenkamp, Deputy Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, recognizing the important work done by the Provincial Partnership Council on Passport to Prosperity.

(bottom below): Provincial Partnership Council Outstanding Employers.



Student Panel Brings Smiles and Insight to Employer Resource Forum

To learn how to bring energetic students to your workplace, please visit www.employerregistry.ca

Five bright and energetic high school students shared their co-op experiences and won over the audience with a youthful perspective at the Passport to Prosperity Employer Resource Forum. Answering questions on a range of topics, from interview experiences to day-to-day activities, they demonstrated confidence and professionalism. It was evident that each student felt excited to experience the world of work, and this new insight has impacted many areas of their lives.

Christina Wang, who had her co-op placement with BMO InvestorLine Store, focused on her industry-specific experience. "The real work field has given me a lot of knowledge [about] how it will be in the future," she said.

On his experience working side by side with electricians at Employer Champion award winners- Dorval Electric, Adam Zamora said he learned about teamwork and problem solving. Alcy Ghanma told the audience that her placement with the Ministry of Transportation taught her to be more patient, punctual, and mature.

Dustin Wills commented on his positive impact in the workplace. Participating in the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP), Dustin worked as a cabinet maker at Collier Woodworking in Milton, Ontario. As a deaf student, Dustin brought a unique dynamic to his workplace. He reflected that everyone had improved their communication skills and that his fellow colleagues had the opportunity "to get to know a deaf person better."

From mentorship to multigenerational management, the students commented that employers benefit from the

abundance of energy and enthusiasm a young new face brings to the job. There was agreement among the panel when Germaine Enmore, placed with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs of Housing, said his employer and colleagues "really enjoyed working with a student."

Pictured below and to the right, high school students sharing their co-op experiences at the Passport to Prosperity Employer Resource Forum.



EmployerRegistry.ca:

Connecting Employers and Tomorrow's Workforce

After a successful preview launch at the Passport to Prosperity Employer Resource Forum, EmployerRegistry.ca is now up and running for the start of the 2008/09 school year. This free, Ontario-wide online community has grown rapidly over the summer months. Employers and educators from across the province have made the connection to develop valuable experiential learning opportunities for high school students.

Employers, educators and industry associations who haven't already signed on can get started today. With only a few clicks at EmployerRegistry.ca you are quickly and easily connected with your local Passport to Prosperity coordinator, who will work with you to make lasting, positive impacts on the career paths of our young people.

Log on now to make the connection – registration takes less than a minute.

www.employerregistry.ca

City of Thunder Bay Models Diverse Learning Opportunities

To connect with your local resources today, please visit www.employerregistry.ca.

Smart employers are using experiential learning programs as cost-effective recruitment, training and retention tools. Organizations with multiple departments are especially well placed to offer a diverse range of experiences to attract young workers to their field. Whether organizations offer a placement in each department, or schedule a rotation through a number of their departments, both students and employees gain exposure to many positive learning opportunities.

Since September 2007, the City of Thunder Bay's Co-op Student Placement Program has seen 20 high school students complete cooperative education placements in various city departments, including utility trades, child care, finance, community services, life enrichment, and marketing and events. The city worked closely with local high schools, the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, the North Superior Training Board and Passport to Prosperity to help students access the opportunities they need to be successful.

"This opportunity to have all the local school boards come together and work with the City of Thunder Bay to support student learning has exceeded our expectations," said Louis Kok, Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) Coordinator with Lakehead Public Schools. "We are able to provide cooperative education opportunities with a major employer that can provide a variety of quality learning opportunities for students."

Employers in any sector can look to the City of Thunder Bay's model of offering a range of opportunities. By working closely with your local Passport to Prosperity provider, organizations can learn how to get the buy-in of senior management, union representatives and employees on implementing successful experiential learning opportunities across all departments.

Pictured right: Giselle Kovary, Chair PPC Events and Promotions Task Force, addresses the crowd.



Justin Trudeau Speaks on Today's Young Leaders



Justin Trudeau, Youth and Education advocate, sharing his insights on youth and education.

Justin Trudeau, youth and education advocate, provided a wealth of insight at the 2008 Passport to Prosperity Employer Resource Forum. Drawing on his experiences as a teacher and his work with young people in the Katimavik program, Justin shared his knowledge of the valuable skills students are equipped with and can bring to the workplace. He recognized the importance of experiential learning programs in diverse settings and sectors and the value of both short and long-term experiences. "These are the kinds of things that we need to start building more of if we are going to make sure that Canada is the country that we all deep inside know it needs to be," he said.

Trudeau encouraged employers not to think of students as "leaders of tomorrow" but rather to provide learning experiences to help them become "leaders of today." He challenged employers to think about how they will help young people find their future career paths, enabling them to be both successful contributors to the economy and responsible citizens.

Getting Connected for the Fall



Though it's hard to think about when the weather is nice, summer will pass quickly and high school students across Ontario will be ready

for another year of experiential learning. Experiential learning programs are effective recruitment, training and retention opportunities. When you build relationships with students, you are tapping into your future workforce. Students bring great enthusiasm and energy to the workplace and can offer new skills and a fresh perspective.

"It is important for employers to connect with their local Passport to Prosperity provider over the summer to ensure they have the time to plan and create

meaningful work experiences for students," advises Lynda McGregor, Executive Director at the Foundation for Enriching Education Perth Huron. "Employers can use the summer months to outline work plans and make the necessary logistical arrangements to have a student come into the workplace."

Connecting with your local Passport to Prosperity provider couldn't be easier. Just visit www.employerregistry.ca and follow the easy instructions. When September rolls around, you will have everything in place for a successful learning opportunity for both you and your students.

In your community, contact:

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To subscribe to this newsletter,
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Share Your Success Stories

Do you have a story to share about a school-work program? We want to hear about it! Send your story to Nicole Leaver at nicole.leaver@hillandknowlton.ca to have it considered for one of our upcoming Passport to Prosperity Update newsletters.



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