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Monday, May 1, 2000

theStudentCommission open conference

By: Greg Hagen

We are The Students Commission and we were chosen from among many teenagers to represent exemplary practices of school to work transitions from the different provinces and territories of Canada. We were chosen for our strong leadership and communication skills, to make a change in education for our country.

What

We are here hoping to improve school to work transitions for students across Canada. We are also here to share our point of view — to inform and influence you — policy makers in education.

Who

We are the youth of today, a part of The Students Commission and concerned about career planning for our future. Every one of us was involved in a school to work program.

Why

We are here to get input from across the country to strengthen our programs. We care about our futures and the futures of others following our paths.

How

How are we going to do this? Well, it all starts with this youth panel and the provincial team that was selected to make presentations at this conference. During our stay we will bring everything we learned and apply it through technology, video, reports and newsletters for conference delegates, and at our final presentation of all our recommendations.

We have spent the past two days getting to know one another and sharing our experiences with school to work transition programs. We are working in five teams and we would like to present to you some ideas and recommendations which each team has discussed so far.



day2 TEAM recommendations

1 team

Team members:

Stacey Benvegnu - Thunder Bay, Ontario
 Chris Gilroy - Riverview, New Brunswick
 Chris Hammell - Waterloo, Ontario
 Tyler Howard - Breadalbane, Prince Edward Island
 Yvonne Kusiak - Kelowna, British Columbia
 Denise Campbell - Toronto, Ontario

-the types of questions you should ask at an interview
 -workplace conduct
 -the laws of payment

Recommendations

Basic courses are necessary in high school to a certain point, BUT there should also be a degree of choice for people who already have an idea of what they want to do after high school.

Every school in every province/territory should have an equal opportunity to participate in school-to-work programs. (There should be a standard set of programs that everyone would have a chance to engage in.)

Everyday school activities/projects should integrate some form of connection to the real world. Students should have the sense that they are not just learning plain theory, but there is some relevance and implementation to what they are taught. For example, if you are taking a biology class there should be a component of your mark devoted to going out into the community. This would result in learning through personal interviews, hands on experiences and demonstrations.

We have a question for you:

After you have heard our experiences, reflections, and recommendations (by the end of the conference), what kinds of things do you plan to do (or are in your power to do) to make better school-to-work transition programs that are more available/effective for students?

3 team

Team Members:

Kevin Bryk - Winnipeg, Manitoba
 Luke Coughlin - London, Ontario
 Jeff Denham - Toronto, Ontario
 Greg Hagen - Glen Robertson, Ontario
 Shauna Wing - Innisfail, Alberta
 Rania Ywakim - St. John's, Newfoundland

Recommendations

We feel that school boards should go out to the major companies of the city to find out the exact specs for the jobs which these companies offer, so students know exactly what they are getting into and can plan their path into that career.

There should be a system of support and recognition for teachers who are involved within in their schools and are active participants in extracurricular activities. If teachers don't want to be involved with school activities, why would the students?

4 team

Team Members:

Alicen Lymburner - Petitcodiac, NB
 Bretan Baumgardt - Red Deer, AB
 Tara Hurley - Yellowknife, NWT
 Voitek Magier - London, ON
 Barry Panyadeth - Waterloo, ON
 Steven Leconte - Montreal, QB

Recommendations

There should be two separate Student Councils: one to concentrate on extra-curricular activities (for example, dances) and another to arrange workshops and presentations that will benefit the students in their transition to work (for example, gathering info to distribute to other students.)

Create mentors for students by having graduates come back to share their experiences from high school and also help in finding placements in the workforce.

When drafting curriculum documents, governments should take into consideration the points of view and the input of the students, teachers and administrators who live within the systems day in and day out.

2 team

Team Members:

Chris Lowther - Borden-Carleton, Prince Edward Island
 Anne MacKenzie - Yellowknife, Northwest Territories
 Jeanine Martin - Thunder Bay, Ontario
 Victor Neto - Toronto, Ontario
 Tyler Stedham - West Bank, British Columbia

Krista McAllister - Toronto, Ontario
 Veronica Tesar - Brampton, Ontario

Recommendations

We think that a version of a Career Planning program should be implemented in all other schools in Canada. A model of this is **CAPP**, Career and Personal Planning program. This program involves:

- how to write a resume
- discover the different types of jobs
- personal management
- effective communication
- basic first aid
- define the skills you possess

5 team

Team members

Thersea Barbabuas - Arctic Bay, Nunavut
 Bobby Bird - Morrisburg, Ontario
 Andrea Mulrooney - St. John's, Newfoundland
 Richard Roschuk - Winnipeg, Manitoba
 Simon Lefleche - Montreal, Quebec

Recommendations

Offer school to work programs earlier in student life because it will assist students in finding out what they like and dislike as work and career choices.

teamAlberta speaks of Tech-Prep

The Alberta team is representing the Alberta Technology Preparation consortium. They will be presenting on Tuesday at 10:30 am in the St. David North room.

Shauna Wing (17) is a grade 12 Student at Notre Dame High School in Red Deer Alberta. Shauna is using her Tech Prep credentials to achieve school-to-work transitions to the Kinesiology and Sports Studies Program at the Red Deer College. She is currently working on finishing her grade 12-year and will be graduating with not only a general high school diploma but with a tech prep credential as well. Her plans are to attend the Red Deer College in September in the Kinesiology and Sports Studies Program. Through the Tech Prep program, she has learned how to manage her time and set goals that are reasonable and can be attained through hard work and dedication.

Bretan Baumgardt (18) is a Tech Prep High School Grad who has just completed his first year of college in the Architectural Technologies department at SAIT (Southern Alberta Institute of Technology) in Calgary. He has arranged three articulation agreements at SAIT for classes previously taken at High School and is the first student at SAIT to receive credits for High School courses. Through Tech Prep he has gained practical real world experience while working at an architecture firm while attending high school. Tech Prep has shown him how to prepare a good working portfolio and be prepared to seek employment in the architectural industry by receiving training in areas such as: money management, goal setting, resume writing, first aid, construction fabrication classes, and design studies

courses, (AutoCAD). Along with the Tech Prep Team, Bretan will be explaining thoroughly what Tech Prep has done for him as well as making a brief portfolio presentation on Tuesday. Both Bretan and Shauna would be happy to answer any questions throughout the conference.



day2 TEAM recommendations

Continued from page 2

More students and teachers should promote and get involved in co-op and work experience programs earlier in their school life. By doing this, students will have the idea of co-op in their minds, so when they enter high school, co-op will almost be a given for students.

Encourage students to realize that the value of school to work programs is to gain work experience, develop skills, and explore possible career options, and not necessarily to get paid.

the team

Bretan Baumgardt: Alberta Tech Prep Consortium Architectural Technologies SAIT (Calgary, AB)

Shauna Wing: Technology Preparation Program Grade 12 Student (Red Deer ,AB)

Anne MacKenzie: Cooperation Education. (St. Pat's, Yellowknife, NWT)

Christopher Gilroy: Youth Apprenticeship Program Phase Three student (Riverview, NB)

Alicen Lymburner: Youth Apprenticeship Program Phase Three Student (Petitcodiac, NB)

Yvonne Kusiak: Secondary School Jobshadow/spotlight Program Student (Kelowna, B.C.)

Tyler Stedham: Secondary School Apprenticeship Program Student. (Kelowna ,B.C)

Rania Ywakim: Career Pathways C-op Education. (St.John's, NFLD)

Andrea Mulrooney: Career Pathways Co-op Education. (St.John's, NFLD)

Thersea Barnadas: High School Café Program. (Nunavut)

Tyler Howard: in Agriculture Certificate Program. (Springfield, PEI)

Tara Hurley: taking Bridges child health, occupational therapy. (St Pat's, NWT)

Luke Coughlin: Pre-pilot Program. (London, ON)

Voitek Magier: Pre-pilot Program. (London, ON)

Bobby Bird: The Bridges Adventure Tourism program. (Morrisburg, ON)

Greg Hagen: The Bridges agricultural, agribusiness program. (Glen Robertson, ON)

Jeanine Martin: The Cisco Networking Academy. (Thunder Bay, ON)

Chris Lowther: The Agriculture Certificate Program (Borden-Carleton, PEI)

Chris Hammell: Entrepreneurship- Internship program (Kitchener- ON)

Barry Panyadeth: Entrepreneurship- Internship program (Kitchener, ON)

Veronica Tesar: The Cooperative program at Tiny Giant (Brampton, ON)

Fernando Almeida: The Cooperative program at Tiny Giant (Toronto, ON)

Leslie Dungog: The Cooperative Program at Tiny Giant. (Brampton, N)

Victor Neto: The Cooperative Program (Toronto, ON)

Sean Vodden: Chef Alliance Program, part of The Bridges Tourism Ontario. (Scarborough, ON)

Richard Roschuk: Information Technology Studies @ Winnipeg Technical Vocational High School (Winnipeg, MB)

Kevin Bryk: Information Technology Studies @ Winnipeg Technical Vocational High School (Winnipeg, MB)

Stacey Benvegno: The Cisco Networking Academy. (Thunder Bay, ON)

Robert Karakk: High School Café Program. (Nunavut)

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