

**Innovation Fund  
Pathway to College Project  
Niagara College Job Centre/Stamford Collegiate  
Final Report  
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**Accomplishments**

As a result of the Innovation Fund I was able to establish a relationship with Stamford Collegiate and meet with students and graduates in the guidance office of the school to provide them with career, education and employment information both individually and in groups.

The appointments took place on Mondays in the Stamford guidance office from November 19 until March 17. Services provided consisted mainly of individual student appointments although some of the appointments did include parents. The students that I worked with were current Stamford students, past students, and recent graduates. I liaised with guidance counsellors and administration regarding individual students. I also presented information in group settings to students regarding Niagara College programs and the Job Centre services.

The work that I did with Stamford included contacting over 80 students that were looking for paid co-op opportunities in order to receive co-op credits. I contacted them to determine their status and if they were unemployed then I offered them my assistance with their job search by setting up an appointment time.

The services that I provided to the participants were:

- resume development and revision
- job search techniques through coaching and printed resources
- career information, education options and training resources
- apprenticeship information
- referrals to Job Connect
- College program information and recruitment
- Literacy and Basic skills referrals
- Referrals to job postings, summer jobs programs
- Access to other employment/supportive services

## **Project Results**

A total of over 64 individual appointments took place in 14 days. I facilitated 5 group presentations and arranged for 3 other college staff to present to students.

## **Group Presentations**

A total of 290 students were provided information regarding Niagara College programs in a group setting. These were comprised of the following:

- presentation on Career Day along with 2 college staff from recruiting at which time we provided information on college programs in the trades, health, hospitality and tourism industries to students in grades 11 and 12 approx 90 students
- presented information to co-op students in both semesters regarding the Job Centre and Summer Jobs to approx 160 students
- Smart serve workshop to 40 grade 12 students

## **Joint Professional Development**

Sylvie Gregoire was able to join us for part of our Job Connect conference on Feb 28 for the presentation on the Learn to 18 strategies and the Ministry of Training College and Universities focus.

## **Continuation of Project**

As a result of the success of this pilot initiative Stamford Collegiate has requested that the project be continued through funding from the District School Board of Niagara. This funding has now been secured and Stamford is providing \$2000 that will be used to backfill my position while I continue to offer supports at Stamford for one day per week until June 16.

On April 18 Mike Bauer, Manager, Youth Employment Services, Marc Blouin, Principal Stamford Collegiate, Sylvie Gregoire, Head of Guidance at Stamford and I met to discuss the potential of the continuation of the project. As a result of the meeting Stamford wishes to have the project continue into the next school year with a projected start date in October of 2008. It was also suggested at the meeting that other secondary schools may welcome this type of supportive programming. Outreach to other potential hosting

schools will take place over the coming months. We agreed to explore any avenues of funding for this project with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Training, College and Universities and any other funding sources.