



**THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
Champions of Public Education Across Canada



*Celebrating more than 10 years  
of school-work partnerships*

# **Employer Champion Award Ceremony**

**Recipient:**

**Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences**

**700 Gordon Street, Whitby - The Conference Place**

**Wednesday, January 11, 2012**

**1 p.m.**

Karim Mamdani, Chief Operating Officer at Ontario Shores says, “We take pride in educating future healthcare professionals and watching our students evolve into active members of the Ontario Shores team. We welcome and encourage students to explore their career options at our hospital as they work towards completing their education and discovering their career aspirations.”

In the nomination form Elyse Pinder, Employability Skills Facilitator for Durham District School board said, “Ontario Shores recognizes the importance of Cooperative Education so much that they highlight their participation in high school Co-op programs on their website. “

Ontario Shores website features an educational section and highlights *"What We've Heard"* from Co-op students. Also profiled are former co-op students who have returned to work at Ontario Shores. From one student: "My Co-op on PRB has been an amazing experience. The staff is wonderful. It will be hard to say goodbye, but it will not be for long. I plan to come back to volunteer, work, or hopefully in the future, intern as a psychology student."



Ontario Shores not only provides placements in the health sciences but also in a variety of other departments. Current placements include The Conference Place, Human Resources, Organizational Learning and Development, Rehabilitation B, Infection Prevention and Control, Creating Opportunities Now to Achieve Community Transition, Vocational Services and Plant Services. Beginning in February, students will also be placed in the areas of electrical and culinary.

Additionally, Ontario Shores participates annually in “Take Our Kids to Work” and is registered on the Employer Registry, offering co-op placements and career talks to local high schools.

At the orientation session for high school Co-op students at the beginning of each semester, topics such as logistics, health and safety, and essential expectations are presented to students. What is unique however is that Co-op students also hear a speaker for the TAMI (Talking about Mental Illness) program. The outreach and awareness that is offered to Co-op students demonstrates the incredible commitment that Ontario Shores has to Co-op programs and to extending mental health awareness in the community at large.



Ontario Shores' newsletter (November 2010) highlights a story about a former Co-op student, Tonya Proniuk, who completed a Co-op placement and then went on to complete post secondary studies in the area of mental health sciences. Seven years after her initial Co-op placement, she is completing a final field placement at Ontario Shores while doing her Masters of Social Work.

In 2009, Jordan Leroux completed a Co-op placement in Communications. He has never left. Jordan was hired as a summer student and then on contract. The contract was extended and eventually, he was hired full time. He is currently Communications Coordinator Ontario Shores.

Ontario Shores is an exemplary organization which promotes experiential learning and the value of connecting with their future workforce.

Congratulations to everyone involved in achieving recognition of an  
Employer Champion Award!

**THE PASSPORT TO PROSPERITY EMPLOYER CHAMPION AWARDS** were created to acknowledge these important contributions and particularly recognize Ontario employers who have shown an outstanding commitment to providing meaningful work experiences for high school students in their communities through any of the following:

**Job Shadowing . School-Work Transition Programs . Mentoring . Worksite Visits. Career Talks . Cooperative Education. Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program .**

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