

401-Dixie NISSAN

401 Dixie Nissan Infiniti



401 Dixie Nissan Infiniti has been supporting school-to-work programs with Rick Hansen Secondary School in Peel District School Board since 2002. During this time the Service Manager, Peter Geer has provided numerous students with opportunities to participate in cooperative education programs, specifically the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program in the area of Automotive Service. Over the past nine years, 401 Dixie Nissan has never turned down a student. In fact, they have always been able to accommodate at least two to three students each semester. In addition 401 Dixie Nissan also stepped up to the plate when no one else would; by providing our very first female student a co-op placement in Automotive Service in 2008. In fact Peter Geer was so impressed with the student that at the end of her co-op term he hired her as an apprentice. Although the young woman no longer works at 401 Dixie Nissan, Peter continues to mentor her through her apprenticeship. 401 Dixie Nissan has always looked at cooperative education as an opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience, and to help direct youth into the skilled trades. In fact, they have attended every single fair at Rick Hansen Secondary School since 2002.

Peter Geer views cooperative education as a perfect way to give back to the community. He feels that school-to-work programs are an important step in engaging students into the trades and for building a highly skilled workforce of the future. As a result of participating in the Co-op/OYAP program, 401 Dixie Nissan has been able to hire young and enthusiastic apprentices over the years as Automotive Service Technicians. Currently, this company employs two former Rick Hansen SS students and has helped them become licensed technicians. All the staff involved in mentoring and training the OYAP students find the Co-op program to be a rewarding experience because they can share their industry experience with young minds that are eager to learn.

Jane Vavaroutsos, co-op teacher from Rick Hansen Secondary School says, "Peter Geer took on four of our co-op students this year 2010-2011 from Rick Hansen, three full time and one part-time, in addition one of the students was an identified student and needed accommodations. Please see the student's quote below:

Dixie Nissan gave me a great opportunity to acquire the skills needed to be an apprentice in Auto. I truly learned a lot and really appreciate everyone at 401-Dixie Nissan taking the time to train me. This experience will definitely help me with my goal of becoming a licensed Mechanic in the future.