



PARTNERS IN EDUCATION
ie BREAKFAST
NOVEMBER 24, 2010



Hamilton Employer Champion
Award Recipients
2010



Hamilton Employer Champion Award Recipients

John Williamson: **Walter's Inc.**

Nominated by Barton



John Williamson has been a co-op supervisor for Manufacturing SHSM Students. He provides realistic, yet challenging experiences to help students reach beyond their comfort zone to better themselves and their skills. He encourages the students to earn welding tickets and provides the opportunity to practice. John also gives his time to talk to the technology classes at Barton. He gives a realistic picture of jobs in the skilled trades and what it takes to be successful.

Karen Tabone: **Heritage Green Child Care Inc.**

Nominated by Bishop Ryan



Karen Tabone has been a fantastic supporter of the Cooperative Education Program at Bishop Ryan for over 15 years, always mentoring students in their quest to follow their career path as Early Childhood Educators. Karen has signed students as apprentices and has hired many of the graduates, who have decided to continue on and become certified Early Childhood Educators.

Felix & Sean Rossignol: **Felix Auto**

Nominated by Bishop Tonnos



Felix and Sean Rossignol operate Felix Auto and they are valued employers for the Bishop Tonnos CSS co-op program. Both Felix and Sean have instilled their compassion and work ethics to the students that have worked with them. Their professionalism and compassion for the students is second to none. At Felix Auto our students are given an opportunity to expand their knowledge and love of automotive repair and are treated with the same dignity as all of the other Felix Auto employees.

Clarion Nursing Home

Nominated by Cardinal Newman



Barbara Szeremeta, Donna Pickles, Raz Scuija and Gwen Claus from Clarion Nursing Home have truly championed a unique experiential learning opportunity for the Health Care students of Cardinal Newman. They have co-coordinated a one-month long work experience for every student enrolled in the grade 11 Health Care courses over the past 4 years. Students have had a phenomenal experience to learn skills that make them better health care professionals for the future.

Naseem Jamil: **T & R Auto Service**

Nominated by Cathedral

T & R Auto Service has been a Co-op employer for the past 5 years. Naseem has been a mentor to both our Co-op and OYAP students in the automotive service and auto body areas. Naseem is a patient and dedicated mentor. Students are exposed to an excellent learning environment where they are able to work one-on-one with mechanics. They leave T & R Auto Service with a clear understanding of the trade and its expectations.

Hamilton Employer Champion Award Recipients

Diane Bajus Harrison: Delta Honey Bears Pre-School

Nominated by Delta



Diane Bajus Harrison provides a work placement for at least one co-op student every semester and has sponsored several students for apprenticeship. As a result, these students have been able to participate in the OYAP Accelerated Early Childhood Education Program and begin their training at Mohawk College in conjunction with their co-op placement at the Delta Honey Bears Pre-School. In recent years, Diane has also supported Delta's Child and Family SHSM Program.

Victoria Long-Wincza: Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts

Nominated by Glendale



Victoria is the Teens Art Foundation Program instructor at HCA and has been the program coordinator for numerous educational and charitable programs throughout Hamilton. Victoria has supported cooperative education and SHSM programs at Glendale where she creates an ideal environment for students to gain real life experience and appreciation for the Arts. She embraces students with the same enthusiasm as she promotes the Arts in Hamilton.

Sue Dorotea & Staff: Pumpkin Patch Day Care Centre

Nominated twice by Hill Park and St. Jean de Brebeuf



Pumpkin Patch Day Care has been involved in cooperative education and career mentorship for over 20 years. Sue Dorotea and her staff have been committed to the guidance of the students placed under their care. The students have benefited from the hands-on experience and from the direct contact with the professionals that they work with at the centre. Pumpkin Patch is also fully supportive of the OYAP program and works with both the schools and Mohawk College.

Jane George: Wellwood Resource Centre

Nominated by Hillfield Strathallan College



Last year, students at Hillfield chose to support the furnishing of the new Wellwood Juravinski House. When the students contacted Jane to discuss ideas for an event, she quickly embraced them and mentored them in developing the budget, formal business proposal, marketing plan, and multi-media presentation. Jane thoroughly enjoys working with young people and has great respect for their creative ideas, high energy, and strong desire to make a difference in the community.

Max Cananzi: Horizon Utilities

Nominated by Mohawk



Horizon's investment in education starts at the primary grades with programs such as: Kidz Power, General Conservation, Power of Tomorrow, Reality House and Play it Safe. Horizon recognizes that getting kids interested in energy and environment will not only guide them into exciting career paths but also lead us to a sustainable future. This interest in education continues into the college and university experience through hiring summer and co-op students as well as participation in many technical forums.

Hamilton Employer Champion Award Recipients

Greg Willson: Willson Autotech

Nominated by Mountain



Greg Willson, owner of Willson Autotech, has worked with Mountain Secondary for the past five years and he has always accepted students to allow them to get automotive experience. He has provided many students with invaluable experiences that they can take with them when it is time to be gainfully employed in the world of work. His first priority has always been the students' learning, even when challenged by "difficult-to-handle" kids. The support he has shown is truly unique and genuine.

Brenda Ferguson: Today's Family Early Learning and Child Care

Nominated by OPS Learn and Work Program



Brenda has continued to support the students by employing almost half of the "at risk" students involved in the OPS Learn and Work Program. She is always supportive of the student's learning and making sure the placement is authentic. Not only does she inspire them to complete high school but she also supports and sponsors any student who decides to pursue an apprenticeship in the ECE Program. Today's Family and Brenda are extremely involved in the success of SHSM students.

Tyler Holtzman: Jantz Canada

Nominated by Orchard Park



Tyler has been mentoring the Orchard Park Robotics team since its inception in the fall of 2006. A McMaster Grad in Software Engineering, he currently works for Jantz Canada as one of our team sponsors. Tyler is a teacher, mentor and a role model to students, teaching them the art of design, the skills of machining, and the importance of team work. With the support of his employer, he has given students a very innovative way to learn about science, technology and engineering.

Dave Woodworth: Freshco

Nominated by Parkview



Mr. Woodworth has been a co-op Employer for over ten years and has provided numerous opportunities for co-op students to prove themselves in his workplace. He is an empathetic individual that seeks to strengthen our community by taking on young people and giving them opportunities to develop their abilities in a formative learning environment. He is known for his open-minded approach in giving students a second chance at succeeding and has also hired co-op students .

Jeff Bakker: Baxter Corporation

Nominated by Redeemer



For several years, Baxter Corporation has hired Redeemer co-op students in the Marketing stream. At Baxter, the students have received excellent supervision and training with in-depth evaluations, delivered to Redeemer co-op staff always on time. Recently, a Redeemer student did not have the usual, extensive past experience when the student began co-op at Baxter. Jeff Bakker and Monica Pollard went out of their way to assist the student .

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Joe Anacleto: Anacleto Carpentry

Nominated by Saltfleet



Mr. Joe Anacleto, owner of Anacleto Carpentry, has accepted Saltfleet students through the cooperative education program for over 12 years. He has participated in Saltfleets' Home Building Program of Choice and Specialist High Skills Major program in Construction. He has provided summer employment and has had 5 students stay on full-time while continuing their apprenticeships at Mohawk College.

Stewart Henderson: Advanced Welding Technologies, Inc.

Nominated by Sherwood



Stewart Henderson has shown outstanding commitment to providing work experiences through the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program. Each semester for the last 8 years, Stewart has taken as many as 4 students at a time to work with the Ontario Works Programs. He has been instrumental in helping the students achieve their goals: that is, to acquire their graduation diploma and apply for certification in the welding trade.

Werner Plessl: Hamilton Waterfront Trust

Nominated by Sir John A. Macdonald



Werner is named as our Employer Mentor Champion. In the past seven years, his organization has hosted a number of co-op students in various capacities. He is able to see the value in the individual students. Some of these students have continued to work with Hamilton Waterfront Trust following their co-op placements. His kind, helpful and welcoming manner, and that of his wonderful staff, have benefited many of the students including those who may be challenging, and hard to place.

Natalie Thomas-Morgan: Thomas Health Care Corporation

Nominated by Sir Winston Churchill



Thomas Health Care Corporation has been providing quality professional services to the frail and well elderly for almost 40 years. St. Thomas Health Care corporation has partnered with Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School to pass this tradition of care and compassion to the next generation of care providers.

Donna Marcaccio: Rygiel Supports for Community Living

Nominated by St. Charles



Rygiel Supports for Community Living, through the leadership of Donna Marcaccio have had a partnership with St. Charles, by allowing PSW students to complete their community cooperative education, providing the students with the opportunities to apply and extend their knowledge, and to practise and refine their skills. Donna Marcaccio is a true inspiration and a very passionate person, who has volunteered and worked professionally for more than 25 years with people who have developmental handicaps.

Hamilton Employer Champion Award Recipients

Jennifer Banks: St. Joseph's Villa

Nominated by St. Mary's



St. Joseph's Villa has been partnering with St. Mary's SHSM Health Care program since 2004. One of the administrative staff members integral to introducing and overseeing the Health Care experiential learning program at the Villa is the Acting Director of Nursing, Jennifer Banks. She has impacted the teaching staff and students as a professional Health Care role model. Jennifer encourages students to investigate health care careers that may interest them and to pursue their career calling with passion.

Joe Amorim & Paolo Ferreira: Swiss Chalet

Nominated by St. Thomas More



Joe Amorim and Paolo Ferreira have accommodated students and provided hands-on work experience that fosters employability skills and work connections. They have employed special needs students. They have been community supporters both with the regular co-op program and the summer school co-op program. The successful students have gained work experiences and forged new relationships and some have even gone on to attain permanent employment with the company.

Steve Ledlie Sr.: Ledlie Construction

Nominated by Westdale



Mr. Ledlie has contributed to our community with his outstanding commitment to students Cooperative Education and Construction SHSM Programs. As a general contractor, he provides a student-focused approach with the opportunity to "test drive" careers connected to apprenticeships for Construction and the Skilled Trades. Most recently, our students have assisted with new home construction, kitchen and bath retrofits, and renovations to a local nursing home. Mr. Ledlie is a professional and true career mentor.

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