

A newsletter about achievements, innovations and leadership in Ontario's college system

Energy conservation secretariat launched for colleges



Ontario college graduates contribute to the social well-being of the province. College graduates are trained in a number of important fields including as veterinary technicians. Photo: Seneca College

Ontario's college system is the first public-sector system in the province to launch an energy secretariat to oversee energy conservation for the entire sector.

The secretariat is funded by the new conservation office of the provincial government's Ontario Power Authority. The secretariat's role is to develop action plans and manage projects to support energy efficiency in the 24 colleges.

"This initiative is an important part of Ontario's long-term plan for energy supply and demand," said Peter Love, chief energy conservation officer of the Ontario Power Authority. "Ultimately, this type of initiative will be extended to everyone in the broader public sector."

Like many power users in

Ontario, the colleges face challenges managing energy costs. Many capital projects that would help to make buildings and facilities more energy efficient were postponed in recent years due to tight capital funding.

The secretariat will work with colleges to identify potential funding sources for efficiency and conservation projects and develop specific energy plans for each college. It will also lead and assist in developing opportunities for bulk purchases of services and equipment related to conservation and retrofit projects.

"This is another example of the colleges playing a leading role in public-policy development," said Barbara Taylor, chair of the colleges' committee of presidents.

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Career satisfaction for laser technology grad

Program meets high demand

Ryan Glaves can't say he always had a passion for working with lasers. But once he heard about Niagara College's new programs in photonics, and the potential career opportunities, he was keen to enrol.

In fact, Glaves, who graduated with Niagara's first class of Photonics Technologists in 2004, has never had to look for employment – employers have come looking for him. Only two years out of school and not yet 30, Glaves is well on his way to achieving his career goals in this burgeoning high-tech industry.

Glaves turned to Niagara College after realizing university wasn't for him. "It was large

classes, with no practical experience whatsoever, and job prospects were slim to none," he says of his two years in a university science program. "I like going into labs and getting my hands on equipment and building things."

Researching the field after he heard about the new Niagara program, and learning of the shortage of skilled people, Glaves realized photonics was an industry in which he could build a rewarding career. "I chose something where I was guaranteed good job placement and where I could specialize and grow professionally."

Niagara College is, in fact, at the forefront of creating the highly qualified workforce the photonics industry needs: it is only one of two colleges offering photonics education in



Canada. In 2004, the college also began offering a four-year Bachelor of Applied Technology (Photonics) degree.

Glaves admits that when he started the course he didn't know that much about photonics – the technology of harnessing light and other forms of radiant energy for many dif-

ferent applications, from lasers to life sciences. "When I started I wasn't too sure about it, but as I learned more I began to enjoy what I was learning, and I worked harder."

The work paid off. Before the course finished, companies were lined up to interview Glaves.

Stephen Flowers An international success



Stephen Flowers was once responsible for handling packages at United Parcel Services. A college diploma and 25 years later, Flowers oversees the company's operations across much of the Americas.

Flowers joined UPS in Barrie part-time in 1981, loading and unloading vehicles to help pay for his business administration studies at Georgian College. Upon graduation in 1983, he was hired full-time as a driver before joining management nine months later as supervisor of industrial engineering.

he helped UPS Europe post close to a 15 per cent increase in export volume compared with the prior year.

In 2003, Flowers was promoted to president of UPS Americas. He moved to Mi-

"He's a success story for the whole Ontario college system," said Georgian College president Brian Tamblin

ami, assumed responsibility for Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean, and became the first non-American appointed as an internation-

al president in UPS' 99-year history, overseeing more than 10,000 employees.

Flowers says he recognized, while working part-time with UPS in Barrie, that the company was international in scope, had a culture of hiring from within, and offered significant opportunity for advancement.

In order to gain the experience needed for further promotion, Flowers rotated between engineering and operations divisions, dealing with everything from new facilities, to supply-chain technologies, to financial and strategic planning.

Flowers says college provided him with a solid business foundation.

"Georgian prepared me for every piece that I've been involved in, whether that be finance, marketing, organizational behaviour or economics."

Brian Tamblin, president and CEO of Georgian College, says Flowers demonstrates what a college education can provide when combined with hard work.

"He's a success story not just for Georgian College but for the whole Ontario college system. What he got from Georgian was a solid foundation in business fundamentals that he just continued to build upon."

Companies increase efforts to hire grads

A recent survey found 38 per cent of executives were more active in recruiting university and college graduates this year, compared with five years ago. Only nine per cent reported slowing their recruiting efforts.

The survey was done by an independent research firm and included responses from 100 senior executives.

Recognition for Algonquin program

The government of Ontario has proclaimed Algonquin College a hub of excellence for operating room nursing education. The government announcement included \$500,000 in funding.

"Five out of every six health-care workers receive their training at the college level and this funding will assist Algonquin to continue offering leading-edge nursing education," said Algonquin College President Robert Gillett.

Seneca grad among Top 40 Under 40

Neil Hetherington, the CEO of Habitat for Humanity and a graduate of Seneca College, was named one of Canada's Top 40 Under 40.

Habitat for Humanity builds affordable homes in partnership with low-income families. Hetherington, 32, who became CEO of Habitat for Humanity in 2000, was selected for the Top 40 Under 40 honour from more than 1,200 nominees in the private, public and non-profit sectors.

New head for consortium council

Dr. Robin Armstrong, the professor emeritus of Physics at the University of Toronto, has been appointed as the executive director of the College University Consortium Council (CUCC) Secretariat. The CUCC works to encourage support and collaboration between the college and university sectors.

"We are very fortunate to have attracted a person of Dr. Armstrong's status, someone who is at once creative, experienced and well known in higher educational circles," said Dr. Robert Gordon, president of Humber College and a co-chair of the CUCC.

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A delicious partnership

A unique program at George Brown College is providing culinary students with the ideal opportunity to develop recipes for new food dishes that could actually go to market.

These students participate in the Compliments Culinary Centre, a partnership between the Sobeys Inc. grocery retailer and the college.

The students are involved in different aspects of food-product development and recipe testing that goes beyond basic culinary training. Twice a month, the centre performs sensory evaluation and provides feedback to Sobeys Inc. on up to 14 product prototypes for Compliments, the grocer's private label brand.

If the products meet the centre's criteria, the product will receive the Compliments Culinary Centre endorsement and seal of approval.

The George Brown students become involved in the centre as volunteers or through externship placements.

"For a lot of students, unless they look for a placement or for work experience with a food manufacturing company, they will not necessarily be exposed to what they will learn at the centre," said Winnie Chiu, Managing Director of the Compliments Culinary Centre. "It gives students an awareness of some of the steps it takes to bring a food product from idea to launch." Recipes and tips devel-



oped by the chefs and students at the centre are also published in Sobeys Inc.'s Inspired by Compliments magazine and online at www.compliments.ca.

"Food is our passion and the core of our business. By reaching out to the talent and enthusiasm in our country's leading culinary colleges, we can continue to meet and exceed our customers' needs," said Belinda Youngs, Executive Vice President, Corporate Brands, Sobeys Inc.