

Co-operative *education*

Co-op Employer Report 2014



Dear Co-op Employers,

With the hectic pace of our everyday lives, I always enjoy the process of working with my colleagues to put this report together. It gives us the opportunity to reflect on our experiences over the past year and realize all that we have achieved and learned. This report also provides a platform to acknowledge the accomplishments of Mount co-op students and the experiences they are able to undertake because of people like you – committed Mount co-op employers.

The Mount's Annual Co-op Student of the Year and Employer of the Year Awards recognize those who have demonstrated excellence and commitment in advancing experiential learning opportunities. 19 student and 21 employer nominations were received for 2014. Congratulations to Emily Ennett (BPR Co-op Student) and Jessica Skinner (BBA Co-op Student) for being selected. We were also pleased to recognize Northwood Homecare Limited (BPR Employer), BDO Canada LLP (BBA Employer) and Halifax Marriott Harbourfront (BTHM Employer) on their employer awards.

With record snowfall amounts in Halifax this winter, we are eager to welcome spring and the positive changes it will bring. After several months of construction, the new Margaret Norrie McCain Centre for Teaching, Learning and Research will open in May. The building will be the new home of co-op and we couldn't be more excited! The official ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on May 29, which is open to the community. Additionally, the Co-op Team will be hosting an open house for co-op employers, students and alumnae in June – stay tuned for more details. We are also

pleased to announce that nearly 100 Mount co-op students will graduate from their degree programs on May 14 and 15. With their academic and co-op experiences under their belts, and with the support from programs such as the new *Graduate to Opportunity* program administered by the Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Advanced Education, we are confident these students will go on to rewarding careers.

Finally, we would like to say thank you for your continued support of the Mount's Co-op Program. You continue to provide meaningful and rich learning experiences for students, and we look forward to our continued partnership. With 148 business administration, public relations and tourism & hospitality management students completing co-op work terms in summer 2015, it's not too late to contact the Co-op Team about hiring a student. We look forward to hearing from you!



Scott Daniels
Manager, Co-operative Education

CO-OP RECRUITMENT DATES

Fall (Sept to Dec) 2015:

May 6 - 1st posting deadline
May 19 - 1st round of postings
June 1 - On-going postings begin
June 5 - First day of interviews

Winter (Jan to Apr) 2016:

Sept 9 - 1st posting deadline
Sept 21 - 1st round of postings
Oct 5 - On-going postings begin
Oct 7 - First day of interviews

The Mount Co-op Student of the Year Award (2014)

The Mount Co-op Student of the Year Award was created in 1999 to recognize and celebrate students' achievements during their co-op work terms and to mark the 20th anniversary of Co-operative Education at the Mount. We are proud to say this award program is still going strong.

A co-op student from each of the following co-op disciplines may be selected for the award: **Business Administration, Public Relations and Tourism & Hospitality Management.**

This year, 19 nominations were received from co-op employers. The Mount Co-op Student of the Year (2014) recipients were joined by their supervisors to be recognized during the Mount Academic Awards Reception on Wednesday, April 8, 2015.

We would like to congratulate:

- **Emily Ennett, Public Relations**, nominated by Maverick Communications Inc. in Kentville, NS for her first co-op work term.
- **Jessica Skinner, Business Administration**, nominated by BDO Canada LLP, in Bedford, NS for her third co-op work term.



L-R Jessica Skinner and Lori MacMillan

The Mount Co-op Employer of the Year Award (2014)

In 2009, the Co-op Office instituted the Mount Co-op Employer of the Year Award in recognition of the 30th Anniversary of Co-operative Education at the Mount.

This award acknowledges employers who have displayed commitment, excellence and longstanding support of the Mount's Co-op program.

Congratulations to the following employers who received the title of **Mount Co-op Employer of the Year (2014)**:

- **Mr. John Verlinden, Corporate Director, Communications** at Northwood Homecare Ltd., Dartmouth, NS
Nominated by Kylie Taves, BPR Co-op student

- **Ms. Lori MacMillan, Manager, Accounting and Assurance** at BDO Canada LLP, Bedford, NS
Nominated by Jessica Skinner, BBA Co-op student

- **Ms. Debra Simms, Senior Rooms Operations Manager** at Halifax Marriott Harbourfront, Halifax, NS
Nominated by Rebecca Cripps, BTHM Co-op student



L-R Debra Simms and Rebecca Cripps

Peer Mentoring Event Hosted by the Student Advisory Committee

With a goal of developing mentoring relationships between new and senior co-op students, the Co-op Student Advisory Committee (SAC) hosted a mentoring event on January 29, 2015. Senior students kicked off the event with a presentation discussing their co-op experience. Students then broke out into small groups and facilitated a speed networking activity where senior students were able to provide personalized advice to new students embarking on their first co-op work term. Preparing for interviews was top of mind for most new students and senior students were able to ease their nervousness by giving advice from their experience.

Feedback from the event was very positive. New students learned valuable tips in preparing for their co-op and senior students were able to give back, reflect upon their co-op

experiences and share key learnings. It was also a fun way to inform co-op students about the SAC and its elected representatives.

The SAC is made up of co-op students who provide feedback to the Co-op Office about important issues affecting them throughout the course of their co-op experience. The committee was developed in 2008 to increase student engagement and provide a more formalized method for co-op students and the Co-op Team to work collaboratively, address concerns and strengthen the co-op student experience.

Our team acknowledges everyone who has contributed to the SAC and we thank students for their participation.

Co-op is Moving to the McCain Centre in May

Friday, May 29 marks the official opening of the Margaret Norrie McCain Centre for Teaching, Learning and Research. The McCain Centre will be the first classroom facility to be built at the Mount in over 40 years.

The building is environmentally-conscious and will provide students with a modern and interactive learning environment. The campus will be connected via pedway from the McCain Centre, which allows for direct access to the Rosaria Student Centre and the E. Margaret Fulton Communications Centre (library).



Moving the week of May 11, 2015
McCain Centre, Room 312

The Co-op Office is thrilled to be moving into a new, fresh space to accommodate students and employers. Stay tuned for a 'Save the Date' Co-op Office Open House.

In the meantime, you can keep updated on the building by visiting the [construction website](#).

Advancing Employment Opportunities for Students and Grads Here at Home

On February 10, the Atlantic Division of the Canadian Association of Co-operative Educators (CAFCE) honored Brian Watson, Past Director of Workforce Innovation & Entrepreneurship at the Nova Scotia Department of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism (NSERDT) for his commitment to advancing student employment programs across the province.

Over the last few years, Brian has been instrumental in creating and implementing programs aimed at incenting Nova Scotia employers to hire co-op students and provide meaningful work opportunities. Under his direction was the Strategic Co-operative Education Initiative (SCEI) and the Student Career Skills Development Program (SCSDP). Through these wage subsidy programs, hundreds of co-op jobs have been supported each year in the Province of Nova Scotia, creating a "win-win-win-win" situation for students, employers, provincial government and institutions like Mount Saint Vincent University who deliver experiential learning programs.

Brian played a leading role in the development of the new Graduate to Opportunity program (GTO), which provides salary contributions to Nova Scotia-based employers to offset the cost of hiring a recent graduate and assist post-secondary graduates in finding full-time work in the province. The incentive is available to small and medium sized businesses with fewer than 100 employees, start-up companies, social enterprises, not-for-profits and registered charities.

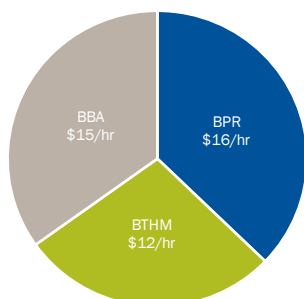


Brian Watson shown with
Joanne Firth, Chair,
CAFCE Atlantic

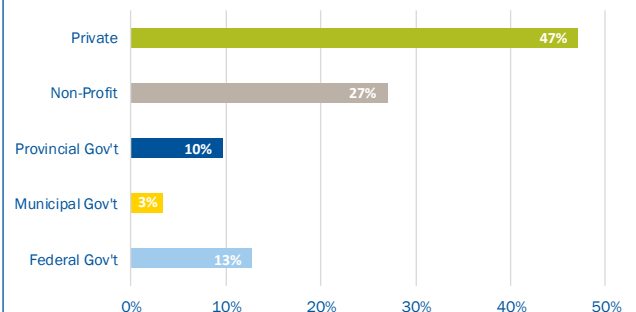
For more information about co-op funding programs, please visit <http://novascotia.ca/lae>.

Mount Co-op Statistics for 2014

Average Salaries in 2014



2014 Co-op Employers



Taking my Degree Down Under

ARTICLE WRITTEN BY MELISSA NODDING, BPR Co-OP STUDENT

Around this time last year I was at a cross-roads in my life. My partner was moving to Australia to chase his dream of becoming a dentist and I was in Halifax leading a pretty ordinary student life. I had the choice of staying in Halifax or moving 20,000 kilometers away. In February 2014 I decided to take a leap of faith and embrace the adventure ahead of me. I would finish my degree online and find my final co-op position overseas.

By May I was packed and ready to make the 34 hour trip to the Gold Coast in Queensland, Australia. It was a very difficult decision to pick up and leave, as finishing my degree has always been priority. But adventure awaited and with the Mount's wonderful Distance Education program I had peace of mind that I wouldn't fall behind.

Throughout summer months (winter in Australia) I was very busy with my online courses. Because of the extreme time difference (16 hours ahead of Nova Scotia) I ended up having class at 2:30 am until 6:30 am twice a week. As you can imagine, this was extremely difficult for me, but it was a challenge I embraced and quite often used as a joke.

The great thing about distance education is that it doesn't matter where you are, all that matters is that you have an internet connection and a computer. I was fortunate enough to spend a couple days in June between semesters at the Great Barrier Reef. I set my laptop up at the hostel we were staying in and was able to participate in class while enjoying a bit of a holiday.

When fall rolled around I was anxious to find a co-op position here on the Gold Coast. The trouble with co-op positions here is that a lot of them are unpaid. Because the co-op program requires the position to be paid, I had to come up with another plan.

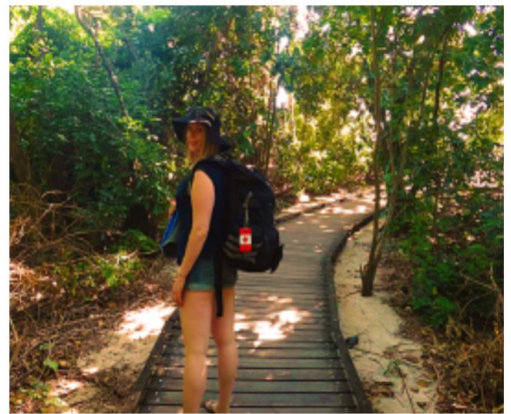
I had talked to my parents in Nova Scotia about my dilemma and my dad mentioned I could try to find a Nova Scotia based company that would allow me to work from home in Australia. After giving it some thought and having no luck with finding positions here in the Gold Coast, I asked my dad to put me in contact with a local business he knew needed some public relations help. After a few emails and skype dates with the owners and manager of The Windbag Company of NS, we decided that it was a good fit. The nature of the work I did for them did not require me to be on-site, and therefore I was able to work from home in Australia. I was in constant contact with the business and had skype meetings with the manager three to four times a week. I was able to build a website from scratch for them, develop a communications plan and produce marketing materials all from a distance.

This leap of faith turned out for the best and I'm so grateful for the opportunity I was given. Often in businesses you are required to work with someone that is not always on location, and this position gave me the opportunity to learn the skills to deal with this. I learned time management skills, a whole new set of communication skills and how to work efficiently with a team I was not in the same physical location with.

I have a tendency to do things a little differently than my peers and taking my degree and my co-op down under is no exception. This has been one of the greatest experiences of my life.



Melissa Nodding, BPR Co-op Student



Melissa exploring in Australia, 2014



Save the Date

Co-op is moving...and we are excited to have you visit
Open House & Guided Tour of McCain Centre
Wednesday, June 24, 2015 from 1:00 - 4:00 PM
Light Refreshments to be served
More information to come soon!