



# Co-op Works



Greetings from the Mount Co-op Office,

The Co-op Team is always pleased to take some time to reflect on our shared successes over the past year. In 2017, we facilitated over 270 co-op, practica and internship work terms. Mount students worked in a variety of sectors here in Halifax and across the country.

Thank you to our employers who hired Mount students in 2017. It is your commitment to mentorship that allows our students to gain such valuable experience. During work site visits with employers and students this past fall, we heard about the wonderful opportunities students are getting to build their experience and professional network. It is great to see the mutually beneficial role co-op can play in building a stronger economy and future workforce.

To formally recognize our students and employers, our office awards the Mount Co-op Student of the Year and the Co-op Employer of the Year Award. A call for nominations was sent to all employers who hired a student this past year and we encourage you to submit an application.

The deadline is **Friday, January 5, 2018**. We also look forward to the annual Employer of the Year Award where students can nominate their supervisors for providing a meaningful, well-rounded learning experience.

2017 was an exciting year in co-op with many exciting new initiatives. Co-op students from around the region along with employers had an opportunity to participate in the Nova Scotia Co-operative Education Summit. The event allowed students and employers to connect in-person and to participate in a variety of workshops. Read more about this event on page two.

In January 2018, the Mount Co-op Team looks forward to working with 154 students who will be seeking work terms. Stay tuned for more information about hiring a student.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *Co-op Works*.

Happy Holidays!

*-The Mount Co-op Team*

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## Important Dates

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- **January 10**  
First employer deadline
- **January 15**  
First round of job postings
- **January 26**  
LAE funding deadline for eligible NS employers
- **February 9**  
Interviews and direct offers begin

## Shaping a brighter future for Nova Scotia through co-op education



Over 175 university co-op students, employers, and post-secondary education stakeholders from across the province convened for The Nova Scotia Co-op Education Summit – Now to Next in Halifax on October 27. The day-long event was the first of its kind for the province, focusing on the impact of co-op education on the future of the professional workforce and economy.

Through a series of sessions, students learned strategies for having a successful work term and easing the transition from co-op to full-time employment while employers learned how to leverage co-op for organizational effectiveness and for talent recruitment and retention in a competitive market.

The event was an outcome of the provincial government's Innovation Team's Experiential Learning Working Committee and was a joint initiative of the co-op education offices of Acadia University, Dalhousie University, Mount Saint Vincent University, Saint Mary's University, and St. Francis Xavier University. We thank all who attended!

## The power of perseverance

In the summer of 2015, business co-op student Connor Hirtle was involved in an accident that left him paralyzed from the chest down. This meant he was no longer able to do many of the things we take for granted. What Connor didn't lose was his determination and willpower to live his best life, despite his physical limitations. "You always have to have hope. I will live by these words until the day I die or when I walk out of this chair."

After countless hours spent in the hospital and in rehab, Connor decided to continue his studies in the fall of 2016. He also chose to continue his co-op journey and completed his second work term with Kinduct Technologies this past summer. Kinduct is a world leading data and analytics software provider for professional and elite sport organizations, tactical and defense departments, and health and wellness institutions. Some of their "major league" clients include Orlando Magic and the LA Dodgers.



As a Junior Marketing Consultant, Connor developed content for print and online materials, conducted research, worked with the product development team and compiled a case study to showcase one of Kinduct's clients. When asked what he liked most about working for Kinduct, his answer came with a smile. "The team of people are amazing. Everyone is so accommodating and they made the transition back to the workplace easy."

It is evident that the team at Kinduct values having students like Connor in the office. "The company is growing exponentially," says Director of Marketing & Communications, Sean Williams. "We have moved offices twice over the last few years to accommodate our team. There is no shortage of work to be done and having Connor work with us was beneficial. He is easy-going, hard-working and has a sports background so he gets the space."

When asked why companies should be hiring co-op students, Sean believes the answer lies in the future. "Having co-op students feeds our employment funnel. It's potentially the future of the company. Students bring a different way of thinking and companies can benefit from new ideas, whether it be product innovation, new ways of doing business, market research or identifying new market opportunities."

In addition to his academic studies, Connor remains busy with his fundraising campaign, Hope for Hirtle. Most recently, Connor has been researching the possibility of being involved in a research trial at the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis. Connor Hirtle is truly a force to be reckoned with. His positive spirit and determination shines through in his work ethic. If you are interested in donating to Hope for Hirtle, visit [facebook.com/HopeforHirtle](https://facebook.com/HopeforHirtle).