



**MOUNT**  
SAINT VINCENT  
UNIVERSITY

CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION



JACK

# 2019 Annual Report

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## OUR MISSION

The mission of the Mount Saint Vincent University Co-operative Education Program is to be a leader in fostering and advancing experiential learning by:

- Developing skilled professionals who will strengthen the workforce in new and innovative ways;
- Leveraging community and alumnae relationships to the Mount through strong employer partnerships;
- Providing students with the support and experiences for career exploration; and
- Promoting an environment where diversity is celebrated and valued in the workplace.

# GREETINGS FROM THE *Mount Co-op Team*

The start of spring always feels like a new, fresh start while providing an opportunity for reflection. The Co-op Team is happy to celebrate our successes over the last year and to look forward to setting new objectives for the coming year. We take great pride in recognizing the accomplishments of Mount students and the opportunities they are exposed to thanks to your support. Our program would not be possible without the support and dedication of our educational partners. Thank you for creating meaningful opportunities for our students.

This annual report celebrates the nominees and winners for our annual Co-op Student of the Year and Employer of the Year awards. This year, we received 23 student and 21 employer nominations. You can read more about the 2019 recipients on pages 4-5.

Each year, we also distribute a survey to co-op graduates about their experience in the co-op program. We are pleased to share these results with you on page 6. Enclosed you will also see a breakdown of students who completed co-op work terms in 2019, average salaries as well as an overview of employers who posted with us based on industry.



Given that students and employers are at the core of what we do – we have also included some success stories in the last few pages of this report. Last year, marked an important milestone as our 40th anniversary. We hope you were able to check out our website and social media channels where we profiled Mount co-op students, faculty, staff, employers and alumnae using hashtag #peopleofmountcoop. Thanks to all who participated in this initiative.

We hope you enjoy this version of our annual report. Our team recognizes how challenging the last several weeks have been with the ever evolving COVID-19 pandemic, and the impact it has had globally. We thank you for your continued support, patience and flexibility in working with our students and our office. In these uncertain times, we hope you and your families are staying safe and well.

The Mount Co-op Team



# CO-OP STUDENT *of the year 2019*

The Mount Co-op Student of the Year Award was instituted in 1999 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Mount's Co-op Program. The selection criteria includes academic achievement, community involvement, contribution to the employer, and the impact co-operative education has had on personal and professional development.



## *Business Administration*

### **Ploynapas (Ploy) Jirarungroj**

*nominated by Kyliia Irving, Senior Financial Analyst, Nova Scotia Health Authority for her third work term*

“Ploy was able to help our team tremendously and with little direction she could complete tasks. She was a team player who helped us achieve excellence in health, healing and learning through working.”



## *Tourism and Hospitality Management*

### **Rachel Langille**

*nominated by Sarah Noble, Front Office Manager, The Halliburton Hotel for her second work term*

“Since the day Rachel started with us she was always the first person to offer help in any situation. She was keen to learn more about each department within the hotel and was cross-trained in housekeeping and the restaurant to further her knowledge. This gave her valuable information, which she applied to better serve our guests.”



## *Public Relations*

### **Jenny Dunne**

*nominated by Audrey Milley, Senior Manager of Finance & Administration, Centre for Entrepreneurship Education & Development (CEED) for her first work term*

“Jenny’s engagement of new partners throughout the province led to increased community involvement for CEED in many rural areas where it had not previously had involvement. CEED’s mission is to deliver innovative programs and services that empower individuals and communities to achieve their full potential with a vision of a vibrant and entrepreneurial Nova Scotia. The new relationships that Jenny forged help fulfill CEED’s mission and advance its vision all at the same time.”

# EMPLOYER *of the year 2019*

The Mount Co-op Employer of the Year Award was instituted in 2009 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Mount's Co-op Program. As part of our 40th anniversary celebrations in 2019, the award was expanded to include two categories: New Mount Co-op Employer of the Year and Longstanding Mount Co-op Employer of the Year.

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

## *New Tourism & Hospitality Management Employer of the Year*



### **Brittany Parker**

*Benjamin Bridge, Wolfville, NS  
nominated by Marissa Beckwith, BTHM co-op student*

"When working with Brittany, she was always willing to listen and encourage students to provide insight and new creative ideas."

## *New Public Relations Employer of the Year*



Canada Food  
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne  
d'inspection des aliments

### **Greg Rogers**

*Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Moncton, NB  
nominated by Janessa Ferguson, BPR co-op student*

"Greg always made me feel like I was an important person to have around and I never felt like I was just there to do the 'grunt' work'. He answered every question I had about any topic I could think of and made my time at the CFIA so valuable."

## *Longstanding Tourism & Hospitality Management Employer of the Year*



Canadian Museum of  
Immigration at Pier 21

Musée canadien de  
l'immigration du Quai 21

### **Kristine Kovacevic**

*Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, Halifax, NS  
nominated by Liuqing Xu, BTHM co-op student*

"Kristine was a mentor to me and I really liked her leadership style. She gave feedback that helped me find my strengths and weaknesses, and encouraged me to reach higher goals in my career by connecting me to internal professional development resources as well as outside networking opportunities."

## *Longstanding Public Relations Employer of the Year*



Canada Revenue  
Agency

Agence du revenu  
du Canada

### **Melanie Terrio-Lamothe**

*Canada Revenue Agency, Dartmouth, NS  
nominated by Alexandra Sotiropoulos, BPR co-op student*

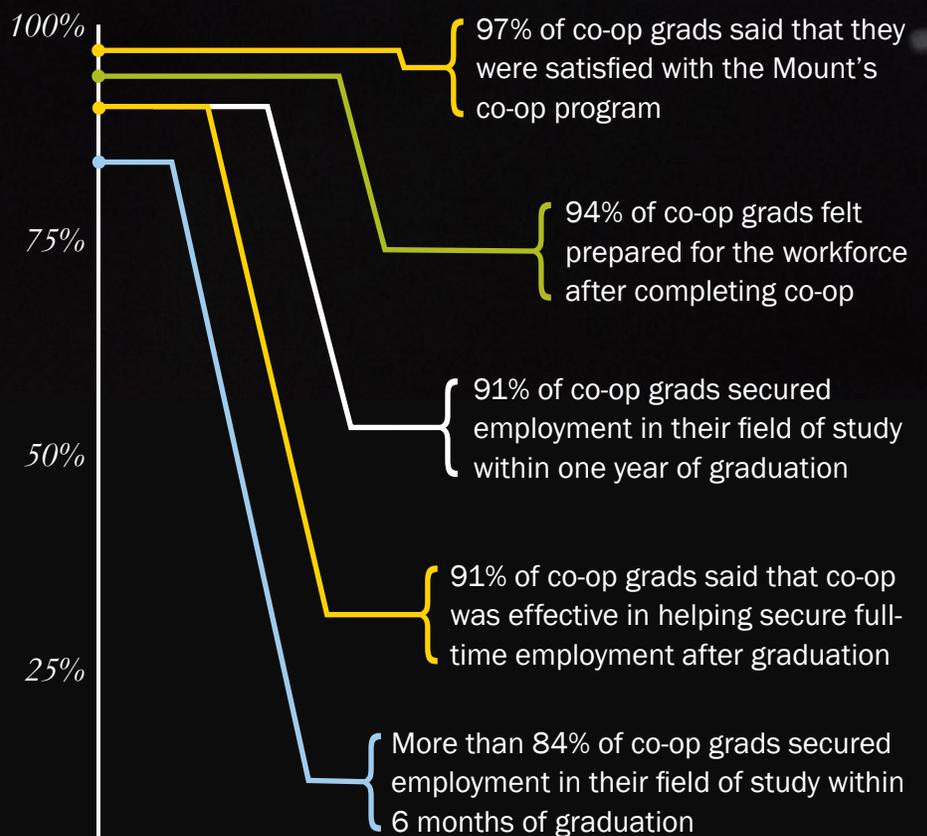
"Since the first day I started working with Melanie, she was constantly giving me opportunities to grow. It is a great feeling to know your supervisor wants you to feel included."

# Graduate STATISTICS



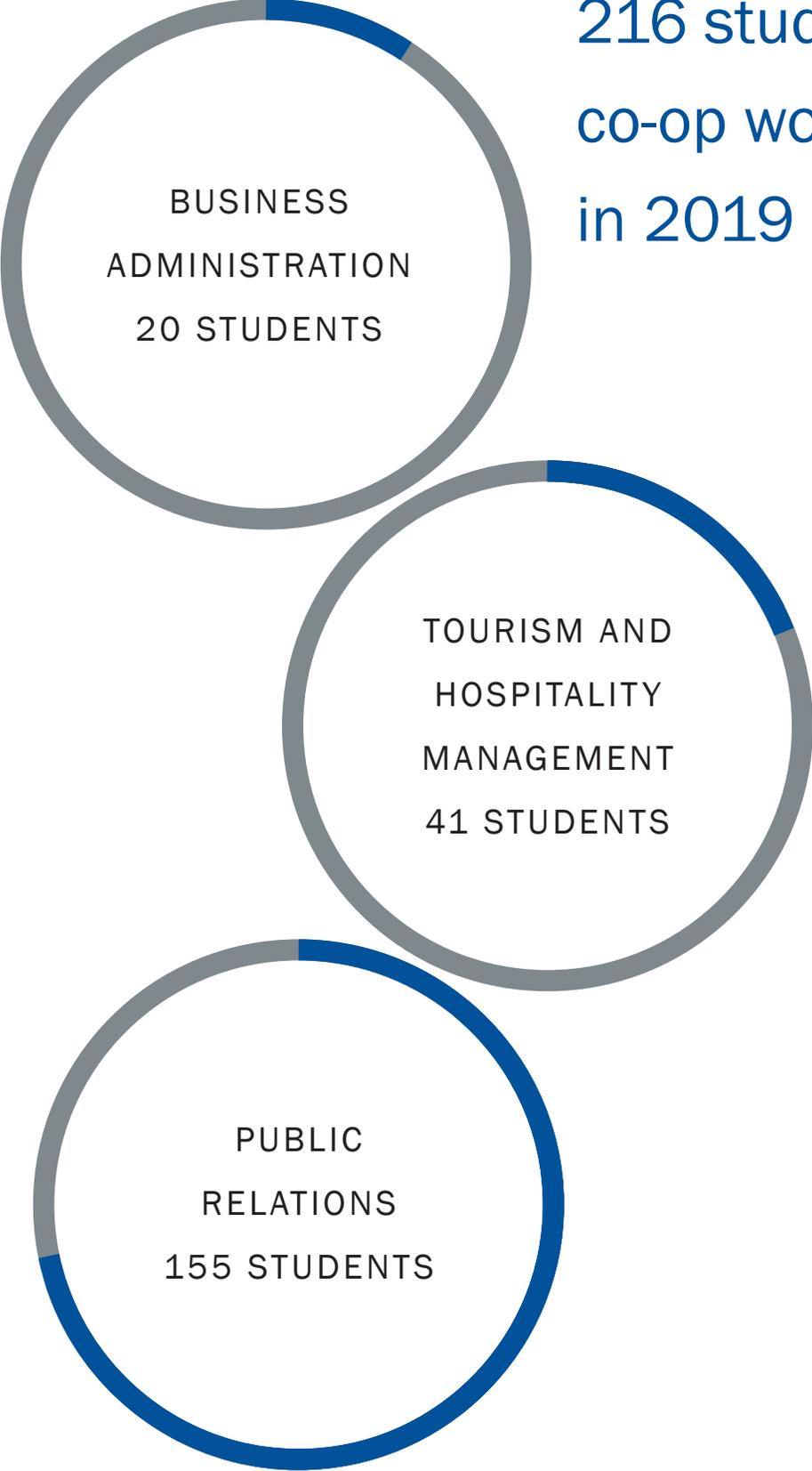
## Here's what our grads had to say:

Since 2010, the Co-op Office has conducted a survey to learn about grad success in the workplace and how co-op has contributed to their current level of success. Our business administration, public relations and tourism & hospitality management co-op students are surveyed one year after graduation.



# Program STATISTICS

216 students completed  
co-op work terms  
in 2019



BUSINESS  
ADMINISTRATION  
20 STUDENTS

TOURISM AND  
HOSPITALITY  
MANAGEMENT  
41 STUDENTS

PUBLIC  
RELATIONS  
155 STUDENTS

## Average Salaries (per hour)

### Business Administration

Work Term 1: \$15.50

Work Term 2: \$16

Work Term 3: \$16.50

### Public Relations

Work Term 1: \$16

Work Term 2: \$17

Work Term 3: \$17.50

### Tourism and Hospitality Management

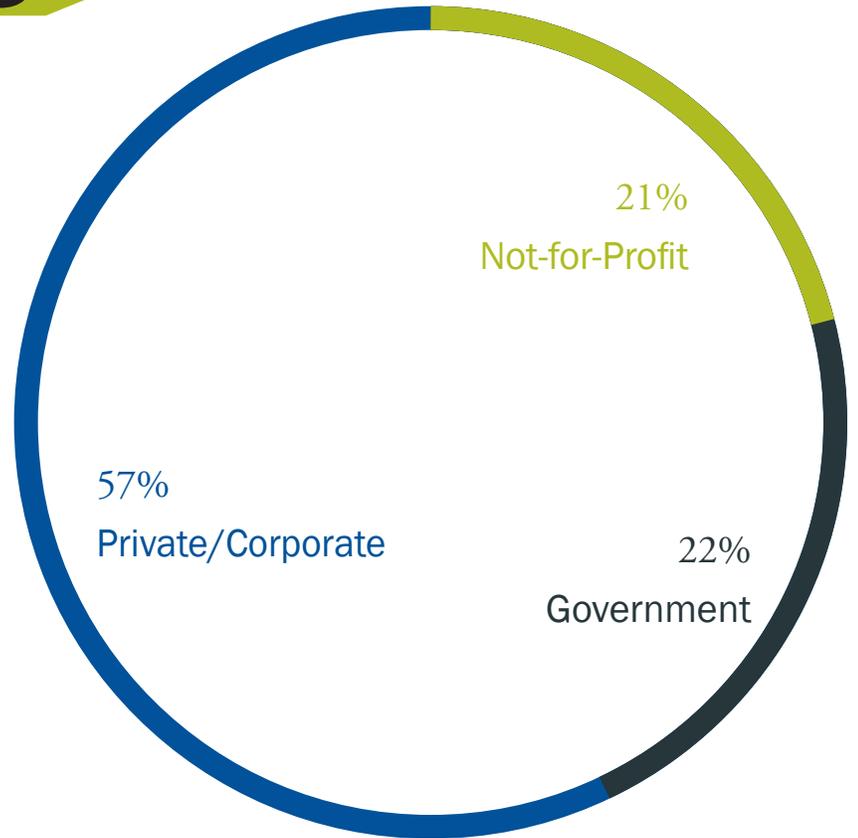
Work Term 1: \$13.50

Work Term 2: \$13.50

Work Term 3: \$13.50

# Industry STATISTICS

258 employers  
posted 512 jobs  
in 2019



# Geographic STATISTICS

**\$1.95 million\***  
earned by co-op students in 2019

Where they  
worked

Atlantic Canada 91%

Central Canada 3%

Western Canada 2%

International 4%

\*Based on 16 week work terms; 35 hours per week.

# Celebrating CO-OP



*Pictured L-R: Greg Rogers, Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Janessa Ferguson, Public Relations Co-op Student*

## Being open-minded to new opportunities

“I was worried in ways that I wasn’t going to fit into a government setting, but after spending eight months at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency my perspective totally changed. I learned new things every single day. Having government work experience is so vital in a job search. I gained firsthand experience in many different types of communications situations. Lots of people really find their stride in government, and I think it’s important to explore every option, even if you’re like me and don’t think that certain avenues are for you. You may just surprise yourself.”

Janessa Ferguson, public relations student completed two of her work terms with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in Moncton, NB.

## From co-op student to co-op supervisor

“Being the Halifax Partnership’s co-op supervisor for the past two years has been an incredibly rewarding experience. When I graduated from the BPR program myself in 2015, I would have never guessed that just a few years later I would have the opportunity to supervise my own co-op students. Every semester I enjoy getting to know them, seeing what they bring to the table, and watching them grow professionally.”

Brittany Warren, Communications Specialist at Halifax Partnership



*Pictured L-R Back Row: Alyson Greeno, Cassey Deveau, Nada Halaweh, and Saad Zora; Front Row: Jessica Lawson, Brittany Warren and Allison Davis*



Pictured L-R Back Row: Mary Jane Leslie and Melissa Cooper, LifeRaft; Front Row: Quinn Densmore, Public Relations Co-op Student

## Co-op as a win-win

"Working with co-op students is one of the absolute best parts of my job. They bring such an infusion of energy and productivity which has a ripple effect through our team. Having been a co-op student myself, I know the tremendous value of the placements to the students - but getting to participate as an employer has been more impactful and rewarding than I could have imagined."

Melissa Cooper, Marketing & Communications Manager at LifeRaft

## The meaning of mentors

"I can confidently say my co-op experiences thus far have been the most rewarding and life changing components of my academic degree. Because of it, I have made lifelong friends, worked alongside my mentors, and even landed a placement at my dream job, The Chronicle Herald (now SaltWire Network). With the support of mentors, I've watched myself grow into the person I always dreamed of becoming and am excited to see where my next co-op takes me, and what my future holds."

Danielle Truen, public relations student currently on her second work term at SaltWire Network.



Pictured: Danielle Truen, Public Relations Co-op Student



## Celebrating co-op staff

Congratulations to co-op team members who received awards at the MSVU Presidents' Luncheon in December 2019. Scott Daniels, Co-op Manager, received the Presidents' Award for Service to the Mount and Courtney Davison, Student Liaison, received the Diversity and Inclusion Leadership Award.

Pictured L-R: Courtney Davison, Student Liaison and Scott Daniels, Co-op Manager, Co-operative Education Department, Mount Saint Vincent University



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