

wine, they're no less focused on setting themselves up for success upon graduation. Students complete three co-op terms: one in a vineyard, another at a winery during the harvest and crush, and the final at any approved aspect of the grape and wine industry. The work terms, combined with an education in oenology and viticulture, and exposure to marketing, tourism and wine appreciation, make for highly specialized experiences for students. Not surprisingly, the **program boasts a 97 per cent employment rate within six months of graduation.** The Niagara wine

real money in startup technology companies in the Waterloo Region. Funded with an initial donation of \$1 million, the student-run fund is supervised by finance professors and a professional advisory board.

Ryerson University is breaking new ground in experiential learning with its zone model of education, blending innovation, entrepreneurship and applied learning. The Digital Media Zone and Centre for Urban Energy provide experiential learning opportunities for students who have an idea for a new business startup, consumer product or change-

making social venture. Zone learning helps to develop valuable skills in problem solving, business planning and management, team building, technology and communications – skills that are useful whether students choose to be entrepreneurs or not. Emerging leaders fast-track their product launches and grow their

companies in this supportive community by connecting with mentors, customers and each other. Results show zone learning creates jobs: since its launch, the Digital Media Zone has incubated and accelerated 126 startups, and created nearly 1,000 jobs.

The University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) is providing students from the Faculty of Business and Information Technology with international experience through the Ontario Global Edge Program, a partnership with Ontario's Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Employment. Students receive financial support for a work placement within small, entrepreneurial companies outside Canada. They develop a broader awareness of the economy, explore international business and learn about the importance of entrepreneurship within the global marketplace. Through the program, 10 UOIT students participated in a summer study program at the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2012 that included eight-week internship placements with entrepreneurial companies in the Hong Kong Science and Technology Park in Shatin.

**“ Ontario's economy is undergoing a transition and universities are evolving with the changing marketplace. Our province's universities are teaching the critical thinking skills that students need to be valuable members of the workforce, and they are offering students numerous opportunities to gain experience while studying. To create a resilient economy and prosperous communities, employers need to play an active role in training the next generation for specific jobs. ”**

*– Allan O'Dette, President & CEO, Ontario Chamber of Commerce*

industry has cause to raise a glass to the program, which is training the next generation of grape growers and winemakers.

For Carleton University students interested in investment management, what better way to learn than managing an on-campus equity portfolio valued at half a million dollars? Every year, the fund – established by Carleton's Sprott School of Business in 2007 with \$50,000 in endowment capital – is managed by 20 students completing their Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of International Business degrees. The program provides students with incredible advantages beyond the opportunity to apply their financial analysis skills – it enables them to build a network of relationships with industry professionals who provide training and mentorship.

The newly established Laurier Startup Fund at Wilfrid Laurier University also gives students a real taste of investment management. The fund is part of a practicum course that allows business students to invest