

UNIVERSITIES ADDING VALUE THROUGH EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Work-integrated learning programs are of vital importance for students and employers alike.

In an increasingly competitive job market, experiential learning programs provide students with invaluable employment experience, making them workplace-ready and expanding their networks – ultimately setting them up for career success.

They also serve as powerful recruitment tools, allowing employers to connect with young talent who bring a fresh approach to their organizations and improve their culture.

Experiential learning connects universities to businesses and communities, creating numerous pathways to learning. From co-op terms to community placements and clinical internships, work-integrated experiences at home and abroad are transformative experiences for students.

In order for Ontario to continue enriching communities with social innovation and vibrant artistic expression and to secure the province's bright economic future, it is crucial for our universities to work closely with businesses, communities and government to prepare the next generation of leaders. Experiential learning has the potential to help build Ontario into the most advanced, dynamic and stable workforce in the country.

“**Experiential learning opportunities are incredibly important both to employers and to the young people they hire. Co-op programs in particular are key components of the talent development and recruitment strategies of large Canadian companies. We applaud universities for providing these opportunities to students and employers.**”

– The Honourable John Manley, President and CEO, Canadian Council of Chief Executives