

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



Canada Celebrates National Co-operative Education Week

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WATERLOO – Universities and colleges from across the country will be promoting a system that helps students gain valuable work experience – as National Co-operative Education Week is held from March 9 to 14. The institution will also help the Canadian Association for Co-operative Education celebrate its 25th anniversary.

The theme of this year's special celebration is "Co-op: Securing Our Future."

Co-op education is a practical learning process which combines classroom education with hands-on experience. This educational strategy gives students the competitive edge they need to secure a job in today's tough marketplace.

Jennifer Bird, a Bachelor of Business Administration student at Wilfrid Laurier University, says of her co-op experience, "I learned to adapt theory to real-life situations. I am now confident that my program is preparing me for the workforce "

At the University of Waterloo, Computer Engineering co-op student Omar Alizzi had this to say: "I entered co-op to get experience in my field so that when I graduate I am accustomed to the business world." Chris Jessup from Waterloo's Chemical Engineering co-op program adds: "In Chemical Engineering there are many different areas, so co-op allows me to test them out. Now that I'm on my fourth work term, I know what I'm looking for."

Charles Martin, a student in the Mechanical Engineering Technology–Robotics & Automation program at Conestoga College, says "Co-operative education has allowed me to explore different areas within my field, and to learn about opportunities and alternatives for career advancement."

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