

On the right Pathway

Building skills for work, school and life

At Georgian College's Academic and Career Preparation program (ACP), job seekers can take part in Pathways to work on their communication, math, computer, and self-management skills.

Pathways is a short-term, part-time program that can be customized to various applications. Originally developed in Owen Sound, Pathways is spreading across the college. Most recently, students in Owen Sound participated in Pathways to Trades while the Orillia campus was excited to offer their first-ever Pathways to Employment.

Typically, Pathways attracts between 10 and 15 students each intake with a retention rate of between 70 and 100 percent. The Orillia Pathways to Employment saw all 11 students complete the course, which is extremely rare for these programs. While students have a variety of reasons for choosing the program, a common theme is feeling better about themselves before tackling their job search.

Amber chose to register in Pathways to “develop new skills, refresh old skills and to feel more confident in stepping out into the workforce.”

Pathways to Employment helps make it work for participants, community partners and local employers. In addition to brushing up their academic skills, participants get assistance with education and work planning.

The program is an ideal stepping stone to further educational, employment and apprenticeship opportunities.

Service coordination with other Employment Ontario service providers and community partners, along with exposure to local employers, is an added bonus.



Ryan Lay, Employer and Community Liaison for Career and Employment Community Services at the Orillia campus, arranged for local employer Billy Wagg, President of Wagg's Ltd., to address the group (above).

Participant Erin says that Pathways “gave me the tools to be job-ready and more confident.”

Upon completing Pathways to Employment, learners earn certificates such as Service Excellence, Smart Serve, First Aid and Safe Food Handling. Participants typically complete WHMIS training and gain personal insight through a Personality Dimensions workshop. Everyone leaves with a well-developed resume and cover letter. In Owen Sound, learners in Pathways to Trades also received some tools at the end of the program.