

ROGERS TV AND WATERFORD ELECTRIC RECEIVE EMPLOYER CHAMPION AWARDS

Local employers recognized for their outstanding programs for high school students

BRANTFORD, ON (June 23, 2011) –Today, Rogers TV, Cable 20, and Waterford Electric were presented with *Passport to Prosperity* Employer Champion Awards in recognition of their experiential learning programs for high school students in the community.

The Employer Champion Award program was established by the Provincial Partnership Council (PPC) to recognize employers in communities across Ontario that demonstrate outstanding dedication and commitment to providing meaningful work experiences for local high school students. The *Passport to Prosperity* campaign, supported by the PPC, encourages Ontario employers to provide experiential learning opportunities for high school students. In Grand Erie, the Passport to Prosperity campaign is delivered by the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie.

For almost thirty years, Waterford Electric has provided students with meaningful experiential learning opportunities in the community. Students work in a range of departments performing tasks that help to develop a well-rounded skill set. To become oriented in electrical construction, students work in all parts of the business, from inventory, to invoicing, to general clean ups. Upon arriving to begin their co-op placements, students are entrusted with their own set of tools and hit the ground running, working right alongside Waterford Electric employees.

“We take great pride in running an experiential learning program,” said Paul Hrovyevich, owner, Waterford Electric. “Our work goes well beyond what happens at Waterford Electric. One of our best practices is to partner with school boards and work directly with principals and teachers to understand firsthand what is happening in the schools, and what students want out of their experience with us. “

Waterford Electric is an integral part of the community – the company recently worked as the electric contractor during the renovations of three local high schools, and was commissioned to supply and install new electrical services and fixtures in the Waterford United church, which had suffered significant fire damage. Students are given the opportunity to work on these projects and as a result, become builders and supporters of their own community.

At Rogers TV in Brantford, grade 11 and 12 students are introduced to the field of television production and broadcasting. Students shoot and edit daily news segments and work in many aspects of studio production on several programs including the channel’s daily talk show, *Inside Brant*.

“Their participation plays an essential role in delivering our unique brand of local programming to viewers in Brantford and Brant County,” said Charles Wechsler, Station Manager, Rogers TV, Cable 20. “Students work hands-on alongside staff to learn all aspects of television, including, camera, audio, graphics and editing. This experience is what gives our students an edge when applying to post-secondary broadcast programs.”

The students in the Rogers TV Grand River placement take their role in the community seriously. Students write, produce and air stories that are often picked up as broadcast features thanks to their merit, including investigative-style stories on environmental concerns. Several students include these pieces in successful scholarship submissions to postsecondary institutions.

“The opportunities provided by Rogers TV , Cable 20, and Waterford Electric are examples of forward-thinking leaders that recognize the value of experiential learning as an effective way to recruit, train and retain young workers,” said Jon Hamovitch, chair of the Provincial Partnership Council. “We applaud the dedication of their employees in helping local students develop practical work and leadership skills through dynamic assignments that best suit their educational backgrounds and learning styles.”

About *Passport to Prosperity*

Passport to Prosperity is a province-wide initiative led by the Provincial Partnership Council (PPC) that encourages and supports Ontario employers in providing high school students with experiential learning opportunities. The PPC works closely with the Ontario Ministry of Education; the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities; and the Ontario Business Education Partnership, representing business-education councils and local training boards across the province.

To learn more about *Passport to Prosperity*, please visit www.ontario.ca/passporttoprosperity.

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