

New Career-Oriented Community Concierge Program to Connect Trent Graduates with Local Employers



Trent University graduates will have enhanced access to local employment opportunities, supports and work-integrated learning through the innovative new Community Concierge program, developed in partnership with the City of Kawartha Lakes and Peterborough & the Kawarthas Economic Development (PKED), and supported through \$822,392 in funding through the Government of Ontario's Skills Development Fund.

"Trent University plays a critical role in providing a labour force equipped with the skills employers demand," said Dr. Leo Groarke, president and vice-chancellor of Trent University. "We welcome the Community Concierge program and are working with our partners to create opportunities for our graduates to gain experience and pursue careers in the local community."

Creating a resilient economy with recent graduates

This innovative new program strives to ensure a resilient workforce by supporting the entry of recent graduates into the labour market, and supporting local and rural employers to fill skilled job vacancies.

The 12-month Community Concierge program, led through [Careerspace at Trent University](#), will create new staff positions to support 60 multi-year partnership agreements between Trent University and local employers, and cultivate employment opportunities for 100 recent graduates.

A portion of the Skills Development funding will allow the University to provide training subsidies and support to eligible job seekers during training and upskilling opportunities and the transition to rural employment. Partnership agreements will also address future work integrated learning placements for emerging graduates to better transition them to full-time employment in the region upon graduation.

“This is incredible news for local jobs seekers and employers in Kawartha Lakes and Peterborough County,” said Laurie Scott, MPP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock, who made the announcement of the Skills Development funding for the Community Concierge program, as well as funding for two projects at Fleming College. “These three local programs delivered by Fleming College and Trent University will help people upgrade their skills and get connected with good, local jobs that are in-demand now and in the future.”

“This coordinated effort between government and education is a great thing for students in Kawartha Lakes,” said City of Kawartha Lakes Mayor Andy Letham. “It will help us strengthen our local workforce and help graduates build their careers right in their own community.”

The Community Concierge positions will be based out of City of Kawartha Lakes, PKED, and Careerspace at Trent University. The Skills Development Fund is an Employment Ontario program, funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.

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Starting off Strong: Trent University Led Community Concierge Program Celebrating Success

December 12, 2022

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Training program supports development of job search skills, facilitates local career opportunities for students and graduates



The Community Concierge program led through [Careerspace](#) at Trent aims to connect recent graduates with local and rural employers throughout the City of Kawartha Lakes and City & County of Peterborough.

Trent University's Community Concierge program – launched this spring – is off to a strong start with 81 recent and emerging graduates having completed the program, and several graduates gainfully employed throughout the region.

"The benefits of work-integrated learning opportunities available through this program are endless," says Ryan Sisson, manager of Community & Workplace Partnerships with [Careerspace](#) at Trent University. "When students gain meaningful experience working with employers in the community, they graduate with more employable skills and are more likely to continue their careers here, strengthening the local workforce."

This 12-month career-oriented program, led through [Careerspace](#) at Trent, was developed in partnership with the City of Kawartha Lakes and Peterborough & the Kawarthas Economic Development (PKED), and supported through the Government of Ontario's Skills Development Fund, with the aim of connecting recent graduates with local and rural employers throughout the City of Kawartha Lakes and City & County of Peterborough.

Working in collaboration with local partners

"Helping find opportunities for Trent students and graduates to work with and in our local businesses is good for our communities," said Rebecca Mustard, manager of Economic Development at the City of Kawartha Lakes. "We're actively working with community partners to encourage youth to jump in, share their talent, and build their lives in Kawartha Lakes."

"By building stronger connections between students and local employers, we increase the opportunities to retain these young and educated workforce of the future in our communities after graduation and ensure that our local companies have the right

skills for their operations,” says Rhonda Keenan, president & chief executive officer of PKED.

Four-week training program to support job search skills

Utilizing support from the Ontario Skills Development Fund, Trent developed a four-week training program to help emerging and recent graduates with their job search skills.

“I gained more skills and knowledge about navigating the job market and enhancing the likelihood of becoming a successful candidate,” says Heidi Parekh '22, a graduate of Trent’s Psychology program, affiliated with Lady Eaton College, who participated in the training. “I can’t say enough positive things about the program’s content, staff, and students.”

“I learned about focused career searching, networking, and personal development, which I will take and share with many folks in my life,” shares Samm Medeiros '20, a graduate of Trent’s Indigenous Environmental Studies & Science who is affiliated with Lady Eaton College.

Multi-year partnership agreements with local employers

In addition to supporting students with career skills, the program supports local and rural employers with filling skilled job vacancies. Trent recently signed partnership agreements with 40 organizations and has over 350 Work-Integrated Learning opportunities. Gauvreau CPA – which recently signed a multi-year partnership with Trent – is one of them.

“The team at Gauvreau has always been fortunate to welcome such high-performing talent from the Trent University Business programs,” says Derek Kirton, chief operating officer with Gauvreau CPA. “The practical and academic experience obtained at Trent sets graduates up for success in our industry, and we look forward to welcoming many more graduates in the future.”

Learn more about the [Community Concierge Program](#).

The Community Concierge positions are based out of City of Kawartha Lakes, Peterborough & the Kawarthas Economic Development, and Careospace at Trent University. The Skills Development Fund is an Employment Ontario program, funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.

About Trent University

One of Canada’s top universities, Trent University was founded on the ideal of interactive learning that’s personal, purposeful and transformative. Consistently recognized nationally for leadership in teaching, research and student satisfaction, Trent attracts excellent students from across the country and around the world. Here, undergraduate and graduate students connect and collaborate with faculty, staff and their peers through diverse communities that span residential colleges, classrooms, disciplines, hands-on research, co-curricular and community-based activities. Across all disciplines, Trent brings critical, integrative thinking to life every day. Today, Trent’s unique approach to personal development through supportive, collaborative community engagement is in more demand than ever. Students lead the way by co-creating experiences rooted in dialogue, diverse perspectives and collaboration. In a learning environment that builds life-long passion for inclusion, leadership and social change, Trent’s students, alumni, faculty and staff are engaged global citizens who are catalysts in developing sustainable solutions to complex issues. Trent’s Peterborough campus boasts award-winning architecture in a breathtaking natural setting on the banks of the Otonabee River, just 90 minutes from downtown Toronto, while Trent University Durham Greater Toronto Area, delivers a distinct mix of programming in the east GTA.

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Celebrating Local Career Connections for Trent Graduates

March 24, 2023

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70 recent graduates connected with employment opportunities, 70 multi-year partnerships with local employers to create work-integrated learning experiences among Community Concierge program highlights



Trent University is celebrating the first year of the Community Concierge program, an innovative, cross-municipality program that connects Trent graduates with career opportunities throughout the City and County of Peterborough and the City of Kawartha Lakes.

Led by Trent, and operated in collaboration with the City of Kawartha Lakes, and Peterborough & the Kawarthas Economic Development (PKED), the program is supported by \$822,392 in funding through the Government of Ontario's Skills Development Fund.

The Community Concierge program was created with the dual purpose of helping recent Trent graduates enter the job market and supporting local and rural employers fill skilled worker vacancies.

"Trent University provides students and graduates with the in-demand skills they need to succeed," says Dr. Leo Groarke, president and vice-chancellor. "We are partnering with Kawartha Lakes, and Peterborough and the Kawarthas Economic Development to create opportunities for our students to gain those skills while ensuring a resilient workforce for local employers."

Led through Careerspace at Trent University, the Community Concierge program establishes and develops a talent pipeline that supports rural economic growth efforts. The program has created 70 multi-year partnership agreements between Trent and local employers to cultivate employment opportunities for more than 100 recent graduates to date.

Business community comes together to celebrate this success

Nearly 200 guests attended the one-year anniversary celebration on March 24 at Trent, recognizing the contributions from employment partners who have entered into multi-year cooperation agreements with the University to enhance access to local

employment opportunities for recent graduates. Partners included the March of Dimes, Canadian Mental Health Association, PRI Engineering, and others from across the City of Kawartha Lakes, and the City & County of Peterborough.

These partnership agreements provide future Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) placements for upper-year students to help transition them to local, full-time employment upon graduation.

Also in attendance at the celebration were Trent placement faculty and staff, program participants and recent Trent graduates, as well as several provincial and local elected representatives.

"This capital investment provided by the Skills Development Fund from the provincial government will facilitate beneficial partnerships between graduates from Trent University and local employers in the Community Concierge Program," said Laurie Scott, MPP Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock. "This important connection will promote economic growth while addressing challenges to hiring, training, and retaining workers in our region. I look forward to the continued success for everyone involved."

A portion of the Skills Development funding catalyzed training subsidies and support offered to eligible job seekers by the University during their transition to rural employment.

"Thanks to the governments of Canada and Ontario, Trent University, and all project partners for an excellent program. We are looking forward to Trent students, and graduates, living and working in Kawartha Lakes," said City of Kawartha Lakes Mayor Doug Elmslie. "The benefits of this program will be evident for years to come, it is a wonderful example of what can be achieved when educators, the private sector and all levels of Government work together."

Community Concierge positions were based out of City of Kawartha Lakes, PKED, and Careerspace at Trent University. The Skills Development Fund is an Employment Ontario program, funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.

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Kawartha Lakes

Jump In



Posted on Tuesday, April 04, 2023

Kawartha Lakes – A one-year anniversary celebration for the Community Concierge program (<https://www.trentu.ca/careerspace/community-concierge-program-recent-graduates>) took place at Trent University on Friday March 24, with nearly 200 guests in attendance.



The Community Concierge program is an innovative, cross-municipality program that connects Trent graduates with career opportunities throughout the City of Kawartha Lakes and the City and County of Peterborough. The program is supported by \$822,392 in funding through the Skills Development Fund which is an Employment Ontario program funded in part by the provincial and federal governments.

The program was created with the dual purpose of helping recent Trent graduates enter the job market, while supporting local and rural employers to fill skilled worker vacancies.

In Kawartha Lakes, **36 organizations** signed multi-year cooperation agreements as part of the program, yielding **1,500 Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) placements** for upper-year students to help transition them to local, full-time employment upon graduation.

"It is terrific to see local businesses making new connections, or formalizing existing relationships, with Trent University. Kawartha Lakes is going to benefit from students joining into our communities while they learn," said Rebecca Mustard, Manager of Economic Development.

"The benefits of this program will be evident for years to come. It is a wonderful

example of what can be achieved when educators, the private sector and all levels of government work together. We are looking forward to Trent students, and graduates, living and working in Kawartha Lakes,” added Mayor Doug Elmslie.

Photo Caption: From left to right Kelly Maloney (Kawartha Lakes Economic Development Officer), Lisa Handley (Kawartha Dairy), Laurie Scott, MPP (Haliburton—Kawartha Lakes—Brock) , Dr. Leo Groarke (President and Vice Chancellor Trent University), Mayor Doug Elmslie (Kawartha Lakes), Rebecca Mustard (Kawartha Lakes Manager of Economic Development

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From the Field to the Workforce: Student-Athlete Excels Through Community Concierge Program

April 26, 2023

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Aidan McLaughlin becomes first student to secure employment through program



Trent University [Kinesiology](#) student, Aidan McLaughlin, has become the first to secure employment through the Community Concierge Program, a 12-month initiative designed to enhance Trent graduates' employability.

The program, developed in partnership with the City of Kawartha Lakes and the Peterborough & the Kawarthas Economic Development (PKED), offers training and networking opportunities. McLaughlin credits the program with helping him develop skills and make valuable connections within the community.

A hat-trick of success: on the field, in the classroom, and in the workplace

During his five years at Trent, Aidan has excelled academically as a Kinesiology student, made his mark on the men's Excalibur lacrosse program, and was named the Arthur Cup recipient for the 2022-23 season.

To round out his time at Trent, Aidan met with the Careerspace team to talk about the Community Concierge program and how it could help him land a career after Trent.

"I realized this was an opportunity that would help me make connections in the Peterborough and Kawartha community and develop skills to help make me more employable," he said.

After being accepted to the program, McLaughlin was given open access to a six-module course that included a skill identification tool meant to help students identify their unique skill set. In addition to workshops, course content included guest speakers from the City of Kawartha Lakes, PKED and Trent Alumni, offering students interview tips, insight on the current job market, and networking strategies.

"The variety of workshops related to resume and cover letter building, as well as interview preparation, gave me important practice I didn't know I needed," said Aidan. "Completing these workshops increased the number of responses I received on job

applications. They also gave me the ability to walk into a job interview with confidence in knowing I knew what to say and how to best present myself. In addition, the opportunity to make connections with local community organizations and members was a valuable and important aspect of the Community Concierge program.”

For more information on the Community Concierge Program, please contact Ryan Sisson, Manager, Community & Workplace Partnerships, rsisson@trentu.ca or 705-748-1011 x7464.