



Canadian Association for Co-operative Education
 Association canadienne de l'enseignement coopératif

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS EARN NATIONAL RECOGNITION"

Toronto, ON, March 9, 2012 – What do Lisa Hodgins of Assiniboine Community College and Laura Pittman of Memorial University of Newfoundland have in common? They are both winners of the 2011 Canadian Association of Co-operative Education's (CAFCE) Co-op Student of the Year award.



Lisa Hodgins, a second year student at Assiniboine Community College studying in Environmental Technology: Land and Water Specialization, has consistently been an honours student, while working part-time and volunteering for worthwhile causes throughout the City of Brandon and surrounding communities. Ms. Hodgins completed her Co-op Work Term at the Canadian Center of Inland Waters in Burlington, Ontario and received extremely high recognition from her employer and co-op coordinator.

Ms. Hodgins was raised in the small agriculture community of Melita, Manitoba. Prior to starting college, she travelled extensively doing humanitarian work in developing countries. Ms. Hodgins will be enrolling in Environmental Sciences after graduating from college this year.



Laura Pittman, winner of the university 2011 CAFCE Co-op Student of the Year Award, is a 5th year Mechanical Engineering student at Memorial University of Newfoundland.

Ms. Pittman held a Work Term with Shell Canada's Deep Basin Drilling Team from May through August 2011, under the mentorship and supervision of Mr. Ken Anderson, P. Eng. and Mr. Vittorio Spoldi, P. Eng. Ms. Pittman's main project was to complete a competitor study of horizontal wells in the Deep Basin East area. Her original scope included an analysis of competitor designs and practices, and this was expanded to include the analysis of Time and Cost Performance. The future cost savings per well resulting from Laura's work will result in considerable financial benefits for Shell.

Ms. Pittman, who was thrilled to receive the award, had this to say: "While it is always gratifying to be recognized for the hard work and dedication I've devoted to my education, what means the most to me is the potential impact it has on future engineering co-op students. I am optimistic that this award can bring additional recognition to importance of cooperative education, the quality of students that attend Memorial and, in particular, the quality of engineering students. To get where I am today takes a great deal of focus, determination and hard work. However, I could not have done it alone. I am fortunate to always have great support from my family, my mentors while completing my work terms and, of course, the faculty and staff within engineering and cooperative education at Memorial."

Dr. Geoff Smith, Co-operative Engineering Co-ordinator at Memorial, nominated Ms. Pittman for the CAFCE Co-Op Student of the Year Award. He admires Ms. Pittman's discipline and time management skills, which have permitted her to maintain an elite academic standing while competing in varsity soccer and participating prominently with the Memorial Engineering Student Society, "She is a wonderful role model, a credit to the Engineering Co-op program at Memorial, and she will be a valuable contributor to the Engineering profession."

Dr. Ramachandran Venkatesan, Dean pro-tempore of the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science echoed the sentiments of both Ms. Pittman and Dr. Rans, adding that "Laura's achievement is truly noteworthy. A national award is a significant recognition. Employers often tell us how pleased they are with Memorial's engineering work term students. This recognition in an elite competition highlights the high quality of our students. This is a proud moment for all of us in the faculty of engineering."

“This is the first time a Memorial student has received this award. It is a major achievement and a huge recognition for the quality and success of our students and programs” said Dr. Peter Rans, director of Co-operative Education.

In addition to receiving a \$500 cash award from CAFCE with a certificate to commemorate their achievements, Lisa Hodgins and Laura Pittman will each receive the \$500 Emery-Dufault Award in recognition of the contributions of two of the founding fathers of co-operative education in Canada, Dr. Charles Leslie (Les) Emery and Professor George Joseph Dufault.

Each year CAFCE recognizes outstanding co-op student achievement from both the college and university level. Co-op offices across Canada will be celebrating this and other co-op initiatives during National Co-operative Education Week, March 19-23, 2012. 30 co-operative education students were nominated this year from a pool of candidates of more than 80,000 students studying at 78 CAFCE member institutions across Canada. Honourable mentions were given to Sophia So Yeon Kim from The University of British Columbia ((Bachelor of Arts, Economics and International Relations) and Erica Parson from Camosun College (Hotel and Restaurant Management Diploma).

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