ITAC Career Ready Program Briefing for CEWIL Webinar – November 2019

As Canada’s national ICT business association, the Information Technology Association of Canada (ITAC) champions the development of a robust and sustainable digital economy in Canada. A vital connection between business and government, we provide our members with the advocacy, networking and professional development services that help them to thrive nationally and compete globally.

Under the leadership of the Business Higher Education Roundtable (BHER), an unprecedented coalition of educators and employers have come together to ensure that Canada has the most highly skilled and productive work force in the world.

ITAC Talent agrees with BHER in that we believe that the most efficient and effective way to prepare Canada’s youth for the coming skills revolution is by embracing work-integrated learning (WIL).

WIL opportunities such as co-ops, internships, apprenticeships and applied research projects enable students to apply their skills and knowledge in the workplace. They introduce young people to potential new career paths, while providing businesses with access to new talent, energy and ideas. This is why we believe that 100 percent of Canada’s post-secondary students should have access to a WIL opportunity, and how we became a partner in the Government of Canada’s Student Work Placement Program (SWPP) in 2017.

In Fall of 2019, ITAC Talent announced an expansion to the Career Ready Program. Acknowledging the equal importance of immersing students from interdisciplinary programs as well as those from traditional tech programs, students from Arts, Business, etc. programs are now considered eligible, if their job role is tech related. The program grew as well to now include employers in the non-profit sector. Funding covers 50% of wages up to a maximum of $5000.00, or 70% of wages up to a maximum of $7000.00 for students from the following underrepresented groups:

- Women in STEM programs
- Indigenous students
- Persons with disabilities
- Recent immigrants (with permanent residency or refugee status, within the last 5 years)
- Students participating in co-op for their first time.

Employer eligibility:
- A registered Canadian business with;
- General liability insurance and;
- Ability to provide a meaningful WIL experience in a tech related role and;
- Cover the fair cost of wages throughout the placement.

Students eligibility:
- Must be a Canadian citizen, recent immigrant or refugee
- Registered in or returning to study at an accredited Canadian post-secondary institution.

Learn more at www.itactalent.ca or reach out to careerready@itac.ca.