

## What is the Teacher Ambassador Program – Technology Industry ?

The Teacher Ambassador Program (TAP) - Technology Industry was developed by Career Planning and Employment Services in collaboration with the Department of Education, Skills Canada-NL, the Association of Engineering Technicians and Technologists of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Community Career Centre, schools within the k-12 system and a host of businesses, labour, and community partners throughout the province.

The goal of the TAP-Technology Industry is to increase teachers' knowledge and understanding of the technology industry and the related educational and employment opportunities that exist now and into the future.

The TAP-Technology Industry provides educators in the k-12 system with opportunities to job shadow a technologist or a technician for a full working day.

Teachers become "Ambassadors" for the technology industry and commit to enhancing their in-school curriculum by sharing their increased knowledge and insights with their students and colleagues.

## The Multiplier Effect

The multiplier effect of the TAP-Technology Industry is most significant. Teacher Ambassadors will develop more relevant and insightful curriculum units that they will use with their present and future students. For example, one high school teacher, who is midway through his/her teaching career and who typically provides instruction to approximately one hundred fifty students each day of the school year, has the potential to directly impact the quality of learning of approximately 2,250 students!

## What will teachers be asked to do?

Teacher Ambassadors have a TAP-Technology Industry Logbook that outlines a variety of tasks that must be completed prior to, during, and following their work placements with technologists.

Teacher Ambassadors will conduct on-site occupational interviews with persons involved in the technology industry. Following their work site experiences, they will also develop instructional units for their students that will enhance their in-school curriculum. Both the occupational interviews and the instructional units will be shared with students and colleagues in their schools and globally with users of the internet.

## What will employers be asked to do?

Employers will be asked to provide Teacher Ambassadors with a variety of experiences throughout their job shadowing day. These experiences will result in an increased understanding of the work of a technologist /technician and the businesses/organizations in which they operate.

## Student Benefits

Teacher Ambassadors will bring personal experiences in a variety of technology areas to their classrooms that will enable them to:

- help students become better informed about the technology industry and the educational and employment opportunities that exist now and into the future
- help students more fully understand the relevancy of what is being taught in school and how it is connected to technology
- help students become more aware of the importance of generic employability skills that enhance their personal development and also form the foundation of a competitive workforce

- help students become more aware of the importance of developing a commitment to a work ethic of personal excellence focused upon lifelong learning
- help students make effective career choices based upon accurate information and increased understanding of a variety of occupational areas
- help students make more effective transitions from school to educational and/or employment opportunities.

## Teacher Benefits

There are many ways in which teachers involved in the TAP-Technology Industry benefit at both a personal and professional level. Some of them include:

- broadening of their knowledge and understanding of the work involved in the technology industry
- opportunities to enhance in-school curriculum by incorporating contemporary workplace practices and current labour market issues
- development of greater confidence to better advise students about career opportunities both present and into the future
- opportunities to develop an on-going network of technologists to support and enrich teaching and learning.

## Employer Benefits

Employers benefit by:

- collaborating with teachers to ensure the continued development of an educated workforce by helping them prepare students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes they need to pursue rewarding and fulfilling careers

- improving the understanding of how their businesses/organizations contribute to the community by providing feedback to teachers in preparing curriculum units that are linked to the realities of the workplace
- developing personal pride and staff morale as a result of contributing to the career development of our youth
- enhancing their business/organization's public image through their demonstration of social responsibility and willingness to take a leadership role.

### Why Get Involved?

Labour market information clearly indicates that we are presently experiencing skilled labour shortages in a wide variety of occupational areas. These skill shortages are predicted to continue for some time into the foreseeable future.

Businesses and other organizations are not able to either maintain or expand upon their achievements unless they have access to a skilled labour force. This not only negatively impacts their own economic prosperity but the economic and social well being of our communities.

In addition, there are a multitude of publications that demonstrate our students need increased support and guidance in making better career decisions and more effective and efficient transitions to educational and/or employment opportunities.

By sharing our resources and by working together to enhance the educational experiences of our youth, we will make a positive impact both on our youth and the communities in which we live.

## Our Community Partners



## Employers, Labour and Community Organizations

### Further Information Contact:

John Hennebury, Program Facilitator  
 Career Planning and Employment Services  
 110 Circular Road, St. John's, NL A1C 2Z5  
 E-mail: [jhennebury@cdli.ca](mailto:jhennebury@cdli.ca) Phone: (709) 753-7570  
 Web Site: [www.communitycc.ca](http://www.communitycc.ca)



Department of Education

## Teacher Ambassador Program

## Technology Industry

**Informed Teachers Helping Students  
 Make Good Decisions**