

Employers connect with students and graduates at career fair

by Heidi Riley

Eastern College (formerly CompuCollege) in Charlottetown hosted a Career Fair in November. Attending were 19 employers from a wide variety of industries who have hired college graduates in the past and are looking for more.

“The Career Fair attracted 220 Eastern College students and graduates,” says **Aaron Brown**, Career Services, who organized the event. “This event demonstrates what types of jobs can result from an Eastern College education.”

Aaron teaches job search skills at the college. “This fair gave students practice in approaching employers and asking about job opportunities.”

“I coached students ahead of time to give them tips on how to approach employers and how to answer all-important questions an employer asks, such as: tell me about yourself.”

“We very much appreciate employers taking time out from their busy schedules to attend the Career Fair. We hope the event benefits the employers as much as it benefits the students.”

For more information, visit www.easterncollege.ca or call 894-5582.



Some of the employers who attended the fair highlighted their hiring needs:

City of Summerside

Rachel Ahern,
HR Coordinator



“The city has an aging workforce, and we are thinking ahead to attract younger talent to prepare for when our workers retire. We want to fill entry-level positions in **accounting, administration, wastewater treatment plant operations, customer service representatives and facility staff for Credit Union Place.**

“We also recruit **police officers** from the **Atlantic Police Academy**. Recruits start with co-op placements and may be offered part-time positions after that. We host many college students for job placements, including accounting clerks and technical and computer grads.”

Summerside has **110** permanent full-time staff. That number doubles in the summer, when they hire youth for such positions as **lifeguards, maintenance, and Youth in Bloom** programs.

For more information, visit www.city.summerside.pe.ca/jobs or visit Summerside City Hall to pick up an application and drop off a resumé.



Grant Thornton

Erin Ostridge, HR
Consultant



Grant Thornton is a public accounting firm with locations in Charlottetown, Montague, Summerside, and across the country. They hire people for part-time, full-time, and seasonal work. “We have an open door policy and are always open to meeting new candidates.”

“We hire accounting and office administration graduates and university business students who major in accounting.”

“We are exceptionally busy during tax season, which runs from mid-January to July. A regular group of staff returns to work for us each year during that time, but we are always looking for more. We also host on-the-job work placements, which last four to six weeks.”

For more information, call 566-6314 or visit www.grantthornton.ca and click on Careers.



Bayshore Home Health

This company has 43 locations across Canada, and about 35 staff work on PEI. The provincial office is in Charlottetown and they provide service across PEI.

Staff offer support and assistance to people needing care in their own homes. Clients include seniors and people who have a disability or are recovering from an injury or surgery. Staff include **Home Makers, RCWs, LPNs, and RNs.**

They need staff to cover 24-hour, 7 days a week service. The greatest need is for client care in the morning and in the evening for supper and bed time care.

Audrey says nurses first do a free health consultation for each client to determine their care needs. Then they match the client's needs to the skills and needs of the employee when it comes to location and work hours. “This job is ideal for people who are students or those who want to be home with their children. We will work with employees to offer them work when it is convenient for them with part-time or full-time hours.”

“Currently we are experiencing a shortage of certified RCWs, and we encourage anyone who is interested in seeking a career with Bayshore Home Health to contact the office at 892-7355. We take pride in ensuring that our employees are happily employed and are recognized for their dedication and hard work.”

For more information, visit www.bayshore.ca or e-mail your resumé to mmcdonald@bayshore.ca



Audrey Bissett,
HR Coordinator



PEI Public Service Commission

“The PEI Public Service Commission has a very wide variety of hiring needs for both government departments and the health sector,” says Sharleen. “We hire graduates from many of the programs offered by Eastern College.”

The first step to getting hired by the public service is to fill out an application at the PEI Public Service Commission on Rochford Street in Charlottetown or apply at www.gov.pe.ca/jobs

Example of the selection process for casual administrative positions

Applicants selected for clerks and medical administrative assistant positions are tested for their typing speed, transcription abilities, knowledge of medical terminology and general knowledge including math, grammar, and also a typing production section (i.e. letters, memos). Successful candidates are then selected for an interview. After a successful interview and positive references, the candidates' names are placed on the casual list and they may be called to fill in for employees who are absent from work.

“Being on the casual list means you are not guaranteed a set number of hours of work,” says Janet. “You must also be prepared to work at short notice. The good news is that for health jobs, working just one casual shift makes you part of the Union and allows you to apply for internal positions. As well, the pay scale is 12 percent higher to compensate for the lack of benefits.”

Janet Horne (left) & Sharleen Costello,
Staffing Consultants

