

# UPEI launches new career studio drop-in centre

by Stacy Dunn

UPEI Career Services recently celebrated the launch of its new Career Studio at Dalton Hall. The building was renovated and turned into a Student Experience Hub last fall. Now, the Office of the Registrar, Student Affairs, and other key student services are available under one roof.

“Students are welcome to drop in and make appointments to check out the resources and services we have to offer,” says **Krissi Ewing**, Student Advisor.

## Help with career exploration and job search

A career counsellor is available to help students determine a major and a career path, while a student advisor helps students with job search strategies such as resumé and job interview preparation, networking, volunteering, and more.

## Workshops

Since January, the Career Studio has offered a weekly workshop series to students. The series is part of its Professionalization Badge program, a non-credit, micro-credential digital badge verified by UPEI. This badge shows employers that a student has mastered specific skillsets and competencies. The two-hour workshop runs once a week until March.

“Pre-registration is not required, and students can attend as many workshops as they want,” says Krissi.

## Peer support

One key feature of the Career Studio is Peer Support Mentor Owen Shaw, a Business Administration student. “It’s been exciting to share job search strategies with other students and to help them with their resúmes.”

Owen is weighing his career options; he is interested in marketing and public relations.

“Digital Badges are a growing trend to help job seekers gain a competitive advantage in the job market, which makes me excited to also share our Professionalization Badge program with students.”



Krissi Ewing, Student Advisor, and Owen Shaw, Student Assistant/Peer Mentor at the new Career Studio, located at Dalton Hall, UPEI.

Watch the video on the launch of UPEI’s Career Studio: <https://youtu.be/aBoR9CS87sY>

Watch the video on the Student Experience Hub: <https://youtu.be/qaX46ptUQdc>

For more information on UPEI Career Services, e-mail [careerservices@upei.ca](mailto:careerservices@upei.ca)



UPEI’s annual Career Fair will be held on Wednesday, March 13 (storm date: March 14) 10:30 am to 3 pm at the WA Murphy Student Centre.

# 2019 Provincial Skills Competition in trades and technology being held across the Island

by Gloria Welton

“The provincial skills competitions, held in February, March, and April, raise awareness of the tremendous careers in trades and technology,” says **Tawna MacLeod**, Executive Director of Skills Canada PEI.

“Last year, there were 320 competitors, and 110 medals were awarded at the Provincial Skills Competitions,” says Tawna. “PEI had 45 students on the national team. Seven earned medals and two are WorldSkills contenders. Those are incredible numbers for our small province.”

## Provincial Competition

There are 40 competitions in 31 categories, and are open to Island high school, post-secondary students and apprentices. Winners go on to the National Competition, which will be held in Halifax this year.

## National Competition

“The Skills Canada National Competition is the only national, Olympic-style, multi-trade and technology competition for young students and apprentices in the country.

“The event brings together approximately 550 young people from all regions of Canada, along with their parents and advisors, to compete in over 40 trade and technology areas. Students strive to win the honor of being crowned the best in their chosen discipline.”

## International competition

Every two years, Canada sends some national level winners to represent Team Canada at the WorldSkills Competition, which brings together youth aged 17 to 22 from over 50 different countries. “This year the competitions are in Russia in August, and we can’t wait to get there.”

## Competitions are highly valued by employers

“The competition gives companies, industries, and other professionals a chance to meet and recruit skilled people who have demonstrated that they are at the top of their game. Many teachers and post-secondary learning managers get calls from employers who ask about the students who were in the competitions.”

## Getting youth thinking about skilled trades and technology as a viable career option

“We celebrate academics and sports, and we need to celebrate trades and technology skills too,” says Tawna. “These seriously talented students are heading into extremely valued careers where they can make a great living.

“There are so many career choices people may not be aware of, such as robotics, mechatronics, TV/video production, 2D animation, industrial control, and the list goes on. Careers in trades and technology are for students who like physics, math, and English.

“The highlight of our year is the skills competition, where students and young apprentices compete in separate trades-related categories,” says **Sue LeFort**, President, Skills Canada PEI, Inc.

“The competitions are a great way to explore the trades, meet leaders in the industry, and test the waters to see if you are suited for a career in these areas.”

For the complete schedule of the 2019 Provincial Skills Competitions across the Island, visit [www.skillscanada.pe.ca](http://www.skillscanada.pe.ca)

For more information, contact **Tawna MacLeod** at 902- 566-9352, [tmacleod@hollandcollege.com](mailto:tmacleod@hollandcollege.com)



Submitted photos

11 E

March 2019