

April 24, 2014

## Ridgetown Campus Students Learning in the Work World



L-R: Pauline Halder, Senior Environmental Management student with her supervisor, Larry Garside, at the water treatment plant

At the University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus, a number of our academic programs offer students the opportunity to gain hands-on experience at the end of their final semester. Students in the Environmental Management and Veterinary Technology Diplomas, and the Veterinary Office Administration and Performance Horse Handler Certificate programs complete a mandatory four-week industry work placement. We currently have close to 130 students who started their industry placement in mid-April. All students must obtain a pass grade on their placement in order to graduate from their program.

“At Ridgetown Campus, I learned the technical side of the industry, and the diversity of hands-on learning through my work placement has helped me to realize the work responsibilities of a career in the waste water industry,” says Pauline Halder, who is completing her work placement with the Municipality of Chatham-Kent at one of their water treatment plants.

“Industry work placements are a great way for students to gain valuable experience, as well as assist them in clarifying career goals. In a competitive work economy, practical experience combined with a formal education goes a long way when looking for a full-time job,” stated Dr. Irene Moore, Associate Director Academic, Ridgetown Campus. In recent years, many students have been hired full-time by their placement employer.

Prior to beginning their placement, students are able to target which area of their industry they want to gain training in, and academic program co-ordinators and instructors will offer support in their search for a good industry placement.

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