



LYNX

Aboriginal Student Career and Employment Program

Volume 4 Issue 2

Winter 2012

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LYNX Post-Secondary Partners

- First Nations University of Canada
- Mount Royal University
- Southern Alberta Institute of Technology Polytechnic
- University of Alberta
- University of British Columbia
- University of Calgary
- University of Manitoba
- University of Northern BC
- University of Regina
- University of Saskatchewan
- University of Winnipeg
- Vancouver Island University

An Arts Degree...Now What?

If you are a Bachelor of Arts student, you have probably had to answer the question, "What job are you going to get with that degree?" Most likely, you have developed a quick come-back remark or have learned how to quickly change the subject. After this type of questioning, you might have had the lingering thought, "What AM I GOING TO DO with this degree?"

Be assured, you are not alone and there is hope for a successful transition from BA graduate to career professional. It is true that your transition will not be as straightforward as for a graduate with a professional degree such as nursing or engineering, but according to Katharine Brooks, Ed.D., you have skills that are highly prized by employers!

In her blog, *Career Transitions, Turning chaos into careers*, Brooks writes that your BA Degree has given you the ability to think, analyze and learn, which are very valuable attributes in the 21st century. So, while you were studying something that actually interests you, you were also preparing for a career!

Painstakingly review the skills you obtained while in school. Do you have the ability to communicate effectively, problem-solve, think critically & analytically, research, lead, initiate and manage your time? Add on your computer proficiency, writing and public speaking skills... You have a lot to offer an employer!

Brooks offers advice to the new BA graduate, "The key to your job search is knowing your value and being able to clearly communicate it to an employer, both on your résumé and during a job interview.

You also need to research your career options. Look for workshops on your campus that assist in career exploration and the transition to the workplace. As well, look for networking opportunities and careers fairs which may give you career ideas that you may not have considered.

Additional Resources:
www.quintcareers.com/majors
www.nextsteps.org
www2.carleton.ca/career/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree



Lydia Prince & Eileen Gullion, students at Shell /LYNX Lunch & Learn at the University of Calgary in September

www.ucalgary./careers/studentsandalumni/stepsforsuccess/careerprofiles

Suggested Reading

- ♦ You Majored in What? Mapping Your Path from Chaos to Career by Katherine Brooks
- ♦ Great Jobs for Liberal Arts Majors by Blythe Camenson

iPod Nano Winner!

The winner of the LYNX Fall iPod Nano Draw is Jerilee Dennis from Lakehead University!

Congratulations Jerilee!



Welcome to the Newest LYNX Program Sponsor!

In June 2011, the LYNX: Aboriginal Student Career and Employment Program welcomed a new program sponsor, HSBC Bank Canada. HSBC is Canada's leading international bank and employs over 8,000 people across the country.

"We are thrilled to welcome HSBC as the newest Sponsor of the LYNX Program. LYNX Sponsors make a three year commitment to support the LYNX Program in connecting Aboriginal Post-Secondary students and recent graduates to meaningful employment" states Cyndy Bermingham, LYNX Program Manager.

While HSBC Bank Canada has a very diverse workforce the bank is looking to increase its

representation of Aboriginal Peoples in Canada. "One of HSBC Bank Canada's goals is to ensure that we have a diverse workforce that reflects the communities we operate in and the customers we serve," said Tej Hazra, Assistant Vice President, Human Resources and Head of Diversity and Inclusion. "Our support of the LYNX Program is helping us get there."

At HSBC Bank Canada, graduates can build a career through the Bank's Commercial Banking Management Program, or through the Executive Management Program. The Commercial Banking program involves 10 to 14 months of mentored, on-the-job training. Upon completion, participants will

be ready for a key role in one of HSBC Bank Canada's commercial banking teams.

The Executive Management program is an intensive 24 month rotational program designed to accelerate job experience, develop leadership capabilities, and provide broad exposure to the banking industry. Through rotational assignments, coursework and training, participants will be expected to acquire a diverse set of skills, a deep understanding of the business, and leverage their developing capabilities into practical and strategic results.

For more information, visit: <https://www.hsbc.ca/1/2/en/about-us/careers/graduate-opportunities>

Build A Career Through HSBC's

Commercial Banking Management Program
or
Executive Management Program

Practice Your Job Interview with OptimalResume

- Use this multi-media tool to practice real life interview scenarios
- Choose from 100's of interview questions
- Optimal answers are suggested
- Record the session for your review

Career Fair Schedule Winter 2012

January 18	University of Manitoba
January 19	University of Winnipeg
January 20	Lakehead University (Education Program)
January 24	University of Alberta (Aboriginal Student Mixer)
February 2	University of Alberta
February 2	University of British Columbia
February 7	SIAST
February 7	University of Calgary
February 13	University of Regina
February 15	SAIT
March 7	Mount Royal University
March 7	University of Northern British Columbia

Aboriginal Scholarships & Bursaries for 2012

Aboriginal Canada Portal
<http://www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca/acp/site.nsf/eng/ao28010.html>
 Lists Education & Training, Financial Assistance, Aboriginal Student Services in colleges and universities across Canada

Aboriginal Canada Portal – Bursaries (over 600 available)
<http://www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca/ab/site.nsf/index-eng?openview>

National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation Bursaries & Scholarships
http://www.naaf.ca/userfiles/BBF_2011_FINAL_LARGE.pdf

OPTIMALRESUME

Cover Letter :: Resume :: Interview Prep

If creating a résumé that passes a recruiter's first scan seems daunting, try OptimalResume on the LYNX website.

This interactive résumé wizard walks you through résumé building step-by-step. You will quickly change a blank page into a quality résumé in a very short time.

3 Easy Steps:

1. Login to www.aboriginallynx.ca
2. Click the blue Optimal-Resume box on the home page
3. Follow the prompts

You will be prompted with questions regarding each section of your résumé: Objective, Work Experience, Qualifications,

Volunteer Experience & Interests. It even suggests ACTION words to emphasize your skills and abilities.

OptimalResume also provides résumé examples that have been well-rated by career advisors.

OptimalResume is user friendly and produces a quality résumé that gets

Upload your Résumé to LYNX, be ready to apply for your dream job.

Sign-in at www.aboriginallynx.ca

1. Click on documents
2. Click on Add New
3. Browse to find your résumé
4. Click on Submit
5. Your résumé is uploaded!



Your Résumé in 7 Days using OptimalResume

As students who are busy with papers and exams, we sometimes let résumé writing drift to the bottom of our to-do list. Then, when we apply for a job, we quickly draft a less than satisfactory résumé and timidly submit it.

To make writing your résumé a bit easier, try to do a little bit each day.

The 7 Day Breakdown:

Day 1 - Find your old résumé and place electronic files, in a folder on your desktop. Label it "Résumé Spring 2012."

Log into LYNX & OptimalResume. Once logged in:

- ♦ Select the Document Centre Tab.
- ♦ Select Create New Résumé & Name your Résumé.
- ♦ Select Start Résumé.
- ♦ Under Browse Samples, Click Continue. Under Categories, choose the sample which suits you best. Choose your Experience Level.
- ♦ Under Samples, click Select to choose.
- ♦ Click Use this Sample at the top of the page.
- ♦ Save your work, after each step.

Day 2 - Login to LYNX & OptimalResume. Select the résumé you created the day before.

- ♦ Enter your Objective if the template you have chosen requires one.
- ♦ Enter information for one of your jobs in the Work Experience box. Repeat.
- ♦ Under the Employer, write your skills used during each job.
- ♦ Use action words at the start of your sentences such as Created, Lead, Organized, Facilitated, etc.

Day 3 - Enter further Work Experience

Day 4 - Enter your Volunteer Experience

Day 5 - Enter your Related Skills or Highlights of Qualifications

Day 6 - Enter your Interests

Day 7 - Revision Day – Go through each section and revise.

The 7 Day Resume is almost complete! We highly recommend that you submit your résumé to a career advisor on your campus for review. Their expertise will give you that cutting edge résumé that will get you noticed and employed.



Sandra Szeponski & Lisa Pelletier, LYNX Lunch & Learn SIAST, Wascana in November 2011

Tell employers more about yourself. Add your Student Profile to the LYNX Website

One line on your résumé says a lot to employers. "Featured student profile at www.aboriginallynx.ca"

On the Employers page of the LYNX website, click on "Want to be featured?", fill in the form and email it to LYNX

www.aboriginallynx.ca

The LYNX Program
The Native Centre, University of Calgary
MSC390z, 2500 University Drive NW
Calgary AB T2N 1N4



Bulletin Board of the Aboriginal Student Services Centre
at the University of Alberta.

LYNX PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

1. To offer a high quality employment program that will provide 'links' between the employment sector and Aboriginal post-secondary students early on and throughout their academic careers
2. To ensure a smooth transition of the ever increasing population of Aboriginal people from post-secondary to employment
3. To offer an interactive web-based service that can easily connect Aboriginal students to employment opportunities and vice versa.



LYNX Sponsors are partners with the Aboriginal Community

LYNX PROGRAM SPONSORS

ATCO Group

BMO Financial Group

Cenovus Energy

Encana

HSBC Bank Canada

Shell Canada

Suncor Energy

TransCanada Corporation

Sponsors are featured in LYNX publications and on the LYNX website.

LYNX Sponsors recognize the dynamic and growing Aboriginal workforce. By sponsoring the LYNX Aboriginal Career and Employment Program they:

- Target job postings to Aboriginal students and graduates from a variety of programs in post-secondary institutions across Canada.
- Recruit Aboriginal employees, increase their corporate profiles in Aboriginal communities and advance diversity in their workplace.

- Have a company representative sit on the LYNX Sponsor Advisory Committee to provide guidance and feedback to the LYNX Program.
- Receive relevant Aboriginal and Post-secondary information and LYNX Progress Reports.

For LYNX sponsorship information,

Contact: LYNX Program Manager

lynx@ucalgary.ca